

SINCE



2007

Celebration of  
Chateau Naudé Wine Creation's  
10th Launch and Auction of their renowned  
Le Vin de François wine on  
3 MARCH 2018 – VINTAGE 2016.

#### Tasting Note.

**"A wine characterized by a rich violet-red colour and a nose that hints of black cherry and toasted savoury spice. The product of a dry hot vintage that brings about pronounced earthy flavours together with smooth cloves, sundried tomatoes and dried herbs. This wine suggests a pallet of dark chocolate and chilli underpinned with soft leather aromas. The perfectly intertwined tannins and oak flavours suggests a wine with great ageing potential if stored in a dark and cool atmosphere."**

#### Wine Analysis.

Alc: 14,58 Vol%      T/A: 5,7 g/l  
pH: 3,53                R/S: 2,7 g/l

#### Harvest Report.

Although 2015 will be remembered as one of the driest and earliest in years, together with a smaller harvest; it turned out to be only the beginning of a multitude of challenging seasons that would follow for the South African wine producers to manage. Characterized by abnormal heat and water shortages, 2016's grape crop was about 7 % smaller than in 2015. Regions affected the most were Stellenbosch, Paarl and towards the Swartland, where all our wines originate from for this 2016 vintage gem! Luckily the grapes were healthy and concentrated with good colour and flavours due to the lower yields and smaller berries that resulted in very good wines.

#### 2015/2016 Growing Season.

Good reserves were accumulated during the post-harvest period (April and May), after which leaf-fall occurred mostly at the right time. Although the winter started off late in most of the regions, the weather conditions were cold enough to break dormancy.

Most of our regions experienced low rainfall. The dam and soil-water levels were therefore not sufficiently filled up to prepare the vineyards for the warmer part of the season. Regions like Stellenbosch and Paarl had abnormal small crops after a dry, warm season. Harvest was earlier in Paarl and most of the early ripening cultivars like Chardonnay, Pinotage and Pinot Noir all ripened simultaneously. However, the smaller berries in both the above mentioned areas gave concentrated wines with beautiful colour and flavour. Pinotage also suffered less crop losses than the later ripening varieties like Shiraz, Cincout and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Pinotage grapes ripened at lower sugar levels in general, which is positive with regards to wines with slightly lower alcohols and with good acidity and pH levels!

Our top producers started irrigating earlier and with véraison occurring unusually early and fast; it facilitated canopy management and constituted good vineyard balance which reflects in the wine.

#### The Harvest.

It was lower than 2015's harvest, but the smaller berries with magic colour and flavour concentration was common wherever we selected the wine components for the 2016 blend. Competent canopy management and efficient "green Harvesting" delivered very evenly ripened grapes which helped so much with the wine-making process in the cellars.

#### The Wines.

"Adaptability was the keyword; – winemakers produced the best product from a challenging 2016 crop by means of good decision making and state-of-the-art technology" says François Viljoen, Vin Pro's consulting service Manager; which is exactly the reason why we have chosen this year's producer's wines to be the components for the 2016 Le Vin de François! – our '10th Anniversary' Wine.

## TASTING NOTES AND INFORMATION OF THE DIFFERENT "COMPONENT WINES" AND THEIR TERROIRS. (ALL FROM 2016 VINTAGE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

### 1. Beyerskloof Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: ANRI TRUTER / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

From an 18-year-old Bush-vine block grown on the gravelly soils of Bottelary – managed to produce a small even-ripe and concentrated block of grapes. Fermented in open fermenters with 2-hourly punch-downs. Matured in a new French oak Barrique for a period of 17 months.

*"Lovely deep colour – Beautiful fruity nose with a touch of vanilla and a firm structure and well integrated wood flavours that results in a complexity of flavours and a perfect balance."*

### 2. Kannerkloof Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: ABRIE BEESLAAR / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

Two new barrels from this famous property in Stellenbosch. The contents of both barrels come from the same 50-year-old bush-vine block situated on the South Western slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain at 270 metres above sea level to catch the cool evening breezes of the nearby Atlantic Ocean.

*"The traditional open fermentation with regular punch-downs once again delivered deep and dark wines with intense fruit and well integrated wood flavours and tannins; helped by having M.L.F. in the barrels before further maturation for approximately 17 months."*

### 3. Lanzerak Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: WYNAND LATEGAN / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

Two barrels from this historic Estate just outside Stellenbosch. Both are from the oldest single block Pinotage planted in 1996 on the North Western slopes of Botmaskop in the Jonkershoek Valley. Situated about 300 – 350 metres above sea level; ensures cool evenings that produces very flavoursome grapes with good natural acidity. Matured in two different new French oak barrels for approximately 20 months.

*"Amazing deep colours and intensity of fruit on the nose and pallet with varying oak characteristics, although both well integrated through M.L.F. in the barrels."*

### 4. L'Avenir Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: DIRK COETZEE / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

Once again two barrels from my original winemaking farm and from the oldest block of Pinotage that I planted 25 years ago. The first, from a special experimental section with 'selective

crop reduction' to increase overall complexity and intensity for the farm's famous "Single Block" wine. Matured in one of 'my original favourite choice' new Vicard tight grain barrels to manage the "more intense structure and grape tannins." The second, from the balance of this special vineyard, but matured in a different new French oak barrel to respect better "the more elegant fruit and slightly softer tannins." Both wines underwent M.L.F. in barrel and matured in the Barriques for about 20 months before blending.

### 5. Riebekloof Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: ROLANIE LOTZ / W.O. PAARL

From a Western slope vineyard planted on the granite soils of the Paarl Rock foot-hills and grown as a bush-vine block. Fermented with four hourly pump-overs and matured in a new Demptos D'Collection Pinotage barrel for a period of 19 months.

*"Deep intense purple-black colour. Complex nose of Pinotage fruit characters with a touch of oak. The palate is full with support from fine tannins and a perfect acidity."*

### 6. Ripks Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: PIERRE WAHL / W.O. TULBAGH

The first time this famous Pinotage producer's wines are being used as components for Le Vin de François! Also not just one, but two separate barrels from this unique farm. The first from a bush-vine block planted on vertical shale soil in 2006 and matured in a new Vicard Prestige barrel.

*"Deeply coloured and a complex nose followed by an intensely flavoured palate and a beautifully balanced aftertaste."*

The second from a uniquely-trellised vineyard planted in 2009 and matured in a new American oak barrel.

*"The additional vanilla flavour from the barrel ensures an intense but complex fruity taste with wonderful soft and ripe tannins on the finish."*

### 7. Simonsig Pinotage.

WINEMAKER: DEBBIE THOMPSON / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

Originating from the over 20-year-old Redhill vineyard. A bush-vine block planted on weathered shale soil. The grapes produce the most amazingly perfumed wines every year that have made this vineyard and it's wines one of the most famous and award-winning Pinotages in South Africa. Total maturation in barrels for approximately 17 months.

*"This year's barrel of wine is a combination of two different new small French Barriques; each with its own distinctive character. The one is bold with intense fruit and structure and the other barrel originating from the Allier forest, shows more elegance on fruit, tannin and aftertaste. The brilliant blend of these two made this a 'must use' for this year's wine."*

## FRANÇOIS NAUDÉ

*François, the proud old "Afriks" boy who qualified and then practised as a pharmacist for 18 years in his home town of Pretoria, before making the break to Stellenbosch where he turned his passionate hobby into an extremely successful career. He first tried his hand at winemaking in 1991 and joined L'Avenir Estate in 1992.*



*This past chairman of Les Chevaliers du Tastevin de Pretoria (one of the first wine Guilds in South Africa & currently the oldest) and self-taught winemaker has used his unerring instinct and skills as a pharmacist to take on the best winemakers in the world and has proved himself their equal.*

*He has earned many awards and collected an enthusiastic following at home and abroad, where he has excelled in competitions such as the Chardonnay du Monde and the International Wine and Spirit Competition in London, from which he has brought home the Perold Trophy (for the best Pinotage in the world) three times.*

*François' L'Avenir Pinotage have also been a winner in the ABSA Top 10 Competition for a record 7 times.*

*He first retired as Full-time winemaker at the end of 2015; then as a consultant to some of the top wineries in the country in 2012, during which time he created Le Vin De François through his exclusive access to most of the top Pinotage production in South Africa. Over the last eight years since its launch it has gained the reputation as one of the best, if not the best and most exclusive Pinotages in the world.*

*He is an honorary member of the prestigious Cape Wine Makers Guild, after 10 year's active involvement where his wines made it to the "Auction" every year! He is also an honorary member of The Pinotage Association and is the current Chairman of the Stellenbosch Wine Circle (the second oldest wine Guild in S.A.)*

*Six years ago, the "magic man", as he is often referred to, launched two new ranges of family wines under the "nuts about" and "The Wingnut" labels to complete the picture in the Chateau Naudé Wine Creation stable; currently on hold as his "passion" lured him back into a permanent industry position.*

LE VIN DE  
**FRANÇOIS**  
SOUTH AFRICA

*The wing nut symbolizes the Auctions of the founder - clasp together ideals of his family with different wines from a variety of terroirs to create a product that contains all the properties of something great, unique, exclusive and a touch of "magic"!*

*François Naudé*

FRANÇOIS NAUDÉ

