

Kanonkop

The Kanonkop Paul Sauer is a powerful and elegant Bordeaux-style blend from South Africa, recognized for its precision, depth, and long ageing potential.

KANONKOP
WINE ESTATE



Paul Sauer 2022

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Stellenbosch** region, specifically the **Simonsberg** sub-region, is the heart of South Africa's premium wine production. Located just outside Cape Town, Stellenbosch enjoys a **Mediterranean climate** characterized by warm days and cool nights, which are essential for slow and even grape ripening. This region's proximity to both mountain ranges and the Atlantic Ocean results in a unique microclimate that significantly influences the quality of the fruit.

The vineyards at Kanonkop lie on the lower slopes of the **Simonsberg Mountain**, which is known for its **decomposed granite soils**. These soils provide excellent drainage while also allowing the vine roots to dig deep, producing small but intensely flavored berries. The **dry-farmed vines**, which average 30 years of age, yield **around 4 tons per hectare**, focusing on quality over quantity. This low yield, combined with careful vineyard management, ensures that only the finest grapes are used in the production of **Paul Sauer**.

Winemaking

Kanonkop Paul Sauer is crafted from a blend of **69% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **17% Cabernet Franc**, and **14% Merlot**, a composition that mirrors the finest traditions of Bordeaux. The grapes are fermented in **open-top concrete fermenters** at **29°C**, with manual punch-downs performed every two hours. This labor-intensive process ensures gentle extraction of color, flavor, and tannins, contributing to the wine's richness and structure.

After fermentation, the wine is separated from the skins and undergoes **malolactic fermentation**. It is then aged for **24 months in 100% new French Nevers oak barrels**, a choice that imparts subtle nuances of cedar, spice, and vanilla while maintaining the wine's fruit-driven character. With a **production volume of only 6,700 cases**, **Kanonkop Paul Sauer** is both a collector's item and a superb example of the estate's winemaking prowess.

Alcohol :0,00 %

Composition: 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 14% Merlot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A saturated, deep ruby red, promising richness and intensity.
- **Aroma**: Layers of **tilled earth**, **herbal notes (bouquet garni)**, and vibrant **red and black currants** emerge from the glass, accented by hints of cedar and oak spice.
- **Palate**: On the palate, the wine is refined yet powerful, with **elegant tannins** supporting a core of dark fruit. The judicious use of new oak enhances the wine's structure without overwhelming the complex fruit flavors. The finish is long, youthful, and poised, indicating exceptional ageing potential.

Did you know?

The **Kanonkop Estate** has a rich history, with its roots stretching back over a century. The wine is named after **Paul Sauer**, a key figure in both the estate's and South Africa's political history. **Paul Sauer** served as a member of Parliament and was highly influential in promoting agriculture and viticulture in the country. His legacy lives on in this wine, which has become a symbol of Stellenbosch's winemaking excellence. The name **Kanonkop** itself refers to a hill (kop) where a cannon (kanon) was historically fired to signal the arrival of ships in **Table Bay**, connecting the estate to the early history of Cape Town.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Ribeye Steak**: The robust tannins and dark fruit notes of the wine are a perfect match for the richness of a well-marbled steak, while the oak influence echoes the smoky, charred flavors from the grill.
- **Beef Bourguignon**: The wine's earthy complexity complements the savory depth of this classic French stew, while its bright fruit lifts the richness of the dish.
- **Roast Leg of Lamb**: The wine's tannins cut through the fat of the lamb, while its herbal and cedar notes echo the flavors of garlic and rosemary traditionally used in the preparation.
- **Aged Gouda**: The nutty, caramelized flavors of a well-aged Gouda pair beautifully with the wine's ripe fruit and subtle oak, creating a perfect balance of richness and acidity.

95 WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2021)

Grapes for this Cabernet-based blend ripen slowly, resulting in a wine with excellent balance and aging potential. The nose features notes of cassis, leading to a savory palate filled with rich red and black fruit flavors, complemented by hints of cedar, chocolate and thyme. The wine's fresh acidity and gripping tannins create a sturdy structure, providing both support and lift. Drink now through 2040. Cellar Selection

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James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2021)

This is a polished and full-bodied red blend, showing notes of vanilla bean, blackcurrant, black plum, dill and mocha. Refined, silky yet firm tannins frame the dark fruit. Long and classy. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 17% merlot and 13% cabernet franc. Drink from 2025.



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2021)

A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 15% Merlot, the Kanonkop 2021 Simonsberg Stellenbosch Paul Sauer Estate Wine sees 24 months in 100% new oak. This is considered a very good vintage that produced concentrated fruit that surely needs more time to evolve in bottle. The wine has all of its elements fixed into place, but it needs to flesh out and soften. The Merlot and Cabernet Franc are fermented separately. and the blend is made after malolactic fermentation. A combination of oak is used, including 40% Seguin Moreau, for added richness. This elegant red blend exhibits an especially polished quality that I found across this portfolio. The bouquet starts with cassis and candied cherry, and the strong oak signature brings Christmas candle and spice. The alcohol content is measured at a moderate 13%.Rating: 94+

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