

ALVI'S DRIFT

FLAGSHIP RANGE VERREAUX PINOTAGE 2022

With its intense black cherry hue, this full-bodied red wine captivates with aromas of black fruit, ripe plum, and blackberry, intertwined with multi-layered savoury spices. Elegant and powerful on the palate, our 2022 Verreux Pinotage is well-structured with a lively balance and a sweet fruit follow-through that lingers to a dry finish. Enjoy this exquisite wine now, or allow it to mature gracefully 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.

Our 2022 harvest promises to impress with its exceptional quality, despite yielding a slightly smaller crop compared to 2021.

We experienced a cold winter with enough rain to fill our reservoirs, followed by a cooler spring with additional rainfall, which delayed the start of bud burst and flowering. However, when these stages did occur, they were largely successful.

As summer unfolded, it introduced warmth interspersed with rain, causing a harvest delay of about 14 days due to the cooler earlier months. These conditions allowed the vines to develop remarkable flavours. The result was smaller berries, contributing to a reduced overall yield, yet the fruit was marked by intense flavours and unparalleled quality.

This vintage will be remembered for its remarkable quality for many years to come.

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:	13.7%
Residual Sugar:	4.3 g/l
Acidity:	5.7 g/l
pH:	3.6

PAIRING SUGGESTION

Enjoy this remarkable, one-of-a-kind wine with rump roast, mushroom risotto or seared tuna steak.

HERITAGE

The mighty Verreux'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 Verreux'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.

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AWARDS

2024 | Great Gold | Catavinum World Wine & Spirits Competition: Spain