



Bouchard Finlayson

Bouchard Finlayson Crocodile's Lair Kaaimansgat Chardonnay 2021 is a beautifully balanced and elegant white wine, crafted from high-altitude vineyards that impart remarkable freshness and finesse.



BOUCHARD FINLAYSON
A BOUTIQUE VINEYARD



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Crocodile's Lair Kaaimansgat Chardonnay 2021

Walker Bay, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Kaaimansgat vineyard**, also known as the **Crocodile's Lair**, is situated in the remote **Elandskloof Valley**, near Villiersdorp, approximately 80 kilometers from Hermanus in South Africa. This beautiful valley, surrounded by majestic mountains, benefits from its unique altitude of **700 to 800 meters above sea level**.

At such elevations, the vineyards experience **cool autumn temperatures**, which extend the ripening period by nearly a month compared to other Cape Chardonnays. This slower maturation results in smaller berries with **thicker skins** and greater flavor concentration, while maintaining fresh acidity. The vineyard's history spans over **thirty vintages**, cementing its reputation for producing wines of remarkable consistency and character.

The name **Kaaimansgat** originates from a mispronunciation of the Dutch settler **Kwaaiman**, further enhancing the wine's rich connection to its land and history.

Winemaking

The **Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2021** is a testament to precision and tradition in winemaking. The hand-harvested grapes undergo **fermentation in oak barrels**, which begins spontaneously thanks to indigenous yeast populations, allowing for a natural expression of terroir.

The elevation and cool climate contribute to **low juice recoveries**, but the resulting wine is abundantly flavorful and consistently expressive. To preserve the wine's freshness, fermentation temperatures are maintained **below 25°C**. After fermentation, the wine rests in tanks for **2 months** before being bottled in **January 2022**. This careful process ensures the wine maintains its vibrant fruit character and refined texture.



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright, pale gold with crystalline clarity.
- **Aroma:** Beautifully layered aromas of **melon** and **nectarine**, underpinned by vibrant notes of **lemon zest** and **baking spices**.
- **Palate:** The wine offers a rich and voluminous texture balanced by a lively, **compelling acidity**. Flavors of ripe stone fruits and citrus are complemented by subtle oak nuances. The finish is **incredibly long and refreshing**, promising elegance and depth.

Did You Know?

The Kaaimansgat vineyard's remote location and elevation make it one of South Africa's most unique Chardonnay sites. Its cool climate allows for extended ripening, which results in a perfect balance of acidity, freshness, and concentration.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Mild tandoori salmon with coriander chutney:** The wine's rich texture balances the spice and complements the salmon's savory depth.
- **Leafy herb salad with miso dressing:** The vibrant acidity of the wine highlights the freshness of the herbs and the umami notes in the dressing.
- **Classic avocado Ritz:** The creamy texture of the avocado pairs beautifully with the wine's richness and bright citrus notes.



Robert Parker (RP) : 91 Points (2021)

The 2021 Missionvale Chardonnay offers a subdued nose characterized by fine, soft marshmallow notes and hints of dusty citrus flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine displays lively acidity and balance, contributing to its freshness. This energetic Chardonnay has a mineral-driven finish accentuated by its bright and succulent acidity. Give it time to develop further nuances.



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