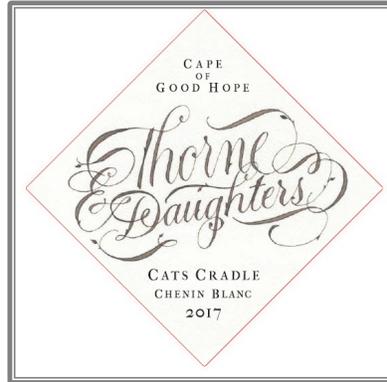




THORNE & DAUGHTERS 'CAT'S CRADLE' CHENIN BLANC

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 2017-2018 growing season to ensure that the vineyard could carry a healthy and balanced crop. Unfortunately the drought of the 2018 growing season was real and yields were down significantly and John was able to produce one single barrel this vintage. 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 a single French barrique. 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

Vintage	2018
Grapes	100% Chenin Blanc
Vineyard	Langkloof Vineyard on the Paardeberg Mountain
Viticulture	Practicing Organic
Soil Type	Weathered Schist with Sandy Loam
Vine Age	39-years-old
Fermentation	Native – whole-bunch pressed
Aging	10 months in neutral French tonneau
Alcohol	13.4%
pH	3.44
Total Acidity	5.3 g/L
Total SO²	50 ppm
Production	20 cases

THE PRESS

Tim Atkin (Tim Atkin, MW) | 93 points
Vinous (Stephen Tanzer) | 90 points