

ESSAY

SOUTH AFRICA



Chenin Blanc Viognier Roussanne 2017

Wine Description

This is a medium-bodied white blend made primarily from South Africa's classic white variety, Chenin Blanc. The Chenin Blanc gives the wine its fruit salad, guava and melon aromas and a refreshing mineral-acidity. Lees contact for a few months adds to the complexity and body. A touch of aromatic wooded-Viognier complements the fruit with floral hints and a typical waxy note. A small amount of rich Roussanne complements the wine and adds length and body to the palate. This wine is perfect on its own, as an aperitif or will pair well with a wide range of foods, especially sushi, oysters, Asian curries, sweet-and-sour dishes, and summer salads.

Vineyards

The grapes for our ESSAY white blend come from dry-land, bush-vine vineyards grown on shale soils that give them distinctive flavor, minerality and texture. The vineyards are situated in the Agter-Paarl area and create a blend characteristic of this region.

Vinification details

Grapes were hand harvested at between 22 and 23° balling and cold-fermented over 20 days in stainless steel tanks. Only free-run Chenin Blanc used for this wine. 22% Viognier and 10% Roussanne was added for a touch of richness, violets and spice. Fined and filtered before bottling.

Vintage description

This year was once again a very dry and short season with hardly any rainfall. Thanks to the early season, highly favoured unusually cool evenings were much appreciated and resulted in a healthy crop with minimal threat of disease. The lower temperatures enable soils to retain moisture resulting in exceptional flavour preservation on the whites and concentrated colour on the reds. Due to the persisting drought, the crop was smaller than the long term average but on par with 2016.

Varietal Blend Chenin Blanc 68% Viognier 22% Roussanne 10%

Analysis Alc: 13.5% RS: 5.6 g/l TA: 6.3 g/l pH: 3.43

Wine of Origin Coastal Region

Production 3000 x 12 x 750ml

Closure Screw Cap

Grape Source Agter-Paarl