CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TERROIR SPECIFIC WINES

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - RIEBEEKSRIVIER CHENIN BLANC

VINTAGE: 2017

AVERAGE TEMP: 17.7°C

RAINFALL: 535.2mm per annum

HARVESTING BEGAN: 31/01/2017

HARVESTING ENDED: 15/02/2017

ORIGIN OF FRUIT: Riebeeksrivier, Swartland

SOIL TYPE: Shale

YIELD: 8ton/ha

BLEND: Chenin Blanc 100%

THE VINEYARD: The Riebeeksrivier farm is situated on the slopes of the Kasteelberg, overlooking the Swartland. Its unique terroir, especially the shale soils, expresses itself strongly in the wine with unique varietal characteristics. The bush vine Chenin Blanc vineyards, planted in 1988, yield fruit of great intensity and richness balanced by bright acidity and length.

VINTAGE NOTES: With the large-scale water restrictions during the 2016 season, the post-harvest period was characterised by very dry conditions which led to early leaf fall. Although the cold was sufficient, the winter was really brief and abruptly ended by an unusually warm August which led to a rapid and early bud burst of the vineyards. Moderately warm weather during the ripening process, with cooler than usual night temperatures and minimal heat peaks, made for ideal harvest conditions.

WINEMAKING: The grapes were picked at optimal ripeness and transported to the cellar in refrigerated trucks. Whole bunches were hand-sorted and pressed and the juice settled overnight. 12% of the wine was fermented and matured in 300ℓ and 500ℓ French Oak barrels (86% new, 14% 2nd fill) and the balance remained in stainless steel tank. The wine spent 8 months on the lees before being blended and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: Complex nose with apricot and nectarine brushed by a dusty gravel element and just a hint of floral perfume.

In the mouth it is lively and tangy with a bright, acidic, lemon zip which then makes way for the rounder, riper melon-, peach-, kiwi fruit and apricot flavours. Fresh and lively but with lovely texture and mouthfeel. Good integration of oak. Complex with a hint of creamy spice on the tail which lingers long.

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