

Crocodile's Lair Kaaimansgat Chardonnay, Overberg, Bouchard Finlayson Hemel-en-Aarde, South Africa



Product code	BN12ZZWC
Grapes	Chardonnay
Country	SOUTH AFRICA
ABV%	13.48
Case Size	6
Closure Style	Cork
Producer	Bouchard Finlayson
Vintage	2024



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

"Excellently presented aromas of melon and nectarine underlay a vibrant and pronounced lemon zest and baking spice combination. The texture is rich and voluminous, but balanced by a compelling acidity. Incredible length on the palate. Drink now through 2025."

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

"The elevation at which these vineyards grow, play a significant role in the resulting wine. At 800m above sea level, berries tend to be smaller and skins thicker. Lower juice recoveries can be expected, however, fruit flavours are abundant and the vintage consistency remarkable. Fermentation occurs in barrel and initiate spontaneously by indigenous yeast populations. Maintaining temperatures below 25 degrees Celsius is key in the preservation of fruit freshness. Bottling in January 2022 follows a 2 month resting period in tank."

Awards

93 pts - James Suckling, 2022