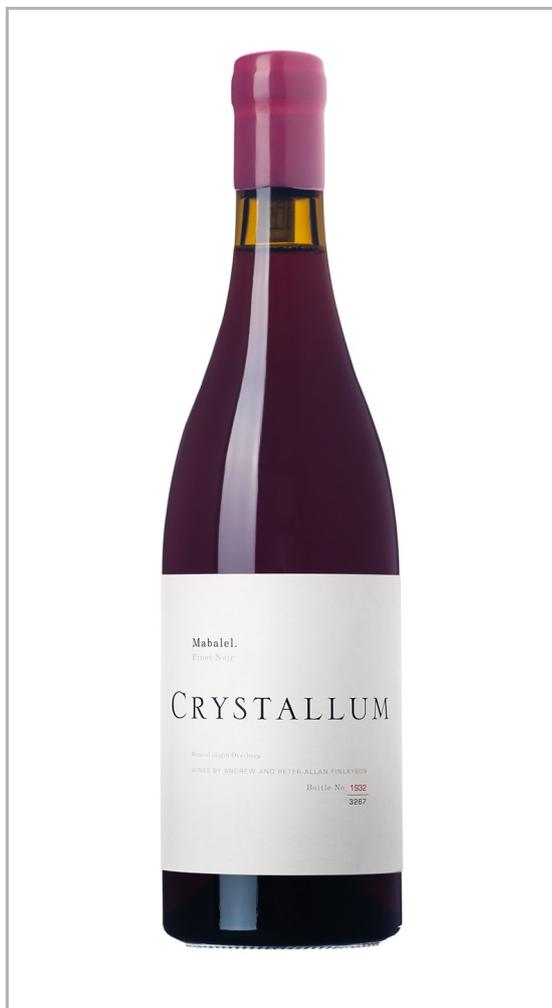


Crystallum, `Mabalel` Elandskloof Pinot Noir 2019

Walker Bay, Hemel-en Aarde, Cape South Coast, South Africa



PRODUCER

This small winery was established in 2007 by brothers Peter-Allan and Andrew Finlayson. Their father, Peter, was a pioneer in the production of cool climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at Bouchard Finlayson, so after university it seemed the natural thing for the boys to return home and source some fruit from the Hemel-en-Aarde valley to start their own label. Crystallum is now one of the most highly regarded wineries in South Africa, yet the Finlaysons are determined to make even better wines. Peter-Allan has sourced fruit from some new vineyards, while winemaking has evolved. All of the wines are now fermented using indigenous yeasts and new oak has been reduced to help the bright fruit shine through.

VINEYARDS

Mabalel Pinot Noir is produced from an incredibly unique, high-altitude vineyard. The site sits at 700 metres above sea level and rests in what resembles a volcanic crater. The vineyard is surrounded by some of the Cape's highest mountain peaks that are regularly covered by snow during winter. This is the first Pinot Noir to be produced in this valley.

VINTAGE

2019 was a much cooler vintage than 2018. Winter saw a fair amount of rainfall, which replenished water reserves in the soil and sustained the vines through the growing season. Unsettled weather and irregular temperatures during flowering resulted in a reduction in yield. The cooler than usual temperatures during the summer meant that the grapes underwent a perfectly paced slow and steady ripening and were harvested in excellent condition.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was fermented using only native yeasts and a much lower portion of the fruit was kept as whole clusters (10%) in comparison to the other Crystallum wines. The total time in tank was 29 days with a 14 day post-fermentation maceration. The wine was then transferred to French oak barrels (20% new) where it remained for 11 months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Cherry, plum, blackcurrant and dark chocolate aromas on the nose lead into a decadent palate with sweet spices and liquorice notes. Ripe tannins and a bracing, fresh acidity give this wine excellent structure.

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| Grape Varieties | 100% Pinot Noir |
| Winemaker | Peter-Allan Finlayson |
| Closure | Natural Cork |
| ABV | 14% |
| Residual Sugar | 2.4g/L |
| Acidity | 5.5g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.45 |
| Bottle Sizes | 75cl |
| Notes | Vegetarian, Vegan |