

TESSELAARSDAL

CHARDONNAY 2020



Alcohol:	12.75%
Acid:	7.3
pH:	3.32
Residual Sugar:	1.6
Barrel Aging:	Six months, 24% stainless steel
Wooding:	58% 228 liter French oak barrels
Tight grain:	100%
French Coopers:	Francois Freres 100%,
Malolactic Fermentation:	5th Fill 50%
Yield:	6 tons / ha
Production:	574 cases
Fruit Origin:	Hemel-en-aarde Ridge 100%, Un-irrigated La Vierge

GROWING SEASON OVERVIEW - Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge

2020 harvest season had its own challenges with a fair amount of rain before the grapes started to ripen. This did not negatively affect the vines which received natural irrigation. This helped decrease the impact of water stress levels and allowed them to function better, particularly during the ripening period. The post-harvest period in 2019 was excellent, which contributed towards leaf fall occurring later and good accumulation of reserves for vines to mature grapes. Spring was characterized by higher than the average maximum and minimum temperatures, which resulted in even budburst and initial growth. The warmer, drier weather conditions that followed increased the soil temperatures and the root activity significantly. Overall conditions during the flowering and berry set period were much better than the 2019 season's extreme temperature fluctuations. 2020 was an excellent vintage delivering healthy grapes.

BACKGROUND

Tesselaarsdal was founded in 2015 by long-standing Hamilton Russell Vineyards employee Berene Sauls. This wine is named after the historic Overberg farming hamlet of Tesselaarsdal, not far from the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge wine appellation. Berene was born a descendant of the freed slaves who were bequeathed the land by former East India Company settler Johannes Tesselaar in 1810. Extreme care is taken to ensure this small-production, classically styled Pinot noir expresses the personality of the cool, maritime, Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge from un-irrigated vines and its elevated, stony, clay, and iron-rich soils.

WINE DESCRIPTION

A bright, tight, and pure Chardonnay with lifted primary fruit character and notes of citrus blossom, sweet lemongrass, and lees spice with a pleasing dusty minerality, introduce a long, gentle palate, again very expressive but also deliciously classical and restrained. This is an elegant and age-worthy wine with almost crystalline purity.

