

RUSTENBERG WINES

STELLENBOSCH CHENIN BLANC 2019

INTRODUCTION

This is the third vintage of Chenin Blanc produced by Rustenberg. While Chenin Blanc has not been planted on the estate since the late 1980's there is an abundance of superb bush vine Chenin Blanc in Stellenbosch, which we discovered in sourcing fruit for the Straw Wine each vintage. Grapes were hand harvested from 4 different bush vine blocks, 20 to 35 years old, in the Bottelary sub-region of Stellenbosch. This wine is a Rustenberg take on a varietal synonymous with South Africa.

VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage was a challenging one for the Rustenberg team. While the winter of 2018 was a welcome break from the previous four winters of drought, most vineyards had not fully recovered and produced below average yields. A warm snap in June and a wet Spring, coupled with a wetter than average Summer harvesting season made 2019 a challenge, with some late harvest thinning or multiple harvests of the same vineyard required to achieve uniformity. Early and mid-season ripening varieties performed well, all achieving flavour ripeness at lower alcohol levels, while late ripening varieties required patience and extended time on the vines, again achieving lower alcohols overall, but creating ripe, structured wines.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	100% Chenin Blanc
Soil Types	Alluvial Gravels and Clay
Trellising/Pruning System	Bushvines
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked in February 2019

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed, Destemmed and Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast and Wild Fermentation
Lees Aging	2 month
Oak Aging	None
Malolactic Fermentation	None
Age and Type of Oak	None
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 13.5% TA 6.6g/L pH 3.17 RS 2.8g/L
Bottling Date	July 2019

WINE

Tasting Note	Aromas of pineapple and yellow pear follow through to a crisp, textured palate complemented by characters of citrus
Aging Potential	5 years and beyond from vintage.

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Silver Medal – 91 Points	Decanter World Wine Awards	2020

