



BELLINGHAM

FOUNDED IN 1693

The Founders Series

The Founders Series is a very small selection of the best wine in the cellar. It follows the Bellingham style and maximum of 5 barrels are selected every year, but only bottled and released in exceptional vintages. The concept is to honour Bellingham's pioneering founders, Fredagh and Bernard Podlashuk, affectionately known as Freda and Pod.

This power couple's bold vision not only for their iconic brand, but the South African wine industry as a whole, left a legacy for the ages. A rare greatness and inspiration, something that these special wines aim to emulate.



The Quintessential Couple

Vintage: 2022

Wine of Origin: Coastal Region (Stellenbosch & Franschhoek)

Blend: Pinotage 93% Semillon 7%

In the vineyard:

The components of this wine originate from 3 prized old vineyards in Stellenbosch and Franschhoek. The Stellenbosch vineyards are in close proximity to the sea resulting in cooling breezes ensuring excellent acidity to balance the bright fruit expression of the grapes, while the Franschhoek vineyard is planted on a rugged mountain slope that brings fullness and structure to the wine. These dry-land farmed bush vine vineyards are managed for ultra premium quality, which includes shoot thinning and crop control.

The Pinotage vineyards were planted in 1975 and 1976, while the Semillon vineyard was planted in 1936. All have very low yields with small berries full of concentrated flavour. These vineyards are registered under the Old Vine Project, a South African industry initiative that seeks to preserve old vineyards and advocate the importance of wines originating from these unique sites.

In the cellar:

The grape bunches are hand sorted upon arrival at the cellar to remove any possible material other than the finest grapes. Only a few hours of skin contact is allowed before fermentation to obtain the perfect subtle pink hue. The grapes are then fermented in third fill oak barrels and aged on the lees for six months to aid both in extra mouthfeel and complexity. The wine is gently worked and care is taken at every step to ensure that the wine is a perfect representation of the magnificent old vines. Only 1200 bottles were produced.

Tasting notes:

This alluring Rosé takes its inspiration from Bernard and Fredagh Podlashuk, founders of Bellingham and a formidable pair in every sense. Theirs was a romance for the ages, so it only fits that a wine made in their honour should come from some of the most beautiful old vineyards in the Cape, with an equally intriguing story to tell.

Typical bright red fruit from the Pinotage abound on the nose, with well-defined strawberry, raspberry and cherry notes persisting on the palate. Bright acidity balances the sweet fruit, with well defined "textural" mouthfeel qualities resulting from the small addition of Semillon. The ideal match for fruit-laden summer salads, sushi and light curry dishes.

Analysis:

Alc:	12.25%
RS:	2.21 g/l
TA:	6.79 g/l
pH:	3.28