

LIEVLAND

VINEYARDS

Old Vine Chenin Blanc 2020

Wine of Origin

Paarl

Grape Source

From two old-vine vineyards in Paarl

Varietal Blend

100% Chenin Blanc

Production

3000 x 6 x 750ml

Closure

Screwcap

Analysis

Alc: 13.0%

RS: 2.5 g/l

TA: 6.3 g/l

pH: 3.39

Tasting notes

This wine is a showcase of the versatility of old vine Chenin Blanc for which South Africa has built up a strong reputation. It has a light straw color with a golden hue, showing white peach notes, citrus and pineapple on the nose, a creamy and ripe mouthfeel coupled with vibrant acidity, and a superb minerality tying it all together on the finish.

This wine has the intensity and structure to develop gracefully over the next 5 -7 years. The grapes for this wine come from old-vine vineyards farmed by two of our wine-growing partners. The Eenzaamheid (Solitude) vineyards are well-known in South African wine circles.

This 7th-generation family farm, owned by the Briers-Lauw family, dates back to 1693. It sits on a basin of shale that is excellent for Chenin Blanc. 30% of the wine comes from a dry-farmed bush-vine vineyard planted in 1976. It is on a South-facing slope and produces grapes that show more stone fruit and mineral, flinty characteristics. The balance of the wine is from a dry-farmed bush-vine vineyard planted in 1983. Slightly warmer, it produces concentrated wines with fantastic texture. This Chenin can easily be enjoyed on its own and complement dishes such as smoked pork, Cape Malay bobotie, or creamy seafood.

Vintage Details

Grapes were hand-picked at 22.5 balling, after which they were immediately crushed, destemmed, and pressed. After overnight settling, the juice was racked off the gross lees; and a small number of fine lees was added back to give texture to the wine. The juice was then transferred to a combination of stainless steel tanks (50%) and neutral oak (50%) and inoculated with commercial yeast. Fermentation was controlled at 14-16°C (57-61°F) over 14 days, and the wine was left sur lie for two months, resulting in a rich and textured palate.

Vintage description

2020 was a dry and short season, the third year in our drought. However, the average temperatures were moderate with unusually cool evenings which resulted substantial preservation of aromatics in the wine as well as an overall healthy crop. The lower temperatures also encouraged good moisture retention in the soils, resulting in exceptional flavor preservation on the white wines.

