Southern Right

A precise and elegant expression of South Africa's signature grape, this Pinotage captures the cool Hemel-en-Aarde influence with layered fruit, supple tannins and a restrained, classical profile.

Pinotage 2023

Walker Bay, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Southern Right is located in the **Hemel-en-Aarde Valley**, one of South Africa's coolest viticultural areas, just inland from the Atlantic Ocean. Maritime breezes moderate the climate, enabling gradual ripening and the retention of aromatic freshness. The valley's patchwork of soils, from ferricrete-rich granitic gravels to decomposed granite and shale-derived clays, lends both precision and structure to the wines.

For this vintage, fruit was also drawn from **Swartland (48%)** and **Stellenbosch (30%)**, with Hemel-en-Aarde contributing 4%. These diverse origins enriched the wine's profile: Hemel-en-Aarde provided lift and freshness, Stellenbosch added structure, and Swartland contributed fruit weight and depth. Yields were modest at 5.8 tons/ha, ensuring concentration. Despite late-season rains, careful selection preserved grape integrity, allowing for vibrant, balanced wines.

Winemaking

The 2023 Pinotage was aged **entirely in French oak barrels** for nine months, split between 228-litre (51%) and 400-litre (49%) formats. Around **18% was new oak**, with the remainder older or neutral barrels, ensuring subtle seasoning rather than dominant wood character. Toast levels were evenly balanced between blonde and medium, offering finesse and gentle complexity.

Alcohol was kept at **13.4%**, reflecting full ripeness at moderate strength. The cooler-than-average season gave the wine a spine of natural acidity, with fermentation and maturation tailored to highlight purity of fruit and supple tannin texture. The interplay of soil diversity and barrel management resulted in a wine that is both expressive and refined.

Alcohol :13,40 %

Composition: 94% Pinotage, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec, 1% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with youthful purple highlights.
- **Aroma:** Blackberry, mulberry and dark cherry lifted by subtle spice, graphite, and a touch of fynbos. Notes of cocoa, vanilla and delicate smokiness from oak.
- **Palate:** Concentrated dark berry fruit balanced by vibrant acidity. Silky but structured tannins frame flavours of plum, bramble and spice, with earthy undertones leading to a savoury, long finish.

Did you know?

Southern Right takes its name from the **Southern Right whale**, an endangered species often seen off the Walker Bay coast. A portion of proceeds from each bottle supports whale conservation, uniting fine wine with marine preservation.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Springbok loin** - its lean game character mirrors the wine's savoury, spicy dimensions.
- **Smoked duck breast** - the smokiness complements the Pinotage's berry fruit and oak nuance.
- **Mushroom risotto** - earthy notes resonate with the grape's subtle gamey edge.
- **Cape Malay lamb curry** - aromatic spices harmonise with the wine's ripe fruit and savoury finish.

93 Tim Atkin

Tim Atkin (TA) : 93 Points (2023)

Southern Right uses grapes from four different regions across the Western Cape, three of which could be classified as cool climates. Ambitiously priced it may be, but that's partly the point. Entirely matured in older wood, it has impressive concentration and texture, plum and black cherry flavours, smooth tannins and a kiss of aromatic spices. 2025-29

91 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 91 Points (2022)

A vibrant red, with a core of ripe mulberry, raspberry and boysenberry fruit flavors. Light, supple tannins and lively acidity provide fine definition for the medium-bodied frame, and notes of violet, thyme, anise and iron linger on the finish.

91 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 91 Points (2022)

A vibrant red, with a core of ripe mulberry, raspberry and boysenberry fruit flavors. Light, supple tannins and lively acidity provide fine definition for the medium-bodied frame, and notes of violet, thyme, anise and iron linger on the finish. Drink now through 2030. 3,075 cases made, 880 cases imported.