

Boekenhoutskloof

With its claret-like refinement and meticulous winemaking, Boekenhoutskloof Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 2021 showcases the finesse and power of South African Cabernet Sauvignon.

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Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 2022

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

This wine is sourced from **two key Stellenbosch vineyard parcels**: the **northwest-facing slopes of the Helderberg Mountain** and the **southeast-facing slope of Vlottenburg**.

- The vines thrive in a combination of **decomposed granite soils**, **Table Mountain sandstone**, and **koffieklip**, contributing to the wine's hallmark minerality and layered complexity.
- The maritime influence of **False Bay** moderates the climate, ensuring cool, steady ripening. The **2021 growing season** featured a cool, damp winter, followed by moderate, dry conditions during flowering and ripening, resulting in small berries with concentrated flavors and balanced acidity.

Winemaking

The **2021 vintage** was vinified entirely at the Boekenhoutskloof winery, focusing on gentle extraction to achieve a refined claret-like structure. Grapes were **hand-harvested**, cooled, and carefully destemmed before a **cold maceration** period in **tulip-shaped concrete tanks**.

Fermentation occurred spontaneously at temperatures between **27°C and 30°C**, with **pump-overs** and occasional **délestage** to extract color, tannins, and aromas. Following fermentation, a prolonged **malolactic fermentation** took place in **225-liter French oak barriques**. The wine was then aged for **22 months in 60% new French oak** barrels from renowned coopers **Sylvain** and **Saury**, enhancing its texture and complexity.

Alcohol :14,80 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

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Tasting Notes

- **Aroma**: Intense and concentrated, with aromas of **plum**, **violet**, and sleek spiciness, complemented by subtle notes of **anise** and **earthiness**.
- **Palate**: The midpalate is pure and vibrant, offering flavors of **blackberries**, **blueberries**, and **dark licorice**, with peppery undertones. Full-bodied and complex, the wine displays plush tannins and a vibrant acidity.
- **Finish**: Sweet tobacco and black cardamom linger on a long, charred finish, accented by nuances of **iron fer** and **tar**.

Did you know?

The **Helderberg Mountain** region, often referred to as the "Golden Triangle" of Stellenbosch, is famous for producing some of South Africa's most refined and structured Cabernet Sauvignons. The meticulous use of the **OXOline system** for barrel aging at Boekenhoutskloof minimizes handling, preserving the wine's purity and complexity.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye steak with chimichurri**: The wine's robust tannins and vibrant acidity complement the rich flavors of the steak and the herbal brightness of the chimichurri.
- **Lamb shank with rosemary and garlic**: The earthy notes and plush texture pair beautifully with the tender, slow-cooked lamb.
- **Beef bourguignon**: The wine's dark fruit and spice profile enhance the savory depth of this classic dish.
- **Aged cheddar or smoked Gouda**: The wine's complexity and charred finish harmonize with the sharp, smoky flavors of these cheeses.

95 Tim Atkin

Tim Atkin (TA) : 95 Points (2021)

Gottfried Mocke sources this Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon from two growers - one on the Helderberg, the other in Stellenbosch Kloof - to produce what is always the denser than its companion Franschhoek bottling. Inky and grippy, with top notes of menthol, mocha and dried herbs, lots of energy and vibrancy and a core of plum, blueberry and cassis.2025-35

93 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 93 Points (2021)

Compared to the Franschhoek cuvée, the Stellenbosch bottling is almost reassuringly ripe and flattering with crème de mure, cassis and black cherry fruit on a plush, pencilly palate with integrated, creamy, spicy oak. It certainly shows more immediate richness and generosity than its cellarmate. Juicy and plush with a sense of depth and ripeness counterbalanced by attractively chewy, pliant tannins. The wine is made with spontaneous fermentation and aged for 22 months in 60% new oak, lightly toasted and long-seasoned.

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James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2021)

#93 TOP 100 WINES OF SOUTH AFRICA - Pretty nose of blackcurrants, sage, blackberry leaves and nutmeg. Firm and well-framed, with a full body and solid tannin structure. Excellent freshness, too. Drink or hold.