

THE BERNARD SERIES

BUSH VINE PINOTAGE

LIMITED RELEASE 2022



The Bernard Series was named after Bernard Podlashuk, maverick winemaker, and visionary co-founder of the Bellingham brand. Never satisfied with ordinary, he is recognised for his daring vision and unabated drive that helped place South African wine on the map. The legend of his tenacity and innovative flair lives on through the Bernard series, Bellingham's premium range of hand-crafted wines.

WINE OF ORIGIN: Coastal Region

VARIETY: 100% Pinotage

VITICULTURE: 66% Stellenbosch | 34% Darling

The Bernard Series Pinotage vineyards are situated in South Africa's cool climate growing regions, influenced by the nearby Atlantic Ocean sea-breezes. After years of experimentation, it was found that these sites have better phenolic or tannin ripeness due to the longer and slower ripening process associated with cool climates. The grapes from these vineyards are concentrated and retain their natural acidity, producing wines that have bright red fruit, with ripe and silky tannins whilst remaining elegant and fresh.

VINIFICATION:

Each "Bernard" lot is harvested separately, with the two regional sites hand-picked in the early mornings. The Darling vineyard block was harvested about two weeks after Stellenbosch. Fermentation took place in open-top concrete tanks with pump-overs and hand punch-downs every three hours. Minimal intervention ensured a natural, authentic expression of Pinotage.

Fermentation was swift, with pressing after a maximum of five days on the skins.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES:

This Pinotage highlights its elegant side, showcasing the red fruit character of its parent varieties, Pinot Noir and Cinsault. Aromas of bright cherry, plum, and raspberry are layered with subtle spice and dark chocolate. The palate mirrors these notes, offering purity and freshness that linger. Fine tannins add a refined, savory touch, while a perfect balance of richness and vibrancy completes the wine.

Pairs beautifully with grilled lamb, duck breast, mushroom risotto, or aged Gouda, enhancing its bright fruit, spice, and refined tannins.

ANALYSIS:

RS: 2.77g/l | Alc: 14.22% | TA: 5.52g/l | pH: 3.58

Bernard Podlashuk