

Crystallum, `Cuvée Cinéma` Hemel-en-Aarde 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

The 'Cuvée Cinéma' Pinot Noir is produced from fruit grown in a single vineyard - one of the highest in the Hemel-en-Aarde region. This region is characterised by a moderate climate which results in slower ripening and a later harvest. The soils are clay and shale in composition, which allows optimum fruit development while naturally restricting vigour and keeping crop levels low.

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

'Cuvée Cinéma' was fermented with 70% whole clusters and 30% whole berries using only native yeasts in a stainless-steel tank. The total time in tank was 31 days. The wine was then transferred to barrels, 25% of which were new, where it remained for 11 months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The 2019 'Cuvée Cinéma' has a nose of candied cherry, sweet spices and rose alongside smokey and herbal notes and a slight saline edge. The palate is a touch richer than the previous vintage, with dark chocolate and aniseed adding a savoury counterpoint to the lifted, fresh red fruit. Grippy tannins and bright acidity hold everything in balance, giving a long finish.

Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Peter-Allan Finlayson
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	13.5%
Residual Sugar	2.7g/L
Acidity	5.2g/L
Wine pH	3.48
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan