



RUSTENBERG WINES

Stellenbosch Chenin Blanc 2024

Introduction

The Stellenbosch Chenin Blanc is a relatively new addition to the Rustenberg portfolio. Though 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 Winter of 2023 was cold and wet, as was the season's Spring, leading to the late budding of many varieties. While the excellent ground water availability was welcome, the early growing conditions were challenging due to the influence of rain. The resultant humidity, and at other times high winds, ultimately resulted in lower cropping levels. As Summer progressed, the influence of the El Nino weather phenomenon brought ideal warm, dry ripening conditions, as well as an early start and end to the vintage, a relief from the past few wetter harvests. The overall quality of the wines produced across the board in 2024 was superb. The white wines of this vintage have excellent acidity, thanks to the cool start to the season and express fully ripe fruit, a benefit of the warmer second half of Summer in the lead up to and during the harvest season.

Vineyard

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 2024

Winemaking

Extraction Method	Crushed, Destemmed and Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast and Wild Fermentation
Lees Aging	2 months
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 5.98g/L pH 3.07 RS 1.65g/L
Bottling Date	October 2024

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:
90 Points	James Suckling	2025

