



TESTALONGA

Swartland - South Africa

Background

Craig and Carla Hawkins, founders of Testalonga, are revolutionary figures in South African wine, known for helping to redefine the Swartland's potential. Starting in 2008, they pioneered skin-contact Chenin Blanc, inspired by Italian skin-macerated wines. These days, they focus on single-vineyard, varietal wines. Everything they do in the vineyard and cellar is in service of honestly conveying site. In practice, this means taking a firm stance on organic farming, but being reasonably flexible in the cellar, knowing that sometimes a little sulfur or filtering is the right call to preserve the wine's integrity. In 2015, they established a home estate at Swartland's northern edge and have planted varieties suited to the region's Mediterranean climate, like Grenache, Marsanne, and Macabeo. While the vines mature, they continue to work with their original growers from all ends of the Swartland. In a nutshell, Testalonga has become an essential name in South African wine, known for their integrity and innovation.

Highlights

- 1** Testalonga, a label by Craig and Carla Hawkins, has helped to redefine the Swartland's potential.
- 2** Organic farming is a must; the winemaking ethos is minimal intervention while using filtering & SO2 to preserve a wine's integrity.
- 3** Their home estate is in northeastern Swartland and will produce an array of climate-appropriate varieties.

Wines



Méthode Ancestrale 'Ninja' Range SRP \$30

The two méthode ancestrale wines (Chenin Blanc & Colombard) are lees aged and disgorged.

Entry Range SRP \$25

This line is the most approachable. Each wine is named with phrases one might say to a kid: 'Keep on Punching', 'Stay Brave,' & 'Follow Your Dreams.'

Top Tier Range SRP \$50

This range is reserved for their top vineyard sources. The list has grown to include varieties like Muscat, Tinta Amarela, and Hárslevelű.



Ethos



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Packaging



Experimental

Traditional

Press

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There are some producers – not very many – whose sudden absence would leave an irreparable hole in the fabric of the South African wine industry, so unique and valuable are they. Craig and Carla Hawkins have over the last decade or so built Testalonga into such a producer, one that brings real integrity into the mix too.

- Tim James, Wine Critic