



# THORNE & DAUGHTERS 'ROCKING HORSE' WHITE BLEND

WESTERN CAPE - SOUTH AFRICA



## THE WINE

Rocking Horse is the cornerstone wine blend and takes its name from a wooden rocking horse that John and Tasha made for their daughters out of old oak barrel staves. It is the perfect example of wholeness and totality in a wine. The wine is composed from a number of carefully selected vineyard sites in the Western Cape. Roussanne is the primary component and comes from the granitic hills of the Helderberg in Stellenbosch. Nearly equal parts of Chenin Blanc and Semillon come from the Paardeberg hill of Swartland and Franschoek respectively. Finishing up the blend are an equal splash of old vine Clairette Blanche from a hill in Stellenbosch and Chardonnay from the cooler Faure region of Stellenbosch.

The grapes were handpicked and fermented separately without inoculation in barrel. A bit of skin contact was employed on the Semillon and Clairette for intensity of flavor and aroma and all the ferments were on full solids. After nine months the wines are racked to a blending tank to settle where they are bottled with a small addition of sulfur.

## THE STATS

<b>Vintage</b>	2017
<b>Grapes</b>	23% Roussanne – 22% Chenin Blanc - 21% Semillon Blanc – 17% Clairette Blanche – 17% Chardonnay
<b>Viticulture</b>	Practicing Organic
<b>Vineyard</b>	Roussanne, Clairette, Chardonnay (Stellenbosch) - Semillon Blanc (Franschoek) - Chenin Blanc (Swartland)
<b>Soil Type</b>	Decomposed granite (Paarl) - Oakleaf deep red clay (Alicante Bouschet)
<b>Vine Age</b>	Average: 26-years-old
<b>Fermentation</b>	Native
<b>Aging</b>	9 months in neutral French 250L barrique
<b>Alcohol</b>	13.5%
<b>Total Acidity</b>	5.8 grams per liter
<b>PH</b>	3.39
<b>Production</b>	1,100 cases

## THE PRESS

<b>Vinous</b>	93 points
<b>Wine Mag</b>	96 points