

Boekenhoutskloof

Boekenhoutskloof Syrah 2021 is an exceptional expression of Swartland's rugged terroir, showcasing the power and finesse of this renowned Rhône varietal.

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Syrah 2022

Swartland, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Boekenhoutskloof Syrah 2021** is sourced from two key Swartland sites:

- **Porseleinberg vineyards (90%)**: Situated on a rocky bedrock of **mica-schist**, these challenging soils define the unique terroir of the Porseleinberg ward, contributing minerality and intensity to the wine.
- **Goldmine vineyards (10%)**: Located on the southwest slopes of Kasteelberg, these vines are rooted in **brown schist** with deposits of **Table Mountain sandstone**, providing structure and depth to the wine.

The 2021 growing season in Swartland benefited from a cold winter, ensuring proper vine dormancy and a balanced start. The absence of heat spikes during December and January allowed for slow, even ripening, resulting in refined fruit with enhanced elegance.

Winemaking

The **Syrah grapes** were **hand-harvested** and transported to Boekenhoutskloof in Franschhoek for vinification. After cooling, the grapes were fermented in **tulip-shaped concrete tanks**, incorporating **65% whole-bunch fermentation** and partial destemming.

Fermentation was spontaneous, with minimal sulfur additions and no acidification, emphasizing the purity of the fruit. **Délestage (rack and return)** was performed 2-3 times daily to ensure gentle extraction. After maceration, the skins were **basket-pressed**, and the wine was aged in **traditional 2,500L Austrian oak foudres** and **600L demi-muids** for up to **18 months**, adding texture and complexity.

Alcohol :13,75 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Aroma**: Bold and expressive, with notes of **plum**, **violet**, and a touch of spiciness, complemented by layers of **black licorice**, **anise**, and a hint of earthiness.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and vibrant, featuring flavors of **blueberries**, **dark fruits**, and **pepper**, balanced by plush tannins and a lively acidity.
- **Finish**: Sweet tobacco and **black cardamom** linger on the finish, with nuances of **iron fer** and a subtle charred note adding depth and character.

Did you know?

The **Porseleinberg vineyards** are considered some of South Africa's most challenging yet rewarding terroirs, with their rocky, schist-based soils producing wines of remarkable concentration and minerality. Boekenhoutskloof's dedication to minimal intervention winemaking allows this Syrah to authentically express its origins.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised lamb shank with rosemary and garlic**: The wine's dark fruit and earthy complexity complement the rich, savory flavors of the lamb.
- **Grilled venison with black pepper sauce**: The spicy and mineral notes of the Syrah balance the gaminess of the venison.
- **Duck breast with plum reduction**: The wine's plum and violet aromatics enhance the fruity sweetness of the reduction.
- **Dark chocolate with sea salt**: The Syrah's subtle spice and dark fruit flavors pair beautifully with the bittersweet chocolate.

96 Tim Atkin

Tim Atkin (TA) : 96 Points (2022)

"Double schist" says Gottfried Mocke of this wine, which combines grapes from Porseleinberg with 10% from Boekenhoutskloof's Roundstone property. Fermented with 65% whole bunches, it's a refined, perfumed Syrah that is only aged in foudres and larger barrels these days, showing subtle ginger and pepper spice, sculpted tannins and raspberry, plum and blackberry fruit. Way less meaty than the 2021 was at the same stage. 2026-32

93 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 93 Points (2022)

The 2022 Syrah contains two-thirds whole bunches. It underwent natural fermentation in concrete vats, with 90% matured in 2,500-liter Stockinger foudres and 10% in Stockinger demi-muids for 18 months. This has a clean and precise bouquet with mainly red berry fruit, lightly spiced, hints of potpourri and garrigue percolating through with aeration. The palate is very elegant in style with finely chiseled tannins, quite tensile and energetic, closing with a peppery finish that doesn't outstay its welcome. It boasts a wonderful, slightly chalky texture. This is very well crafted and should age with style.

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James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2022)

A peppery and elegant syrah that has aromas of peppercorns, wild raspberries, chocolate orange and wild herbs. Full-bodied, tight and fine-grained, with a savory and more mineral finish. Around 60% whole bunch. Aged 18 months in foudres. Drink from 2025.