



Hartenberg

A site-expressive South African Syrah from a celebrated single vineyard, offering elegance, depth, and a captivating aromatic profile.

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Gravel Hill Shiraz 2018

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Gravel Hill is a unique vineyard site located at the lower end of **Hartenberg Estate** in **Stellenbosch**, South Africa. Since its first vintage under Carl Schultz in 1993, the parcel has demonstrated distinct and consistent quality. The soils here are composed of **Kroonstad-type ferrous gravel**, locally known as *koffieklip*—rich in iron and exceptionally well-drained. These conditions create significant vine stress, promoting the development of small, concentrated berries with intense aromatic and flavour complexity.

The Stellenbosch region, with its **Mediterranean climate** moderated by cool Atlantic breezes, provides optimal conditions for the slow and even ripening of Syrah. Combined with Hartenberg's sustainable viticultural practices, this terroir imparts a unique sense of place to Gravel Hill Shiraz, marked by signature floral, mineral, and spice notes.

Winemaking

The 2018 Gravel Hill Shiraz underwent traditional fermentation with careful temperature management and gentle extraction to preserve purity and finesse. The wine was matured for **19 months** in **French oak barrels**, with **40% new wood** and **60% second-fill**, using standard **225-litre barriques** to ensure balanced oak integration and minimal overpowering of the wine's natural expression.

The finished wine was bottled at **14% alcohol by volume**, with **1.9 g/L residual sugar**, **5.9 g/L total acidity**, and a **pH of 3.46**—metrics that suggest a precise balance between richness, freshness, and structure.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Syrah



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with violet reflections, suggesting both intensity and finesse.
- **Aroma:** Lifted bouquet of **violets and rosemary**, interlaced with cinnamon, white pepper, and hints of dried herbs.
- **Palate:** Rich and layered, revealing **blackberry compote**, smoky undertones, and warm spice. The mouthfeel is structured yet elegant, supported by **fine-grained tannins** that carry a long, persistent finish. A wine of complexity and age-worthiness.

Did you know?

Gravel Hill was originally vinified separately due to the unusual character of its fruit, which stood out in blind tastings as early as the 1990s. It has since become one of **South Africa's most acclaimed single-vineyard Syrahs**, receiving **96 points from Tim Atkin MW** for the 2018 vintage and consistent accolades over the past two decades.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Fillet of kudu with red wine jus:** The gamey richness of kudu is an ideal partner for the wine's structure and spice.
- **Rare roast sirloin:** A classic red meat pairing that complements the Syrah's intensity and fine tannins.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** Earthy, umami-rich flavours harmonize beautifully with the wine's floral and savoury notes.
- **Charcoal-grilled duck breast:** The smoky character of the wine echoes the seared crust of the duck, while its acidity cuts through the fat.



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2018)

The 2018 Gravel Hill Syrah displays an electric pink rim and deep purple core. The wine is a powerhouse with firm blackberry juice essence that mingles with dark spiced plum, crème de cassis and juicy dark cherry before brown baking spices, dusty flowers and dried herbs waft from the glass. Full-bodied, rich, round and tannic, the wine will remain food-friendly through the next decade. This delightful, full-throttle Syrah concludes with a long, spicy and juicy finish and is not for the faint of heart. The wine rested for 19 months in French oak, 70% new. 3,160 bottles produced. Bravo!

