

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TERROIR SPECIFIC WINES

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - RIEBEEKSRIVIER CHENIN BLANC

VINTAGE: 2018

HARVESTING BEGAN: 01/02/2018

HARVESTING ENDED: 06/02/2018

ORIGIN OF FRUIT: Riebeeksrivier, Swartland

SOIL TYPE: Shale, Clay

YIELD: 2.77t/ha

CULTIVAR: 100% Chenin Blanc

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. A small 0.8ha bush vine vineyard (Clone 880) was planted in 2013, producing outstanding quality fruit used in the production of this wine.

VINTAGE NOTES: Despite the continuing severe drought conditions in the Western Cape, the 2018 harvest yielded very healthy fruit with beautiful flavour and good acidity. Relatively cool conditions and intermittent rainfall during the growing season delayed the onset of vintage slightly in comparison to the previous three vintages. The warmer regions like Swartland were most severely affected by the drought, resulting in extremely low yields of high quality fruit.

WINEMAKING: The grapes were picked at optimal ripeness and transported to the cellar in refrigerated trucks. Whole bunches were pressed and the juice settled overnight. Fermentation occurred in both stainless steel tanks (65%) and French Oak barrels (17% new) and the wine spent 8 months on the lees before being blended and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: Oatmeal, macadamia nuts and creamy stone fruit on the nose. The palate echoes those flavours with its richness and breadth. Peach pip, nectarine and stone fruit are fresh and lively while the oak supports it in a well defined cradle. Again oatmeal and nutty flavours are apparent but not overwhelming. The wine is powerful but refined and structured. Nothing is superfluous and its perfectly proportioned with a long tail of flavour that ends with a delightfully pithy citrus twist. Will reward patient cellaring.

