

Crystallum

With its refined tannins and brisk acidity, Mabalel Pinot Noir is a structured and layered wine, perfect for those seeking a bold yet elegant South African Pinot Noir.

CRYSTALLUM



Mabalel Elandskloof Pinot Noir 2024

Walker Bay, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Mabalel Elandskloof Pinot Noir** comes from the high-altitude region of **Elandskloof**, situated at 700 meters above sea level, making it one of the highest vineyards in the **Cape South Coast** of South Africa. Nestled within a natural crater-like formation, the vineyard is surrounded by the Cape's tallest peaks, which are frequently blanketed by snow in winter. The unique climate of this elevated site ensures that the Pinot Noir grapes ripen slowly, developing complex flavors and maintaining high acidity.

The soils are a mix of **clay, sandstone, and quartz**, which contribute to the wine's structure and mineral undertones. This vineyard, with its cool climate and high elevation, is ideal for producing late-ripening Pinot Noir that is elegant and often expresses savory notes, making this wine truly distinctive within the region.

Winemaking

The **Mabalel Pinot Noir** was crafted with a focus on preserving the purity of the fruit. Unlike some of the other Crystallum wines, this vintage saw the grapes **100% destemmed**, which enhanced the wine's finesse and structure. Fermentation was carried out using **indigenous yeasts**, allowing the wine to develop its unique character naturally. A period of post-fermentation maceration added depth and complexity to the tannic structure.

The wine was aged for **11 months in French oak barrels**, with **20-25% new oak**, which provided a subtle touch of oak influence without overshadowing the fruit. This careful approach to vinification resulted in a wine that is both layered and refined, highlighting the distinctive terroir of the Elandskloof vineyard.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Vibrant ruby red with a slight translucency typical of Pinot Noir.
- **Aroma**: Aromatic layers of **red plums**, **candied raspberry**, and **licorice** mingle with earthy, savory notes of **sage** and herbs.
- **Palate**: The palate is structured with **sappy tannins** and a lively acidity that gives the wine a long, refreshing finish. Flavors of ripe red fruit are complemented by an underlying savoriness, offering a harmonious balance between fruit and earthiness.

Did you know?

The **Mabalel Elandskloof vineyard** is one of the highest in the Cape, and this site is known for its distinctive cool-climate Pinot Noir. Interestingly, it was the **first Pinot Noir** vineyard to be planted in this valley, marking a pioneering moment for the region. The high altitude and cool conditions mirror those of famous Pinot Noir regions, enabling the Finlaysons to craft a wine that is both elegant and deeply expressive of its terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: The wine's red fruit notes complement the richness of the duck, while the savory elements enhance the sauce's depth.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The earthiness of the mushrooms resonates with the wine's herbal and savory undertones, while the acidity cuts through the richness of the dish.
- **Herb-crusted lamb chops**: The herbal character of the Pinot Noir is a perfect match for the lamb, with the wine's acidity balancing the meat's fat.
- **Charcuterie platter with cured meats and soft cheeses**: The wine's savory and fruity balance pairs wonderfully with the richness of cured meats and creamy cheeses.



Tim Atkin (TA) : 95 Points (2019)

The yields were the lowest ever - one third of the average - from this Elandskloof vineyard in 2019, but there's nothing wrong with the quality and no sign of over-concentration on the nose or palate. Dark, intense and vigorous, with floral top notes, impressive structure, some sweet spices from 20% new wood and the raciness that's typical of the site. Consistently impressive. Drink 2022-27.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 91 Points (2019)

The 2019 Mabalel includes 10% whole clusters and was matured in 20% new oak for 11 months. It has a wonderful bouquet featuring a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of licorice and menthol emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with chewy tannins, fine grip and a subtle tobacco note on the finish, which is more austere than I expected. Very fine, but serious. Drink 2023-31.