



Testalonga

2022

'CORTEZ'

Chenin Blanc | Swartland - South Africa



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Chenin Blanc

Vineyard: Paardeberg

Vine Age: 50-years-old

Soil Type: Granite

Viticulture: Practicing organic

Fermentation: Native – old 500L

French barrels (60%) and stainless steel (40%) (100% whole-bunch pressed)

Aging: 11 months on gross lees in old French foudres and stainless steel

Alcohol: 12%

pH: 3.3

Total Acidity: 5.6 g/L

Total SO2: 18 ppm

Total Production: 417 cases

UPC: 7070292744688

About

'Cortez' comes from an organically farmed bush vine site planted in 1972. The vineyard is a special one, as it has been farmed organically since 2001 and every year, good or bad, it provides incredible tension in the wine. Craig attributes this to the high percentage of quartz/silica in the soil. As for the label, Craig and Carla change it up every year to best suit the feeling they think the wine is giving. The photo on the label was taken by their daughter, Camilla. It was a puzzle piece that was lying around the house on their leather table top. The name, 'Cortez,' is apparently named after the Dave Matthews & Neil Young song, 'Cortez the Killer.' "But they built up with their bare hands what we still can't build today..."

The grapes were hand harvested and whole bunch pressed before fermenting spontaneously in four 500L old French puncheons and one 1500L stainless steel tank. After 11 months on the gross lees, the wine was blended & bottled with a gentle filtration and sulfur addition. No fining.

Tasting Notes

Fresh bread, honey, apricot, and a kick of citrus right up front. It's smooth but lively, with that citrus carrying through. Nice minerality and a long finish that doesn't quit.

Reviews

The WineMag | 95 points