

LAUNCH OF LE VIN DE FRANÇOIS 14TH VINTAGE:

Launch April 2022 - Vintage 2020

Tasting Note:

An Intense deep Red colour with an amazing nose following typical ripe plums, black cherries and mocha from the French barrels intertwined with a variety of fruit on the palate. Once again the perfectly ripened grapes, blended with fine tannins and matured for an extended time in French oak barrels will mature to something perfect in the following ten years which is so amazing to this wonderful and exceptional Pinotage from South Africa.

Wine Analysis:

Alc: 14,6Vol % R/S: 2,54 g/l
pH: 3,54

The total Harvest about 8% larger than the 2019 harvest.

Harvest Report:

The large harvest brought exceptional wines to consumers throughout the season in all our wine producing regions according to the service manager of the wine industry's representative body Vin Pro. Weather conditions were favourable in general and the bunch numbers looked promising early in the season, but windy conditions during the set and sensitive berry growth stages resulted in smaller berries on a lighter crop in some areas.

The season was also characterized by great variation between and even within the same vineyard blocks in areas that experienced dry conditions.

The Stellenbosch, Swartland, Cape South Coast, Paarl and Breedeekloof regions all

harvested more wine grapes than in 2019 although the Klein Karoo region still struggled with the ongoing draught.

2019/2020 - Growing Season

Although the harvesting season commenced approximately 2 weeks earlier than usual the unexpected announcement of the COVID-19 lock down which was implemented in South Africa from 26 March 2020 created a scurry Among many producers to harvest the last Grapes of the season and complete winemaking processes in cellars. Wine activities were completely prohibited but government made a last minute concession that allowed for harvesting and storage activities, which were essential to prevent wastage of primary agricultural goods during lockdown. At the time, around 40,000 tons of wine grapes still had to be harvested.

Most regions experienced and impaired post harvest period compared to the previous year. The leaves fell around the same time or later than usual, vines were healthier and producers had access to post harvest irrigation water. Sufficient cold winds were accumulated during the winter while rainfall varied across regions, but was mostly below average. The early growing season will especially be remembered for good, harmonious slow growth.

The Harvest:

We are excited about the exceptional wines that will flow from the 2020 wine crop. The early cultivars like Pinotage showed exceptional acidity and the colour and tannin analysis in the red wines promise full wines with concentrated flavour profiles.

TASTING NOTES & INFORMATION OF THE DIFFERENT "COMPONENT WINES" & THEIR TERROIRS (ALL FROM 2020 VINTAGE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

1. Beyerskloof Pinotage:

WINEMAKER: ANRI TRUTER / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

From the old Kriekbult block KB, one of the oldest in Stellenbosch. Harvested by the workers of Beyerskloof. Matured at Beyerskloof before it was changed to 225 litre Elite French barrels for 15 months.

"Lots of fruit and consistency with a beautiful colour. Great nose and fabulous taste."

2. Chateau Naudé Wine Creation Pinotage:

WINEMAKER: FRANÇOIS NAUDÉ / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

The first wine made from this amazing "Amper Bo" Pinotage blocks. One of the highest vineyard blocks in Stellenbosch on the Bottelary Hills. Very low yields and matured for 28 months in two new Vicard 225 litre barrels.

"The intensify flavoured berries gave a deep and dark (nearly black colour) with a nose of cherries, plums and blackberry and is followed by a complex taste of fruit. Perfect for lay maturation potential."

3. Delheim Pinotage:

WINEMAKER: ROELOF LOTRIET / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

From my favourite 26 year old Bush Vine block "The Protea" grown on the lower slopes against the Klappmutskop, overlooking Table Mountain in the distance. Made and matured at Delheim in new French oak barrels for 28 months.

"Beautiful deep red colour. Volatile nose of ripe plums and black cherries, with a touch of spicy oak in the nose. The palate is full and complex with flavours that fills the mouth on something with great tannins and a well balances acidity on the finish."

4. Dinerdal Pinotage

WINEMAKER: THYS LOUW / W.O. DURBANVILLE

The first time for this wonderful wine from Durbanville. Grown on a 26 year old block that is farmed "dry-land" and fermented in kuipe before being transferred to a new French oak barrel. Matured for approximately 1 year.

"A beautiful nose, great complex flowers with a lot of fruit and a great aftertaste. Very happy with this new wine from this old and famous farm."

5. Kananokop Pinotage

WINEMAKER: ABRIL BEESLAAR / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

GROWN on the famous 27-year-old block 310, high up on the mountain to benefit from the cool evening sea breezes.



"Very deep colour. Dark purple fruit with a touch of lead pineal on the nose. The palate is full and complex with fruit that give a lull flavour with integrated tannins. The finish is well structured with a well-balanced aftertaste. Once again a perfect match for this blend."

6. Lancerac Pinotage

WINEMAKER: WYNAND LATEGAN / W.O. STELLENBOSCH

From the oldest Pinotage block on the farm, high up on the farm, matured in a 2nd fill Vicard Chateau Ferre 170 grad. We planted this block around 1997 on Bathmaskop hills outside the farm and it is now really delivering the fruit which we have waited for for many years.

"Very dark in colour, this traditional wine are made with original yeasts from the farm, which gives it a beautiful colour and an array of beautiful fruit on the nose. The palate is complex with a lovely smoot and balanced aftertaste. A real gem for this year's blend. A wine that has been in every Le Vin de Francois since we started in 2007. Congratulations my friend!"

7. Rijps Pinotage

WINEMAKER: PIERRE WAHL - W.O. TULBACH

Also two wines from this amazing vineyard in Tulbagh. Grown in two different blocks. The one a bush wine block and the other a special 'Oplei' block that delivers great fruit and very small berries.

"Both wines have great colour and a variety of fruit on the nose with palates that fill the main flavours and create aftertastes with complexity in them."

8. Simonsig Pinotage

WINEMAKER: MICHAEL MALAN - W.O. STELLENBOSCH

A variety of wonderful Pinotage blocks from this historic farm in Stellenbosch run by the Malan family. A beautiful wine with great flavours on the nose and palate. This wonderful sample have been matured in high profile small French barrels for approximately 1 year.

"Deep dark colour, with ripe plums and cherries on the palate with a smooth and balanced aftertaste. A wonderful wine to complete this year's new 2020 blend!"

FRANÇOIS NAUDÉ



François, the proud old "Affies" 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 by 2004 already.

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 Francois through his exclusive access to most of the top Pinotage production in South Africa. Over the last twelve 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 has just retired as the Chairman after eleven years of chairing the Stellenbosch Wine Circle (the second oldest wine Guild in S.A.)

Nine 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; which was on hold for the last couple of years as his 'passion' lured him back into a permanent industry position. He eventually decided to retire at the end of 2018 when he 'called everything a day' except his passionate love called Le Vin de Francois, which will be the only thing, apart from his love for God, his family & dearest friends that will keep him alive until the time comes to say goodbye to this wonderful world and "hello" to the hereafter & Heaven!

LE VIN DE
FRANÇOIS

The wing nut symbolizes the different & S. A. makes a clapping together ideals of his family with different wines, from a variety of terroirs to create a product that contains all the properties of something special, unique, exclusive and a touch of "magic".



2020

FRANÇOIS NAUDÉ

