

## Tete De Cuvee, Hemel-an-Aarde Valley, Walker Bay, Pinot Noir, Bouchard Finlayson Hemel-en-Aarde, South africa



<b>Product code</b>	BN02ZZRC
<b>Grapes</b>	Pinot Noir
<b>Country</b>	SOUTH AFRICA
<b>ABV%</b>	14.19
<b>Case Size</b>	6
<b>Closure Style</b>	Cork
<b>Producer</b>	Bouchard Finlayson
<b>Vintage</b>	2020



Vegan



Vegetarian



BOUCHARD FINLAYSON  
A BOUTIQUE VINEYARD

### Producer

This boutique winery was founded in 1989 by renowned Burgundian winemaker, Paul Bouchard and South African Pinot Noir pioneer, Peter Finlayson. Situated in the cool climate Hemel-en-Aarde Valley in Walker Bay, 110 kilometres south east of Cape Town, the 22 hectares of vineyard are laid out according to Burgundian principles and more than half are planted with Pinot Noir. Vines are densely planted at 9,000 vines per hectare and green harvesting takes place at veraison (change of colour of grape pigmentation) in order to develop flavour concentration. The vineyards have soils of a distinctive clay-rich Bokkeveld shale (gravel and shale) and the nearby, cold ocean provides a cooling effect on the land. The winery is a leader in responsible agriculture and a pioneer for the World Wide Fund for Nature Conservation. In addition to the acclaimed Pinot Noirs, Bouchard Finlayson also produce highly rated Chardonnays, Sauvignon Blancs and Rieslings.

### Tasting Notes

Brimming with potential to make a lasting sensory impression. Powerful and opulent, with gorgeous black cherry and blueberry flavours, neatly wrapped with a line of fine powdered tannin. Game, violet and a subtle cinnamon are focussed on a dry and velvety smooth finish. Best from 2024 through 2030.

### Viticulture

The meticulous viticulture approach is based on the Burgundian principal of high-density planting with low yields from individual vines. 9000 vines are planted per hectare, one metre apart, in five rows. The sixth row is missing to facilitate maintenance of the vines and to avoid compaction of the soils. High density planting encourages greater surface of leaf exposure and restricts root growth, thereby improving fruit



concentration, which is so essential to the making of truly great wines. Green harvesting is done at veraison, usually removing about 35% of the potential crop. Picking is done by hand with up to three separate passes through the vineyards to ensure that only the grapes at optimum ripeness are picked. The cool climate of Walker Bay is perfect for our Pinot Noir and largely influenced by the nearby cold Atlantic Ocean, rendering it one of the coolest wine growing areas in the Cape. The Hemel-en-Aarde valley is surrounded and sheltered by a mountain barrier – formed by the Galpin Peak at 810m and the Tower of Babel at 1200m – trapping the cloud cover and moisture brought in from the sea by the prevailing wind. Summer conditions are consequently warm rather than hot, and winter conditions are mild and frost-free. The sea breezes

## Winemaking

A Tête de Cuvée wine is not presented at every vintage. The emphasis here is placed on attaching the best Pinot Noir ferments to best new wood, with the intention of sculpting a top quality, collectors wine. This bottling is regarded as the most promising wine from the cellar and carries the Bouchard Finlayson flag. The majority of grapes supplied for this cuvee is from the oldest vines on the property, with the average vine age exceeding 22 years. The winemaker selects individual barrels to compile the chosen components – in this instance only six, of which four were new oak.

## Awards

95 pts - International Wine Challenge, SA Red Trophy, 2022  
95 pts – Tim Atkin South Africa Report, 2022  
93 pts – Wine Spectator, 2022  
96 pts - James Suckling, 2022