



Thistle & Weed

2021

'SPRINGDORING'

Chenin Blanc | *Swartland - South Africa*



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Chenin Blanc
Vineyard: Uitvlug Farm
(Joubertskloof, Paardeberg)
Vine Age: 39-years-old
Soil Type: Granite
Viticulture: Sustainable – dry-farmed
Fermentation: Native – old French
225L barrels
Skin Contact: None
Aging: 10 months on gross lees in old
French 225L barrels
Alcohol: 13%
pH: 3.45
Total Acidity: 4.8 g/L
Total SO₂: 100 ppm
Total Production: 150 cases
UPC: 781718456500

Reviews

The WineMag | 92 points
Tim Atkin, MW | 93 points
Platter's Guide | 93 points

About

Survival is everything in the Swartland. 'Springdoring' or 'spiny sandburs, AKA *Cenchrus incertus*), the resolute hitchhiker, is quick to attach and slow to let go. But not quite as stubborn and persistent as the hardened, old bushvine Chenin Blanc. Stephanie and Etienne had been searching for the final piece of their Chenin story and knew it had to include the epicenter of the Swartland. After a chat with grower Theuns Müller, they knew the Uitvlug Farm in the Joubertskloof valley of the Paardeberg was the subject of that story. The bushvines were planted in 1982 on a granitic sand, east facing slope located at 975 feet in elevation. It has been dry-farmed for the better of the past decade with minimal intervention in the vineyard other than covercrops, pruning and a bit of leaf work. They share this block with Lukas Van Loggerenberg as it is a component of Lukas' 'Trust Your Gut' Chenin Blanc.

The grapes were handpicked, delicately whole-bunch pressed with only the free-run juice being used, directly to used French oak barrels. Fermentation kicked off immediately and frequent battonage was implemented over the first month and then the wine was left to rest on the settled lees for an additional 9 months. It was bottled without fining or filtration and just a small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Note

Brimming with notes of grapefruit and the trademark Swartland thatch. Edgy aromatics, limes and more citrus on the pristine palate resulting in a crystalline and mineral finish.