

Hartenberg

From Hartenberg's Gravel Hill parcel, this 2021 Shiraz captures Stellenbosch character in a polished, site-focused red, layering dark-fruit depth with mineral energy and a confident, lingering finish for the table.

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Gravel Hill Shiraz 2021

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Stellenbosch is one of South Africa's best-known wine regions, and Hartenberg Wine Estate places this bottle firmly within that South African context. Gravel Hill is a distinct parcel at the lower end of the estate, giving the wine a precise geographic identity rather than a generic regional blend. The site's defining feature is its **ferrous gravel over clay**, a combination that links the wine to the physical ground beneath the vines.

That gravel-and-clay profile provides a natural framework for Shiraz, a variety capable of carrying both generous fruit and savoury detail. In the 2021 bottling, the parcel is presented as a focused expression of Stellenbosch, with dark-fruited concentration, earthy mineral tones and a structured feel. The result is a red that speaks of Hartenberg's landscape through texture and persistence, while retaining the varietal richness expected from Shiraz. Gravel Hill's lower-estate position and iron-marked soils are central to its sense of place.

Winemaking

The 2021 wine is identified as Shiraz, also known as Syrah, and comes from Hartenberg Wine Estate's Gravel Hill parcel. This site-designated approach places the emphasis on one vineyard identity, where **ferrous gravel over clay** provides the foundation for the wine's character. Shiraz brings the natural framework of dark fruit, savoury spice and generous texture.

The winemaking identity is therefore one of translating a defined Stellenbosch site into a complete, expressive bottle. The fruit profile is balanced by earthy mineral tones, giving the wine both richness and shape. Rather than relying on blend complexity, Gravel Hill emphasizes varietal character and place, allowing the 2021 vintage to show depth, texture and persistence in a distinctly South African expression. Its polished structure makes it suitable for drinking with substantial cuisine or following its development over time.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby-purple with a saturated, youthful core and darker violet reflections.
- **Aroma:** Blackberry, black plum and blueberry aromas mingle with cracked pepper, savoury herbs, graphite and earthy mineral tones.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and concentrated, with ripe dark fruit, supple yet purposeful tannins, savoury spice and a firm mineral line carrying through to a long finish.

Did You Know?

Gravel Hill is not a broad regional blend but a distinct parcel at the lower end of Hartenberg Wine Estate. Its **ferrous gravel over clay** gives this Shiraz a particularly clear geological signature within Stellenbosch.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops:** The wine's dark fruit and savoury spice complement the caramelised crust and rich flavour of lamb.
- **Pepper-crusted beef tenderloin:** Shiraz's peppery character echoes the seasoning, while its structure stands up to the meat's intensity.
- **Slow-braised short ribs:** The concentrated fruit and mineral depth work with the dish's glossy sauce and deep, savoury flavours.
- **Smoky mushroom and lentil stew:** Earthy ingredients mirror the wine's mineral and savoury tones while its fruit adds balance.

96 Tim Atkin

Tim Atkin (TA) : 96 Points (2021)

Gravel Hill comes from a stony site that produces a darker, more brooding iteration of Syrah from the Bottelary Hills. Generally released with five years of bottle age, it's a dense, meaty, compact expression of the variety that would sit well in a line up from Cornas. Firm, dense and built to last, with tapenade, blackberry and black olive flavours and a hint of clove spice from 5% whole bunches. 2027-38.

93

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!