

ALVI'S DRIFT

# FLAGSHIP RANGE VERREAUX PINOTAGE 2021

Intense with a dark, black-cherry hue, this medium- to heavy-bodied wine boasts complex aromas of juicy damson fruit and mulberry, with hints of chocolate and oaky vanilla. Made without compromise in small volumes only, our 2021 Verreaux Pinotage is elegant, yet powerful on the palate with gentle tannins and a velvety mouthfeel. This very well-structured wine offers a lingering, satisfying finish. It can be enjoyed immediately, or matured for at least another 8 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.

Conditions in our region were perfect for producing a superb 2021 Pinotage vintage. We experienced rapid accumulated cold units from June until August (double what we experienced the previous year), resulting in delayed bud break and flowering, and a harvest that took place two weeks later than usual.

All these factors enabled us to harvest our Pinotage grapes at optimum ripeness. This early ripening varietal boasted higher-than-usual acidity and lower pH levels, resulting in superb wines of remarkable quality. With accurate grape sampling, our winemaker and his team were able to hand select only the best grapes from which to produce our winery's Flagship Verreaux Pinotage.

## 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 12 months.



## CULTIVAR INFORMATION

100% Pinotage

## ANALYSIS

Alcohol:	13.4%
Residual Sugar:	4.4 g/l
Acidity:	6.0 g/l
pH:	3.3

## PAIRING SUGGESTION

Enjoy this one-of-a-kind wine with roast leg of springbok, top-quality chargrilled rib-eye steak or roast leg of lamb.

## 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

2023 | Gold | LUMO Awards

2023 | Top 100 | National Wine Challenge / SA Top 100

2023 | Double Platinum | National Wine Challenge / SA Top 100

2023 | Great Gold | Catavinum World Wine & Spirits Competition: Spain

2023 | Great Gold | International Wine & Spirit Awards: Spain

2023 | Pinotage Trophy | Michelangelo International Wine & Spirit Awards

+27 (0)21 905 0653

wine@alvisdrift.co.za

www.alvisdrift.co.za