



Thorne & Daughters

2021

'PAPER KITE'

Old Vine Sémillon | Swartland - South Africa



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 95% Sémillon Blanc - 5% Sémillon Gris

Vineyard: Kweperfontein Vineyard on the Waterval Farm – farmed by Franziska Wickens

Vine Age: 58-years-old

Soil Type: Alluvial granitic soil

Viticulture: Practicing organic – dry-farmed

Fermentation: Native – whole-bunch pressed to old French oak barrels (228L - 600L mixed)

Skin Contact: None

Aging: 6 months in old, neutral oak then 3 months in new 500L Stockinger barrels

Alcohol: 12.9%

pH: 3.34

Total Acidity: 5.2 g/L

Total SO₂: 45 ppm

Total Production: 208 cases

UPC: 606110152426

About

One of the key heritage varieties in South Africa is Sémillon, a grape variety that the modern wine industry was practically built on, but which now finds itself nearly obsolete. There are still a number of incredible, old Sémillon vineyards and John continues to focus on those sites. 'Paper Kite' is his expression of old vine Sémillon, and is sourced from the 56-year-old Kweperfontein vineyard in the Paardeberg. These old clones of Sémillon (including a tiny amount of Semillon Gris dotted about) deliver an expression that is very much at odds with the modern, facile, aromatic clones. There is a pure vinosity to this wine; John & Tasha adore the rich and textural wines that the Paardeberg soils express on this grape.

The winemaking approach here is as simple as possible in order to produce the clearest expression of this vineyard site. Handpicked, whole bunch basket-pressed direct to a blend of old French oak barrels (228L – 600L) with the lees. Fermentation kicks off naturally with ML following right after. After six months in fermentation vessels, the barrels are racked to new 500L Stockinger barrels. They spend three months there before being racked to tank, and bottled with a crossflow filtration and sulfur dose. No fining.

Tasting Note

The wine shows savory aromas of ginger, soft yellow fruit and wood spice. The palate is full and rounded with almond flesh and yellow melon notes and a finish of cape gooseberry.

Reviews

Tim Atkin, MW | 95 points

Vinous | 92 points

Wine Spectator | 93 points