



Kanonkop

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



KANONKOP
WINE ESTATE

94
James
Suckling



Alcohol :14,30 %

Composition: 100% Pinotage

Pinotage 2022

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The wine hails from the **Simonsberg subregion of Stellenbosch**, a site renowned for producing some of South Africa's finest red wines. The vines, aged between 33 and 68 years, are **dry-farmed bush vines**, ensuring low yields and concentrated fruit expression. With a yield of just 5 tons per hectare, the grapes achieve impressive intensity and balance.

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**.

Winemaking

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.



VOYAGEURS DU VIN

DISTRIBUTED BY

WWW.VOYAGEURSDUVIN.COM

Pinotage 2022

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.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2022)

The winery has been making Pinotage since 1973; half a century later its wine shows complexity. A perfumed nose displays notes of licorice, ground black pepper and pink peppercorn. Hints of mint lift the bouquet. The palate is vibrant, showing finely textured tannins and energetic acidity. There is a balanced and gentle mix of cranberries and other red berries. Clove, cinnamon and coriander add depth to this deliciously spicy Pinotage.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 91 Points (2022)

Around, focused red, with a toasty edge to its fig cake, raspberry compote, vanilla and singed sage flavors. This is bright with blood orange peel-infused acidity, and light, fine tannins define the savory finish of fragrant spices and tarry smoke.

