



Sadie Family

This 2023 release elevates Cinsault to grand vin status: an old-vine, single-site Swartland red, brimming with roses, wild berries and spice, framed by vibrant acidity and superfine, persistent tannins.

THE
SADIE FAMILY
WINES PTY LTD



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Cinsault

Old Vine Series Pofadder Red 2024

Swartland, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The fruit for Pofadder 2023 comes from the **Swartland**, a warm, dry district north of Cape Town known for its old bush-vine heritage and low-intervention winemaking ethos. The region's Mediterranean climate, marked by hot summers and limited rainfall, naturally restricts yields and encourages deep-rooted vines capable of producing concentrated yet vibrant fruit. On these rolling hills, the combination of abundant sunshine and cooling afternoon breezes supports slow, even ripening, giving wines their distinctive balance of ripeness and freshness.

The Pofadder vineyard is a single parcel in **Riebeeksrivier**, planted in 1973 on the lower slopes of the Kasteelberg Mountain. Here, decomposed shale and slate dominate the soils, lending the wine its linear profile and unmistakable mineral edge. The vines are dry-farmed bush vines, tended with meticulous attention to preserve soil life and natural balance. The site's moderate elevation and stony structure contribute to small, concentrated berries with delicate aromatics and refined tannins, forming the hallmark of Pofadder's character.

Winemaking

Pofadder 2023 is **100% Cinsault**, harvested by hand with rigorous selection to retain only perfectly ripe bunches. The winemaking philosophy prioritises purity and precision: around one-third of the harvest is kept as whole clusters, while the rest is carefully destemmed. The fruit is transferred into an old wooden open fermenter, where natural fermentation begins without inoculation. Gentle foot treading once or twice daily ensures just enough extraction to capture colour and texture while preserving the wine's floral nuance and lightness of touch.

After roughly four weeks on skins, the wine is pressed in a small vertical basket press, a method that offers delicate tannin release. The juice then ages for **about 11 months** in old, large foudres and conical casks, some nearly three decades old, ensuring no overt oak influence. Throughout élevage, the wine remains undisturbed, allowing natural settling and slow evolution. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered with minimal sulphur, Pofadder 2023 emerges as a pure, finely etched expression of its site, combining vibrancy, texture and subtle complexity.



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale, translucent ruby with a youthful purple hue, signalling both delicacy and vibrancy.
- **Aroma:** Expressive notes of wild strawberry, cranberry and redcurrant, intertwined with rose petal, white flowers, potpourri, gentle spice and a subtle mineral edge.
- **Palate:** Silky and medium-bodied, with crunchy red fruit, bright acidity and ultra-fine tannins. A savoury undertone, hints of whole-bunch spice and a saline finish provide remarkable length and precision.

Did you know?

The name **Pofadder** means "puff adder," a venomous snake native to the Cape region. The vineyard earned this sobriquet after a worker was reportedly fatally bitten there in the 1940s, giving the wine a name as memorable as its character. Today, the site is considered one of the Cape's most emblematic old-vine Cinsault vineyards, showcasing the grape's renaissance in Swartland.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-roasted lamb cutlets:** The wine's bright acidity and fine tannins cut through the richness of the lamb while echoing its herbal aromatics.
- **Duck breast with cherry glaze:** The succulent red fruit in the wine mirrors the glaze, and its delicate structure complements the tenderness of the meat.
- **Charcoal-grilled tuna steak:** The wine's savoury and mineral notes pair beautifully with the meaty texture of tuna and light smokiness from the grill.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** Earthy flavours resonate with the wine's subtle savouriness, while its freshness lifts the dish's creamy texture.

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2022)



Red-fruited and softly spicy, the 2022 Old Vine Series Pofadder offers ample floral expressions with crunchy red fruit aromas that display a pure and fresh expression of Cinsault. Medium to full-bodied and with 14% alcohol, the palate is fresh and mineral driven before a firm tannic grip clamps down, telling me it's much too young right now. With a fine acid backbone, this beauty will continue to shine with elegance and finesse for more than a decade. It's immensely pleasurable and has me craving duck breast. Only 5,000 bottles were produced from 50% whole-cluster Cinsault. Speaking with Eben Sadie, he believes it's their best Cinsault since 2012.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2018)



The 2018 Pofadder in Eben Sadie's Cinsault from Swartland. This is complex and intellectual, yet utterly compelling, with beautifully detailed brambly red berry fruit, fennel, thyme and fynbos scents that blossom with aeration. The very detailed palate displays filigreed tannins, incredible focus and arresting purity through to the lightly spiced finish. This is one of the best from Sadie this vintage. (11/2019)



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Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2018)

Elegant, with white peach, heather and lemon verbena flavors at the core, framed by savory herbal details and salty notes. Stylistically precise and focused, this features a stunning structure that needs a bit more time, but there is no doubt that this will develop beautifully. (AZ) (12/2019)

