

Rooibos QC Tools

SENSORY LEXICON

POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES

General Attribute	Specific Attribute	Description
FLORAL	Fynbos-floral	Unique, somewhat sweet aromatics associated with fynbos' vegetation.
WOODY	Rooibos-woody	Aromatics associated with dry bushes, stems and twigs of the rooibos plant.
FRUITY	Apricot	Aromatics associated with apricot jam or dried apricots.
FRUITY	Apple	Sweet aromatics associated with cooked apples or apple pie.
FRUITY	Citrus	Sweet aroma associated with ripe oranges.
SWEET-ASSOCIATED	Fruity-sweet	Aromatics associated with the sweet/sour smell of non-specific fruit.
SWEET-ASSOCIATED	Honey	Aromatics associated with the sweet fragrance of fynbos' honey or <i>Alyssum</i> flowers.
SWEET-ASSOCIATED	Caramel	Sweet aromatics, characteristic of caramelised sugar.
SPICY	Sweet spice	Aromatics associated with sweet spice, mainly cinnamon.

NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTES

General Attribute	Specific Attribute	Description
VEGETATIVE	Hay/Dried grass	Slightly sweet aromatics associated with dried grass or hay.
VEGETATIVE	Green grass	Aromatics associated with freshly cut grass/stale cut grass.
VEGETATIVE	Rotting plant water	Aromatics associated with old and rotting vase water of cut flowers.
VEGETATIVE	Seaweed	Aromatics associated with seaweed.
GENERAL	Burnt caramel	Aromatics associated with burnt sugar, burnt caramel or burnt caramelised vegetables.
GENERAL	Medicinal/Rubber	Aromatics associated with Band-Aid®.
GENERAL	Dusty	Earthy aromatics associated with dust from a gravel road or soil.
GENERAL	Musty/Mouldy	Mouldy aromatics associated with mildew or damp cellars.

Source

Du Preez et al. (2020). Rooibos Sensory Lexicon – An illustrated guide. Stellenbosch University. ISBN 978-0-620-87488-5

More information on rooibos

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