

Mullineux

A hallmark expression of Mullineux's artisanal approach, uniting whole-cluster fermentation, native yeasts, and a nuanced maturation for a seamless, age-worthy red.

Syrah 2022

Swartland, South Africa

94



Region and Vineyards

Swartland, a cornerstone of South Africa's fine wine evolution, lies just north of Cape Town and thrives under a Mediterranean climate defined by dry summers and cooling Atlantic breezes. With a focus on minimal irrigation and bush vine cultivation, the region's old vines yield intensely flavoured grapes from soils that range from decomposed granite to schist and iron-rich clay.

The 2022 Mullineux Syrah is sourced from a patchwork of sustainably farmed vineyards. The quartz-rich Kasteelberg parcel contributes aromatic lift and precision, while stony **schist soils on its mid-slopes** bring density and drive. The decomposed granite vineyards of the Paardeberg offer freshness and refined tannins, while a small site north of Malmesbury on **iron-rich clay** adds weight and structure. Together, these parcels provide the wine with a core of complexity and terroir transparency, true to the signature Mullineux style.

Winemaking

The 2022 vintage was harvested between 15 February and 1 March, at low yields of 3 to 5 tons per hectare (30 hL/ha), allowing for concentration and phenolic ripeness. Grapes were picked by hand in the early morning to preserve aromatic integrity. The fruit was crushed with **80% whole clusters**, a technique that heightens aromatic lift and structural tension, and fermented with indigenous yeasts.

Extraction was managed gently over a four-week fermentation, balancing freshness and power. Once optimal tannin integration was achieved, the wine was pressed into **500L French oak barrels** (used), where it matured for 11 months. Following a gentle racking after spring, the wine was blended and returned to barrel for an additional ten months. It was bottled unfined and unfiltered in January 2024, preserving its purity and natural complexity.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with purple reflections.
- **Aroma:** Plush blackberry, violets, cured black olive, and a touch of black pepper and smoked herbs.
- **Palate:** Velvety tannins wrap around dark red fruit, citrus rind, and baking spices. A core of freshness from the quartz terroir is layered with mineral grip from schist and iron soils, finishing long and savoury.

Did you know?

Mullineux's Syrah is crafted with minimal intervention, allowing the diversity of Swartland's ancient soils to define the wine's structure and aromatics. The inclusion of the **quartz-based vineyard in Kasteelberg** since recent vintages has notably elevated the wine's tension and aromatic finesse—giving an extra lift to an already celebrated red.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Chargrilled lamb with rosemary and garlic** – Complements the wine's herbal and spice notes.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction** – Accentuates the Syrah's dark fruit and velvety texture.
- **Venison stew with juniper berries** – Mirrors the wine's earthy and gamey character.
- **Aged gouda or Tomme de Savoie** – Enhances the wine's savoury complexity and long finish.

94

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2022)

The Mullineux 2022 Swartland Syrah comes from a site with quartz formations over schist soils. Quartz tends to erode at a different pace, leaving quartz stones on the surface that reflect light but do not reflect heat. This leads to optimal ripening, with soft cherry and blackberry flavors followed by lightly toasted spice. There is a ferrous note to the wine followed by fine, satiny tannins that have a certain lusciousness about them. The wine sees 80% whole-cluster fruit and is fermented in upright wooden vats. Andrea Mullineux says she is looking for the silky tannins that are specific to the Swartland. "Those tannins are a real fingerprint of the region,".

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2022)

So fragrant, this has ripe cherries, white pepper, dried roses, green olives and Christmas spices on the nose. It shows wonderful freshness and a deliciously peppery character to the bright fruit. Medium-bodied with tight, crunchy tannins. 80% whole-bunch fermentation. Even better after 2025.

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Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 90 Points (2022)

The 2022 Syrah is a combination of fruit from the three main soil types. It fermented with 80% whole cluster in upright 5,000-liter wooden vats, with the destemmed fruit at the top to get the fermentation going. It has a crisp and precise bouquet with brambly red fruit, a dash of white pepper and Provençal herbs. Quite powerful, the palate is medium-bodied with a slightly viscous texture. That white pepper note thrusts forward through the robust, austere finish. This is a gutsy Syrah that will probably benefit from a year in bottle.

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