

Pinotage

Domaine: The Winery of Good Hope

Producer: Alex Dale

Website: <http://www.thewineryofgoodhope.com/>

Variety: 100% Pinotage

Country: South Africa

Region: Stellenbosch

Background

Pioneers settled in the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa as early as 1652. Putting faith in the region's remarkable potential, they started to plant vineyards in 1655 and produced their first wines 4 years later; or one century and a half before Australia was even settled for the first time! Our friend Alex Dale created the Winery of Good Hope, capitalizing on the settlers' "hope" and following their spirits of determination and adventure.

These grapes are from a single block of vineyards, all bushvines, on the Helderberg Mountain at the heart of the estate on which the winery is based in Stellenbosch. The vines are over 30 years old, allowing for spice and fruit to shine. The winemaker's priority was focused on developing elegance, & fruitiness and avoiding bitterness and harsh tannins that Pinotage is normally renowned for, coming largely from the skins and pips. They also wanted to retain the underlying spicy minerality from the local soils.

By handling the grapes this way, Alex was able to focus all of the good aspects of Pinotage's heritage into the bottle (cherry fruit related to Pinot, spiciness related to Cinsault). The wine displays red cherries, violets and a juicy palate, which finishes with balance, length, a touch of minerality and some really funky spice. The result turned out to be a combination of extremely healthy fruit and beautiful, balanced flavors. We recommend drinking this wine slightly chilled.

www.robertkacherselections.com

