

NAUDÉ OLD VINES RANGE

CHENIN BLANC 2015

A wise old Greek winemaker once told me: "Your job is to take a photo of this vineyard (ecosystem) and put that in a bottle"



BACKGROUND

Composition:	100% Chenin Blanc
Wine of Origin:	Western Cape
Vineyards:	Swartland, Durbanville

AGE OF VINES

These Chenin Blanc vineyards range between 35 – 50 year old vines

CLIMATE / SEASON

The 2015 harvest had the earliest start in decades. A warm, dry and windy summer kept vineyard growth under control and accelerated ripening by approximately two weeks. The dry weather resulted in the healthiest seasons in years. This led to good grape analyses with low PH, good acidity and sugar levels which form the foundation of high quality wines.



WINEMAKING & VINIFICATION

- Regular visits to vineyards and picked at optimum ripeness showcasing the terroir
- Picked in small crates and left overnight in cold room to bring temperature down to roughly 10 degrees Celsius
- Following day 100% whole bunch pressing – slow, soft press of whole bunches
- Juice straight to French oak barrels – all new to 3rd fill 500L – for natural fermentation
- Every vineyard is kept separate to showcase the different terroirs
- Because nature has already done the work, the winemaking process is kept as natural as possible with minimal interference
- After natural fermentation began, wine is kept on the lees as long as possible because that's where all the flavours are captured and where the 'magic' happens
- I believe that if a vineyard is 35 years and older, it has its own story to tell, and my job is just to bottle that story
- Bâtonnage, or lees stirring, once a week
- Wine stays in barrel for 10 – 14 months

BLENDING

Even though this is the same cultivar, it's a blend of terroirs. We are blessed in the Western Cape to have these diverse terroirs which can be used to blend a classic style wine that no one else in the world can replicate. My job is to find which old vines (terroirs) complement each other. Just before bottling I make up the blend to highlight the beauty of the specific vintage.

ANALYSIS: Alc 12.5% | RS 1.5 g/L | TA 6 g/L | pH 3.3 g/L

AGEING POTENTIAL

This wine was released in 2017 and because of minimal interference and no additions, barring some sulphites, this classic wine has the potential to age for 30+ years.

RATINGS & ACCOLADES

- Greg Sherwood (MW – London): "Perfumed apple skins, boiled green apple bon bons, musk and waxy incense. Palate is youthful, sleek, and light on its feet. Acids are soft and rounded by extra lees contact making this wine so creamy, luxurious, and voluptuous. Very opulent and youthful but should evolve nicely (94/100)"
- "The 2014 was one of our greatest finds last year and amazed us all with its Loire-like elegance and savoury depth. The 2015 reflects the prodigious vintage but is slightly lower in alcohol and will require more time to show its best. Finely tuned and immensely layered, the palate shows classic notes of green apple, spice and mineral complexity. Long and racy on the finish." – Wine Cellar