



Thorne & Daughters

2023

'ROCKING HORSE'

Cape White Blend | Western Cape - South Africa



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 30% Roussanne - 28% Chenin Blanc - 20% Chardonnay - 15%

Sémillon Blanc - 7% Clairette Blanche

Vineyard: Stellenbosch/ Paardeberg (Roussanne) -

Paardeberg/Malmesbury (Chenin Blanc) - Ceres Plateau (Chardonnay) - Swartland (Sémillon Blanc) - Worcester (Clairette Blanche)

Vine Age: 10-60-years-old

Soil Type: Decomposed granite - Iron-rich shale - Alluvial - Sandstone

Viticulture: Sustainable

Fermentation: Native - neutral French barrels (228-600 L)

Aging: 9 months on the lees in neutral French barrels

Alcohol: 13.6%

pH: 3.29

Total Acidity: 5.9 g/L

Total SO₂: 85 ppm

Total Production: 1,667 cases

UPC: 0737186496906

About

Rocking Horse is the cornerstone Thorne & Daughters wine blend and takes its name from a wooden rocking horse that John and Tasha made for their daughters out of old oak barrel staves. It is the perfect example of wholeness and totality in a wine and is composed of a number of carefully selected vineyard sites throughout the Western Cape. The 2023 vintage is almost equal parts Roussanne and Chenin Blanc, followed by 20% Sémillon Blanc, 15% Chardonnay, and 7% Clairette Blanche. Eleven years in the making, Rocking Horse continues to be what wine writer Christian Eedes calls "something of an institution" as one of the best-value Cape White Blend offerings on the market today.

The harvesting challenge in 2023 was the same as it is every year; with grapes coming from far and wide, the key is to harvest all the blocks at the right time and then get them back to the cellar in perfect condition. The grapes were handpicked and fermented separately without inoculation in barrels of various sizes (228L, 300L, 400L, 500L, and 600L). All the ferments were on full solids, and there was no skin contact this year. After nine months the wines were racked to a blending tank to settle where they are bottled with a small addition of sulfur and a crossflow filtration.

Tasting Note

A layered, complex nose unfolds with golden Kiwi, mace, and crisp Apple skin, accented by delicate, elusive florals. The palate is rich and textured, offering honeyed nougat and a deep, rounded warmth. It finishes long and taut with a hint of salinity.

Reviews

The WineMag | 98 points

Platter's Guide | 94 points

Tim Atkin, MW | 94 points