



## Thistle & Weed

2022

# 'BRANDNETEL'

*Chenin Blanc* | *Stellenbosch - South Africa*



NATURAL



VEGAN

### Stats

**Grapes:** 100% Chenin Blanc  
**Vineyard:** Brandnetel Vineyard  
(Nietvoobij, Stellenbosch)  
**Vine Age:** 43-years-old  
**Soil Type:** Table Mountain sandstone  
and clay  
**Viticulture:** Conventional  
**Fermentation:** Native – old 225L oak  
barrels (100% whole-bunch pressed)  
**Skin Contact:** None  
**Aging:** 9 months on gross lees in old  
French 225L oak  
**Alcohol:** 13.5%  
**pH:** 3.48  
**Total Acidity:** 5.2 g/L  
**Total SO<sub>2</sub>:** 110 ppm  
**Total Production:** 150 cases  
**UPC:** 606110392419

### Reviews

The WineMag | 93 points  
Tim Atkin, MW | 96 points  
Wine Spectator | 92 points

### About

The brandnetel (*Urtica dioica*) – or stinging nettle – is steeped in dualities: both fierce and soft; painful and restorative; tenacious yet humble. This often-overlooked weed brings magic to fairytales, protection in folklore and vitality to soils. Inspired by these dualities, this unique wine, made from Chenin Blanc vines perched on the slopes overlooking Stellenbosch, serves as a reminder that magic is woven into every life from the soil to the glass. The vineyard was planted in 1980 and is a living library of historical rootstocks with over 33 different rootstocks in this old experimental plot.

The grapes were handpicked, delicately whole-bunch pressed and naturally fermented. Only the free run juice was fermented in third-pass French oak barrels. The lees was stirred for the first month, after which the wine was allowed to mature on the lees for 9 months prior to bottling, unfiltered, with just a gentle sheet filtration and small dosage of sulfur.

### Tasting Note

Brimming with delicate notes of quince, white peach and blood orange, the palate pulls through with quintessential Chenin blanc star power, including a rich and more-ish palate and lemon-zip acidity.