

Paul Cluver Seven Flags Pinot noir 2015

100 % Pinot noir	Release date	Production 600 x 6
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This wine combines site and barrel selection. It is the ultimate expression of the estate's terroir - the culmination of dedication to the practice of viticulture and wine making.

Vineyards and Vines

Currently there are 22 hectares planted to Pinot noir on the estate, which equates to 28% of the total plantings. Clones include 667, 777, 113, 115 and PN5. The first vines were planted in 1989 and the youngest blocks in 2009. Vines range in age from 1 to 26 years. The soil is predominantly decomposed Bokkeveld Shale with underlying clay layers of varying depths. Vine orientation is North/South on North east and South facing slopes and North west/South east on the South facing slopes. Height above sea level ranges from 280 to 400 meters. Seven Flags is a grape selection from one of the oldest Pinot noir vineyard, planted to clone 113 in 1990. This vintage we included a small percentage of 115 clone from our highest lying and coolest Pinot noir planted in 2002.

Harvest report

2015 will be remembered as the vintage of the century, the best vintage I have experienced at Paul Cluver, all the wines made this vintage has incredible precision and amazing depth.

Winemaking

The approach to winemaking follows that of the Paul Cluver Pinot noir initially. Extensive individual berry sorting was done by hand prior to destemming, no crushing of the grapes is allowed. After destemming the berries is transported in satellite tanks and the fermenting vats is filled by gravity. This was followed by cold maceration at 12°- 14° Celsius for 6 days. The fermentation in two 3.5 ton wooden vats was allowed to start naturally before inoculating with selected Burgundian yeast. During the fermentation, the skin cap was punched through by hand no more than twice per day. After fermentation, the wine is racked to barrel for malolactic fermentation and remains on the fine lees for 11 months. To confirm the superiority of the vineyard sites, the ear-marked Seven Flags Pinot noir barrels are tasted blind in conjunction with all the other Paul Cluver Pinot noir barrels in the cellar. The best barrels of the site are then selected and blended to form the Seven Flags Pinot noir. Total new wood component equates to 20%.

Tasting notes

Andries believes that the essence of a great Pinot noir is the purity of fruit and balanced acidity which gives structure to the wine. This wine has this essence, substantiated by its natural acidity. This is a very well defined wine with amazing poise, the colour is alluring and luminous. The aroma of this wine has wonderful elegant red and dark fruit expression ending with lovely floral notes. All these flavours follow through on the palate with some savoury notes as well, the palate has amazing length and complexity with great freshness lifting the fruit.

Food pairing

The natural acidity makes it a perfect partner with a diversity of dishes. Game fish, game birds and venison work very well, as does grilled beef and strong, hard cheese.

Analysis

Alcohol	13.6 %	Total Acidity	5.7 g/l	Residual sugar	2.2 g/l	pH	3.48
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To my mind, this is the best Seven Flags Pinot release to date, a glorious expression of a fantastic Cape vintage. Deeply coloured, it's serious, dense, complex stuff that's made to develop in bottle rather than dazzle in its youth. Plummy, well balanced and rich, it has a patina of new oak, filigree tannins and a core of dark fruit. Tim Atkin

Ratings

Seven Flags Pinot Noir'13 – John Platter 2016 – 4 Stars

Seven Flags Pinot Noir'13 – Tim Atkin 2015 – 94 Points

Seven Flags Pinot Noir'13 – IWC 2016 – Gold

Seven Flags Pinot Noir'13 – Top 100 2016 – Winner



Seven Flags Pinot Noir'14 – Tim Atkin 2015 – 94 Points
Seven Flags Pinot Noir'14 – SAWI (SA Wine Index) – Grand Gold
Seven Flags Pinot Noir'14 – IWC 2015 – Gold
Seven Flags Pinot Noir'14 – Tim Atkin 2016 – 95 Points
Seven Flags Pinot Noir 2015 – Top 100, 2017 – Top 100 & Double Platinum Awards
Seven Flags Pinot Noir 2015 – Decanter 2017 – Silver 92 Points
Seven Flags Pinot Noir 2015 – Old Mutual Trophy 2017 - Gold