



# Bouchard Finlayson

Crafted only in exceptional vintages, the 2021 Tête de Cuvée is a rare showcase of elegant fruit purity, barrel precision, and site expression from South Africa's coolest maritime valley.



BOUCHARD FINLAYSON  
A BOUTIQUE VINEYARD



Alcohol :13,20 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

## Tete de Cuvée Pinot Noir 2021

Walker Bay, South Africa

### Region and Vineyards

Located in South Africa's **Hemel-en-Aarde Valley**, Bouchard Finlayson benefits from a rare convergence of maritime influence, cool climate, and clay-rich Bokkeveld shale soils. The proximity to the Atlantic Ocean ensures consistently moderate temperatures, which preserve acidity and encourage long, even ripening - vital for Pinot Noir.

The grapes for Tête de Cuvée are sourced predominantly from the **oldest vines** on the estate, averaging over **22 years** in age. These mature vines offer naturally low yields and intense concentration. The vineyard's altitude and well-drained soils further amplify the complexity and aromatic delicacy in the fruit, showcasing the terroir with impressive clarity and restraint.

### Winemaking

This wine is not produced every year—it is crafted only when vintage conditions align to produce exceptional quality fruit. The **2021 vintage** followed a string of odd-numbered years (2015, 2017, 2019) that delivered ideal climatic conditions. Apart from an isolated rain event in March, the season was **cool and dry**, resulting in slow, steady ripening and **phenolic maturity without excessive sugar accumulation**.

The final blend is a **barrel selection**, drawn from just **eight barrels**, of which half were new French oak. Fermentation is followed by careful aging to allow the wine to develop texture and complexity. Bottled in July 2022, the wine is unfiltered, preserving its natural depth and ageability. Total production: only **2,538 bottles**, underscoring its rarity and artisanal nature.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Medium-deep garnet.
- **Aroma:** Complex bouquet of black cherry, rose petal, and wild strawberry, layered with cinnamon and subtle essential oil nuances.
- **Palate:** Silky yet dense, with integrated oak spice and savoury depth. Builds gracefully to a long, refined, and multifaceted finish.



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## Did you know?

The **Tête de Cuvée** is Bouchard Finlayson's flagship Pinot Noir, produced only in vintages that meet stringent quality standards. It is widely considered one of **South Africa's benchmark Pinot Noirs**, often rivalling fine Burgundies in style and finesse.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with crispy skin:** The wine's tannin structure and earthy undertones complement the richness and gamey profile of duck.
- **Crab or shellfish risotto:** The bright acidity and floral lift elevate delicate seafood flavours without overpowering.
- **Thanksgiving turkey with cranberry sauce:** A classic pairing, echoing the wine's fruit and spice spectrum.
- **Porcini mushroom tart:** Earthy and umami-rich, this dish harmonises with the savoury depth of the Pinot Noir.



### Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

*The 2021 Tête de Cuvée Pinot Noir is a well-balanced wine with tart cherry and plum tones complemented by herbs and fresh earth, displaying less fynbos compared to the Galpin Peak. It features notes of wilted flowers and strawberry seeds. This medium-bodied wine is balanced and focused while simultaneously expressing its place of origin and varietal characteristics. It concludes with an acid-driven, earthy finish reminiscent of rooibos red tea. Yum! A total of 2,538 bottles were produced after aging in 50% new French oak barrels for 11 months.*



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