

Testalonga

2024

'STAY BRAVE'

Chenin Blanc | *Swartland - South Africa*

NATURAL ORGANIC VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Chenin Blanc
Vineyard: Abbotsdale (Paardeberg)
Vine Age: 43-years-old
Soil Type: Decomposed granite
Viticulture: Practicing organic – dry-farmed
Fermentation: Native — open 2000L tank (100% de-stemmed)
Skin Contact: 12 days
Aging: 12 months in a fiberglass tank
Alcohol: 11.5%
pH: 3.4
Total Acidity: 5.2 g/L
Total SO2: 40 ppm
Total Production: 1,000 cases
UPC: 7070334463485

Reviews

The WineMag | 94 points
Decanter | 91 points

About

This wine is part of a line that Craig and Carla started in 2015. They wanted to work with vineyards that deliver wines that can be drunk young yet still "over deliver" in quality. There was a heavy influence from street artists in the labels. "We're old school but I can't handle boring labels," says Craig. The photo on the label was taken by Craig's brother in Cambodia, and for Craig, it depicts the idea of hope and optimism, and how we should never lose our childlike ambition. The fruit was sourced from an organically farmed bush vine block planted in 1981 on the Paardeberg that had been abandoned until Craig and Carla revived it in 2014. The vineyard gives a very specific salty character to the wines, being only 30km from the ocean and planted on decomposed granite.

The grapes were hand-harvested and 100% de-stemmed before fermenting spontaneously in fiberglass tanks. After 12 days of skin contact, the wine was pressed off the skins and returned to the fiberglass tank for malolactic fermentation and aging. After 12 months, the wine was blended & bottled with a gentle filtration and sulfur addition. No fining.

Tasting Notes

This skin contact Chenin shows typical citrus and lemon zest flavors, with hints of crystallized ginger, white peppercorn, and dried white flowers. A subtle tannic presence is notable under a deep layer of minerality, adding balance to the wine's bright acidity and fruit-forward palate.