



Thorne & Daughters

2021

'CAT'S CRADLE'

Chenin Blanc | *Swartland - South Africa*



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Chenin Blanc

Vineyard: Two blocks off of Langkloof

Vineyard - farmed by Scholtz

Roussouw (Aprilskloof, Paardeberg)

Vine Age: 42-years-old

Soil Type: Weathered schist with sandy loam

Viticulture: Sustainable - dry-farmed

Fermentation: Native - whole-bunch pressed to two old French demi-muids

Skin Contact: None

Aging: 9 months in neutral 228L

French oak barrels

Alcohol: 12%

pH: 3.22

Total Acidity: 7 g/L

Total SO2: 64 ppm

Total Production: 117 cases

UPC: 606110152433

About

Swartland Chenin blanc needs no introduction, having long assumed its place among the world's key expressions of Chenin blanc. Langkloof, where John sources the grapes for this wine is an old bush vine Chenin Blanc vineyard planted on the granite slopes of the Paardeberg that belongs to the Rossouw family. The vineyard is situated between parcels owned by Eben Sadie and Chris Alheit, which says something about its aptitude for greatness. John has worked with this vineyard for a few years but never had enough fruit to bottle a varietal Chenin Blanc, until 2017, making 2021 the 5th vintage of this cuvée.

As with all of the wines...the winemaking is pretty simple. Handpicked, whole bunch basket-pressed direct to old French barrels, larger ones in this case, with the gross lees. No sulfur addition and fermentation kicks off naturally with ML following right after. A tiny hit of sulfur is added in the winter for light protection and then the wine ages for nine months. After this maturation time the barrels are racked to tank where the wine settles naturally and it is bottled with crossflow filtration and just a small sulfur addition. No fining.

Tasting Note

The wine shows aromas of lemon balm, apple blossom, exotic waxes and honey. A textured palate is lifted by bright acidity and a wet stone freshness with a long finish.

Reviews

Tim Atkin, MW | 95 points

Decanter | 95 points

The WineMag | 94 points