



Blackwater

2020

'UNDERDOG'

Chenin Blanc | Swartland - South Africa



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Chenin Blanc

Vineyard: 3 vineyards in the Riebeeckberg and Kasteelberg sub-regions

Vine Age: Average: 18-years-old

Soil Type: Varied: Primarily Malmesbury shale with select pockets of ferricrete

Viticulture: Sustainable – dry-farmed

Fermentation: Native – stainless steel (whole-bunch pressed)

Skin Contact: None

Aging: 6 months on fine lees in stainless steel (25) & concrete (75%)

pH: 3.54

Total Acidity: 6.0 g/L

Total SO₂: 69 ppm

Total Production: 883 cases

Reviews

Platter's Guide | 88 points

About

Francois continues to produce one of the most outstanding values for South Africa's most important grape. While being the most important grape, Chenin Blanc still has an 'underdog' personality as it pales in global importance to Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio and even Riesling. A shame, truly. There is a fruitiness and litheness to this wine that begs for another sip or two and the fruity side of '20 really shines. Again in 2020, the fruit comes from three vineyards around Riebeeckberg and the Kasteelberg mountain.

The grapes were hand-harvested in mid-February and whole-bunch pressed to stainless steel tank where the lots underwent spontaneous fermentation. After primary fermentation finished, roughly 12 days, the wine was racked off of the gross lees primarily to concrete tanks with a bit of stainless-steel for maturation on the fine lees. Six months later, Francois blended the tanks and bottled the wines without fining, with a very coarse filtration and a small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Note

Well-knit, with yellow apple flavors and hints of apricot, underscored by bright acidity and a mineral undertow. Spice and light butter elements emerge on the moderately long and savory finish.