

Family Reserve Chenin Blanc

2020

Winemaker Notes

Aromas of citrus, quince, green melon and savoury notes on the nose with layers of pear and honeysuckle on the palate. Elegant fruit and integrated French oak flavours give this wine a silky mouthfeel and a long, fresh, mineral finish. Enjoy now or mature up to 15 years at optimum storage conditions.

Vineyard

The Family Reserve Chenin Blanc was crafted from three different wards and soils (Decomposed Granite, Oakleaf and Duplex) in Stellenbosch, each contributing to the complexity of this wine. These vineyards are all over 40 years old and unirrigated bush vines. The canopy of the bush vines were suckered and tipped to ensure a cool micro climate around the grapes with no direct sun and without botrytis. The 2018 vintage was at the end of a three year drought, but these old vineyards with its well established roots looked better than ever.

Winemaking

The grapes were picked separately between 22 and 24° balling, reductively crushed and the juice was given 12 -18 hours skin contact prior to settling. After only 1 day settling, we racked the cloudy juice (120ntu) to tank where it got inoculated with selected wine yeast strain. The juice was then gravity fed into 400L French oak barrels for fermentation. We only used 2nd, 3rd and 4th fill barrels to protect the delicate Chenin Blanc fruit. The wine spent an extra 8 months in barrel before we blended the components. There was no fining or filtration before bottling.

Vintage

After four consecutive dry winter seasons (2015-2018) the excellent rainfall in 2019 did manage to offer some relief. The effect of additional water could be seen immediately in the vineyards and we had a particularly good growing season. The crop returned to an almost normal level, and the good growing conditions and vine health set the scene and created expectations for an outstanding harvest. Due to the good growing conditions the vines grew a bit more vigorously which meant our viticulture team really had to pay careful attention to the canopy management practices making sure the fruit stays healthy and ensure good even ripening. The harvest itself started early which was expected but it was also a quite compressed harvest that saw several red varieties, especially Cabernet Sauvignon, ripening much earlier than normal. We are very happy with the natural balance and healthy acidities we saw in the grapes this year.

Food match

Grilled and Roasted White Meats

Perfect with fish dishes



Grapes

100% Chenin Blanc

Region/Appellation

Stellenbosch

Alcohol by volume

13.50%

Residual Sugar

4.8 g/l

pH

3.36

Total Acidity

6.4 g/l

Drinking Window

2023 - 2035

Tasting Guide



Tasting note printed

03/05/2024