

Bowwood Pinotage 2020

VINEYARDS

Bowwood Pinotage is made from a small, single vineyard, planted in clay-rich gravel soils in 1998. The vineyard is shy bearing with poor vigour, which ensures tiny berries with hugely concentrated flavour. A North-South row orientation exposes the grapes to plenty of gentle morning and late afternoon sunshine, perfect for intense colour and aromatic development.

VINIFICATION

The grapes are hand-picked in early February with a ripeness of 25 Balling. Each bunch is pre-chilled before being destemmed and berry sorted. The berries are not crushed but are fermented whole. This allows for a gradual extraction of tannins and colour, which promotes finesse, balance and longevity. The berries are fermented in open-top fermenters, which provide easy access for the winemaker to assess and manipulate the fermentation. The wine is punched down regularly for 8 days and then basket pressed directly to new and second fill, 300L American oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation takes place in the barrel, which promotes harmony and seamless integration of the oak flavours. The wine is further matured on the yeast and malolactic lees for 18 months. At this point, the finest 8 barrels are selected, blended and returned to barrel for an additional 6 months. Finally, the wine is kept for 4 months in a stainless-steel tank to promote stability and clarification, before it is bottled and laid to rest for a full year before it is released.

FURTHER REMARKS

Bowwood Pinotage is made to rival the best wines in the world and will benefit greatly from additional cellaring. This is only the fifth vintage.



TASTING NOTES & CELLARING & FOOD PAIRING

Opaque in colour with dark hues of purple and red, it delivers an intense black cherry and plum bouquet interlaced with sweet cloves and vanilla-rich oak. Bold fruit and pungent spice aromatics persist on the palate with undertones of roasted almonds and cigar smoke. The palate is broad and rich with soft acidity and abundant, fine tannin. A luxurious, full-flavored, and modern wine.

Accolades

2018 Vintage:

2021 Michelangelo – Double Gold

2021 Veritas – Gold

2022 Platter's Guide – 4.5 Stars (94pts)

2022 Gilbert & Gaillard -Double Gold (92pts)

2019 Vintage:

2022 ABSA TOP 10 Winner

2022 Veritas- Double Gold

Analysis

pH 3.58

Total Acidity 5.7 g/l

Residual Sugar 2.0 g/l

Alcohol 14.21 %