

Crystallum,
`Mabalel` Elandskloof Pinot Noir 2025
Walker Bay, Hemel-en Aarde, Cape South Coast, South Africa



Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Peter-Allan Finlayson
Closure	Diam
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	2.1g/L
Acidity	5.1g/L
Wine pH	3.53
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

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

Fruit for the 'Mabalel' Pinot Noir is sourced exclusively from a unique, high-elevation vineyard in the Elandskloof. 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. The soil is clay with a lighter topsoil of sandstone and quartz, resulting in late-ripening fruit that develops an elegant and often savoury aroma profile. This is the first Pinot Noir to be produced in this valley.

VINTAGE

2025 was a standout vintage, with near-perfect conditions. The cold, wet winter was followed by a dry, mild growing season. The yields recovered from the challenges of 2024 and delivered a high-quality vintage.

VINIFICATION

After the grapes are sorted, 60% are left as whole clusters before pressing. Natural fermentation begins, in stainless steel tanks, and extraction is kept to a minimum with a total of four weeks on the skins. The wine was then transferred to 228-litre old French oak barrels, where it remained for 11 months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

A perfumed nose of raspberries, tomato leaf, and green tobacco. The palate is supple, with rhubarb, cranberry, orange peel, and a hint of seabreeze salinity brightens the wine.