



# Kanonkop

*Kanonkop Pinotage is an exceptional expression of South Africa's signature grape, Pinotage, produced by the prestigious Kanonkop Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. Known for its bold flavors and ageing potential, this wine showcases the estate's expertise and commitment to quality.*



**KANONKOP**  
WINE ESTATE



Alcohol :14,30 %

Composition: 100% Pinotage

## Pinotage 2021

Stellenbosch, South Africa

### Region and Vineyards

Kanonkop is located on the slopes of **Simonsberg Mountain** in the famous **Stellenbosch** wine region, an area renowned for its top-tier wines. The **dry-farmed bush vines**, aged between **32 and 67 years**, are planted on **decomposed granite** and **Hutton soils**, which provide excellent drainage and force the vines to dig deep for nutrients. This struggle results in low yields of **only 5 tons per hectare**, leading to highly concentrated, flavor-packed grapes.

The **Simonsberg** area benefits from a unique microclimate where **cooler ocean breezes** temper the summer heat, helping to preserve the **natural acidity** of the grapes. The growing season was marked by **cooler conditions**, producing wines with a more **elegant structure** and **softer tannins**, making them accessible at an earlier age while still offering great ageing potential.

### Winemaking

This vintage began with uneven budding and fruit set due to warmer winter periods, but the soil moisture remained sufficient throughout the growing season, resulting in minimal vine stress. Harvest was delayed, contributing to the **cool climate character** of this vintage.

The wine was fermented in **open-top concrete fermenters** at **28°C**, with the skins punched down by hand every **two hours** to ensure optimal extraction of color and flavor. After **three days**, the juice was drained off the skins, and the wine underwent **malolactic fermentation**.

The wine was then matured for **18 months** in **80% new** and **20% second-fill French Nevers oak barrels**, adding layers of complexity and integrating the tannins beautifully with the fruit.



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## Tasting Notes

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- **Color:** Bright red with a vibrant **purple hue**.
- **Aroma:** Bold aromas of **plum** and **blackberry**, complemented by notes of **licorice, smoke, roasted nuts**, and **vanilla**.
- **Palate:** The palate reveals concentrated flavors of **plums, black and red cherries, dark chocolate**, and **spicy oak**. The wine has **ripe tannins**, balanced by refreshing acidity, resulting in a harmonious wine with a **long, satisfying finish**.

## Did you know?

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Kanonkop's **Pinotage vines**, some of which are over **60 years old**, are among the oldest in South Africa. The estate is often regarded as one of the **pioneers of Pinotage**, and their meticulous dry-farming techniques help maintain the character and intensity of this iconic variety.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Spicy Asian-style dishes:** The bold fruit and spice elements of the wine complement the heat and aromatic complexity of Asian spices.
- **Aromatic curries:** The wine's ripe tannins and fruit-forward profile balance the richness and spice of curry dishes.
- **Venison meat:** Game meats with their rich flavors pair well with the depth and dark fruit character of the Pinotage.
- **Seared game fish:** The wine's acidity and fruit notes harmonize with the smoky flavors of seared fish.

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

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*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!*

### James Suckling (JS) : **93 Points** (2020)

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*A rich and spicy pinotage that shows notes of cedar, spice box, cumin, vanilla and chocolate cherries. Full-bodied, plush and juicy, with chocolate-soaked tannins. Remains fresh and lively.*





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

*&nbsp;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.*



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