

# Kanonkop

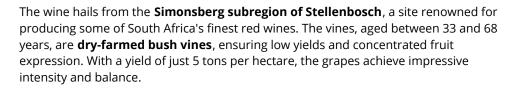
A bold and expressive Pinotage delivering plush dark fruit and layered spice, crafted from dryfarmed old bush vines in Stellenbosch.



# Pinotage 2022

Stellenbosch, South Africa

## Region and Vineyards



The soils are a mix of **decomposed granite and Hutton formations**, known for providing excellent drainage and a firm mineral backbone. These conditions, paired with the maritime influence of the Cape, create the perfect environment for Pinotage to thrive with **ripeness**, **freshness**, **and structure**.



The grapes were harvested in 2022, a vintage notable for being the latest in 25 years, with budbreak and ripening delayed by about two weeks due to a properly cold and rainy winter. This extended season led to **slow ripening** and enhanced concentration in the fruit.

Fermentation took place in **open-top concrete fermenters at 28 °C**, with manual punch-downs every two hours for optimal extraction. After three days, the juice was drawn off the skins. Malolactic fermentation followed, and the wine was matured for **18 months in 225 L French oak barrels** (80 % new, 20 % second-fill). This careful use of oak imparted depth, spice, and polish without overwhelming the fruit.

## **Tasting Notes**

- Color: Opaque purple-red, rich and dense.
- **Aroma**: Bold plums, blackberries, and mulberries, accented by vanilla, smoky tones, and roasted nuts.
- Palate: Concentrated layers of plums, cherries, figs, pomegranate, and blackberries, framed by dark chocolate and spicy oak. The texture is creamy, with plush tannins and lively acidity, leading to a long, balanced, and promising finish.



Alcohol:14,30 %

Composition: 100% Pinotage







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### Did you know?

Pinotage, a crossing of Pinot Noir and Cinsaut, was created in South Africa in 1925 and has since become the country's signature red grape. Kanonkop is often called the " **King of Pinotage**," having elevated the variety's reputation worldwide through meticulous vineyard practices and age-worthy, world-class bottlings.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Spicy Asian-style dishes**: The fruit intensity and supple tannins complement chili heat and aromatic spices.
- Venison: Gamey richness is elevated by the wine's dark fruit and smoky depth.
- **Duck breast with cherry glaze**: The sweet-sour sauce echoes the fruit profile, while the wine's acidity cuts through the fat.
- **Seared game fish**: The smoky undertones and freshness align beautifully with meaty fish dishes.



### James Suckling (JS): 94 Points (2022)

This is a fragrant pinotage, showing mint-chocolate, cedar, cherry, spiced-plum and nutmeg aromas. Firm, spicy and full-bodied on the palate with firm yet ripe tannins and a long, spicy and focused finish. Better after 2025.



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

A delightful and juicy wine, the 2021 Pinotage offers a ripe and fleshy expression of black raspberry, spiced plums and dark cherry skin with elegant oak spices and dusty florals with a soft, lingering potpourri essence. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh and red-fruited with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins that lift the mid-palate while displaying plenty of toasted oak essence. This Pinotage is gorgeous as it offers layers of attractive fruit and oak before gliding to a graceful, food-friendly finish. While it's still primary, this will undoubtedly improve with additional bottle age. About 70,000 bottles were filled after the wine matured for a year and a half in 80% new French oak. Nicely done!



#### Wine Enthusiast (WE): 90 Points (2020)

This wine has an oaky palate exhibiting raspberry, coffee and spices that are kept fresh by good acidity. It's not overly complex, but it has depth and a lasting finish with hints of herbs.



