



THISTLE & WEED

Paarl - South Africa

Background

Thistle and Weed is a collaboration between Etienne Terblanche (Viticulturist) and Stephanie Wiid (Winemaker). Inspired by the encroaching weeds found amongst the vines grown in the Cape, Etienne and Steph draw parallels between thistles and weeds and the uncompromising tenacity and survival skills of grapevines. Each wine is dedicated to one of their favorite nuisances, using the colloquial Afrikaans term for each, reminding the drinker that these wines are unapologetically Kaaps (Cape Wines). The range consists of three single origin Chenin Blancs, one regional Chenin Blanc, and a Cabernet Franc from throughout Stellenbosch, Paarl and the Swartland. The two blends 'Khakibos' and 'Nastergal' are inspired by drought-resistant Iberian wines. The white wines are made with whole-bunch pressing and natural fermentation in older French oak barrels. The reds are a combination of de-stemmed whole berries, crushed berries and whole bunches which ferment in open-top tanks and mature in older French oak barrels.

Highlights

- 1 Thistle & Weed is a project by Stephanie Wiid (lauded winemaker) & Etienne Terblanche (one of the Cape's most respected viticulturists).
- 2 The wines' names are all references to the Afrikaans terms for common vineyard weeds that are as hardy as the vines themselves.
- 3 The four Chenin Blancs make for a nice study in terroir, and with the biodynamic Cab Franc, give a nod to the Loire Valley.

Wines



Varietal Wines SRP \$25-35

This range includes three Chenin Blancs (two single-vineyard, one from throughout the Western Cape) and a biodynamically farmed Cab Franc.

Blends SRP \$30

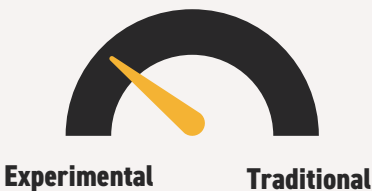
The blends are perhaps what defines Thistle & Weed the most. 'Khakibos' (white) and 'Nastergal' (red) are both made primarily from climate-appropriate Portuguese varieties.



Ethos



Packaging



Press

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My favourite of the superb trio of terroir-specific Chenin Blancs... Up there with the best of the Cape.

96 points

TIM ATKIN, MW

'Brandnetel' Chenin Blanc 2022