

NAUDÉ OLD VINES RANGE

CHENIN BLANC 2013

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:	Elgin, Paarl, Darling

AGE OF
VINES

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

CLIMATE / SEASON

The 2013 growing season was full of surprises and most certainly lots of challenges. There were strong winds, high temperatures and the odd shower during harvest. The positive part of the season was the slow ripening of the grapes which led to phenolic ripeness translating into more complexity, lower alcohol and balanced fruit.



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 – 500L new to 3rd fill – 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 started, wine is kept on the lees as long as possible because that is 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. 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 it’s the same cultivar, this is a terroir-driven blend. We are blessed in the Western Cape to have diverse terroirs which can be used to blend a classic style wine that no one else can do in the world. My job is to find which old vines (terroirs) complement each other. Just before bottling I compose 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 2013 and because of minimal interference and no additions, except for some sulphites, this classic wine has the potential to age for 30+ years.

RATINGS & ACCOLADES

- Old Vine Project, London: 96+ / 100 (Greg Sherwood MW)
- Platter 4.5*
- Tim Atkin MW 94 / 100
- Greg Sherwood (MW – London): “Perfumed peach stone fruits, green pear, quince, and lovely complex struck match flinty notes. Subtle smoky depth, pineapple, jasmine and supple soft texture. Very elegant with ultra fine musk and spiced apple richness. Wow, what a wine. True marriage of classicism and precision.”