



RUSTENBERG WINES

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2024

Introduction

Rustenberg is a well-known producer of high quality Chardonnays and the Stellenbosch Chardonnay embodies our house style. Careful tending and selection in the vineyard followed by traditional wild barrel fermentation and maturation produces a classic Chardonnay balancing the expression of fruit, freshness, full malolactic fermentation and the influence of oak.

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% Chardonnay
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked in February 2024

Winemaking

Extraction Method	Whole Bunch Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	300 Litre Oak Barrels
Yeast	Wild (Uninoculated)
Lees Aging	10 Months
Oak Aging	100% aged for 8 months
Malolactic Fermentation	Yes, 100%
Age and Type of Oak	25% New French oak (Remainder 2nd, 3rd and 4th fill oak)
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 13% TA 5.28g/L pH 3.32 RS 3.32g/L
Bottling Date	December 2024

Wine

Tasting Note	Apricot, coconut and orange peel aromas followed by flavours of marzipan, sponge cake and citrus rounded off with carefully judged oak and balanced, fresh acidity
Aging Potential	8+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

Accolades

Award:	Competition/Publication:	Year/Edition:
92 Points	James Suckling	2025
92 Points - 4.5 Stars	Platter's Wine Guide	2026
91 Points - Silver	International Wine Challenge	2026 – Tranche 1
90 Points	Tim Atkin SA Report	2025

