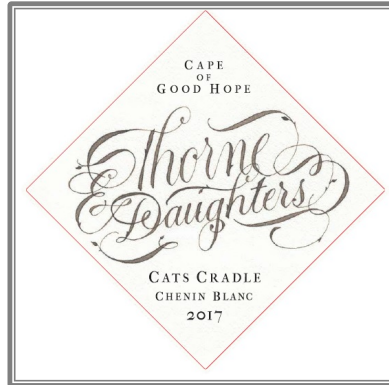




# THORNE & DAUGHTERS 'CAT'S CRADLE' CHENIN BLANC

SWARTLAND - SOUTH AFRICA



## THE WINE

Swartland Chenin blanc needs no introduction, having long assumed its place among the world's key expressions of Chenin blanc. Langkloof, where John sources the grapes for this wine is an old bush vine Chenin blanc vineyard planted on the granite slopes of the Paardeberg that belongs to the Roussouw family. John has worked with this vineyard for a few years but never had enough fruit to bottle a varietal Chenin Blanc, until 2017.

An enormous amount of work went into the vineyard during the 2016-2017 growing season to ensure that the vineyard could carry a healthy and balanced crop. Picking was done with a clear eye on the acidity of the crop which can fall away dramatically during the harvest due to low water reserves in the soil. As with all of the wines...it is pretty simple. Handpicked, whole bunch basket-pressed direct to seasoned French 500L barrels. No sulfur addition is done and fermentation kicks off naturally with ML following right after. A dose of sulfur in the winter and then again at bottling and that is the only small additive. After 10 lovely months the wine is racked to tank and bottled without fining or filtration.

## THE STATS

<b>Vintage</b>	2017
<b>Grapes</b>	100% Chenin Blanc
<b>Vineyard</b>	Langkloof Vineyard on the Paardeberg Mountain
<b>Viticulture</b>	Practicing Organic
<b>Soil Type</b>	Weathered Schist with Sandy Loam
<b>Vine Age</b>	38-years-old
<b>Fermentation</b>	Native – whole-bunch pressed
<b>Aging</b>	10 months in neutral French tonneau
<b>Alcohol</b>	12.8%
<b>pH</b>	3.27
<b>Total Acidity</b>	6.4 g/L
<b>Total SO<sup>2</sup></b>	40 ppm
<b>Production</b>	100 cases

## THE PRESS

Vinous (Stephen Tanzer) | 92 points  
Wine Mag (Christian Eedes) | 95 points