

ALVI'S DRIFT

FLAGSHIP RANGE VERREAUX PINOTAGE 2018

This intensely dark, black-cherry coloured wine boasts juicy, ripe-fruit flavours of black cherry and plum, the fruit complemented by complex notes of nut, spice and vanilla. Made without compromise in small volumes only and blended from individually selected barrels, our 2018 Verreaux Pinotage is a medium-bodied wine with velvety tannins and a well-rounded mouthfeel. This remarkable wine has great ageing potential and will benefit from careful cellar maturation of 8-10 years.

ON THE VINES

With an ideal Mediterranean microclimate, an abundance of soil diversity and water from the life-giving Breede River, the Alvi's Drift vineyards are ideally positioned for producing remarkable wines of unique character and complexity.

2018 was a challenging vintage, as it was one of the driest years in recent times, especially during the grapes' growth and ripening periods. But, even more so, it was challenging due to severe frost damage and crop losses during the months of September and October. With efficient use of irrigation water, thanks to healthy vineyards with limited incidences of pests, diseases or rot, and owing to dry weather, we managed to harvest good-quality pinotage grapes with excellent intensity of colour and flavour.

IN THE CELLAR

To create this wine, crushed pinotage grapes are transferred to our winery's traditional, open-top concrete fermentation tanks, built by our family patriarch almost a century ago. During fermentation, to increase skin-to-juice contact, the labour-intensive punch-down method (French: pigéage) is applied by hand, up to eight times daily.

Juice is left to soak for a few days to extract optimum flavour and colour from the skins. After fermentation, the wine matures in a combination of new French and American oak barrels for 22 months.

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CULTIVAR INFORMATION

100% Pinotage

ANALYSIS

Alcohol:	13.7%
Residual Sugar:	4.4 g/l
Acidity:	5.8 g/l
pH:	3.4

PAIRING SUGGESTION

A perfect partner for red meat, roasted game, game pie and duck, especially served with a black cherry sauce. This wine will also complement any mature cheese.

HERITAGE

The mighty Verreaux's eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*) is a large predatory bird with a wingspan of up to 2.3 m, native to sub-Saharan Africa.

A common sight in the skies above Alvi's Drift, this rare and magnificent eagle with its unmistakable jet-black colouration and distinct white "V" on its back has a unique hunting technique, hunting primarily from a high soar by stooping on its quarry. Perceived as a threat to livestock, this spectacular bird has become one of the most persecuted bird species in the world.

At Alvi's Drift, we are actively taking steps to create an environment that will encourage and protect the Verreaux's eagle and other eagle species on our farm. Alvi's Drift honours this legendary South African bird with a unique South African wine that soars above all others.

AWARDS

2020 Great Gold Catavinum World Wine & Spirits Competition Spain | 2020 Top 100 National Wine Challenge / Top 100 | 2020 Double Platinum National Wine Challenge / Top 100 | 2020 Great Gold International Wine & Spirits Awards Spain | 2020 Double Gold Michelangelo International Wine & Spirits Awards | 2021 Top 100 National Wine Challenge / Top 100 | 2021 Double Platinum National Wine Challenge / Top 100 | 2021 Great Gold International Wine & Spirits Awards Spain