



# 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



## 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.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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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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