

Crystallum

Crystallum Peter Max Pinot Noir is a vibrant and focused wine, showcasing a rich expression of red fruit complemented by fine tannins and floral nuances.

CRYSTALLUM



Peter Max Pinot Noir 2024

Walker Bay, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Peter Max Pinot Noir** is produced from several vineyards located in the **Hemel-en-Aarde** area of Walker Bay, South Africa, as well as a high-altitude inland site. Hemel-en-Aarde is known for its cool, maritime climate, benefiting from the cooling breezes of the nearby Atlantic Ocean. These conditions slow the grape ripening process, allowing the development of concentrated flavors and **fresh, balanced acidity**. The region's natural characteristics create ideal growing conditions for Pinot Noir, preserving the vibrancy of the fruit while allowing for elegant texture.

In addition to the coastal vineyards, a high-altitude vineyard site brings an extra dimension to the wine. At these elevations, cooler temperatures during the growing season further slow down ripening, enhancing the structure and finesse of the Pinot Noir. The combination of fruit from both coastal and highland regions ensures the **Peter Max Pinot Noir** is both fruit-driven and refined, balancing brightness and complexity.

Winemaking

The **Peter Max Pinot Noir** is made using a mix of traditional and modern winemaking techniques, with a focus on preserving the natural expression of the fruit. The grapes are **hand-harvested** and sorted, with approximately **50% destemmed** while the other half is left as **whole clusters**. This combination allows for added complexity and tannic structure while maintaining the wine's freshness and fruit purity. After a cold soak, the must is slowly warmed up to begin **natural fermentation** with indigenous yeasts, keeping extraction to a minimum for a delicate, nuanced wine.

Following fermentation, the wine undergoes a gentle **extended maceration** for four weeks to enhance depth and tannic structure. The wine is then aged for **nine months in French oak barrels**, with a mix of **228-litre and 500-litre barrels**, using only lightly toasted oak to avoid overpowering the fruit. The result is a wine that is finely structured, with subtle oak integration, allowing the **bright fruit and floral character** of the Pinot Noir to shine through.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright ruby red with a translucent core.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **red cherry**, **cranberry**, and floral notes of **rose** and **lavender** rise from the glass, showcasing a fresh and fragrant bouquet.
- **Palate**: The palate is dense and focused, with **fine, grippy tannins** providing structure. Flavors of red fruit are balanced by a bright acidity, giving the wine a lively yet refined character.

Did you know?

The **Peter Max** Pinot Noir gets its name from the first names of the original growers who supplied fruit for the wine's inaugural vintage. Over time, the vineyard sources have expanded to include both **coastal and high-altitude sites**, which contribute to the wine's signature balance of **fresh acidity** and **rich fruit concentration**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck à l'orange**: The wine's red fruit notes complement the citrus flavors in the dish, while the tannins cut through the richness of the duck.
- **Herb-crusted lamb chops**: The herbaceous flavors in the lamb echo the floral and earthy notes of the wine, while the bright acidity balances the lamb's richness.
- **Roasted beet and goat cheese salad**: The wine's acidity and bright fruit contrast with the sweetness of the beets and the creamy tang of the goat cheese.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The earthiness of the mushrooms harmonizes with the floral notes and depth of the Pinot Noir, making for a perfect pairing.

92 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 92 Points (2020)

The 2020 Peter Max felt quite austere on the nose, more so than the 2019 that I had tasted 3-4 days previously. This demands coaxing, eventually revealing brambly red fruit, briar, damp moss and then later hints of morello cherries. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, taut and crisp delivering very pure tart red fruit. This is an attractive "bite" toward the finish, which is structured like a Morey-Saint-Denis, the lingering salinity urging you back. Excellent, but give it a couple of years for the aromatics to fully open.

93 Tim Atkin

Tim Atkin (TA) : 93 Points (2019)

Peter Max is a Pinot for Pinot lovers: a juicy, lip-smacking red that comes from five sources blended for pleasure and consistency. Fermented with 50% whole clusters, it's supple, bouncy and full of summer berry fruit with the fine tannins of a Chambolle-Musigny and some nuanced oak spice.