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CONNECT.

DH
DURBANVILLE
HILLS

INSPIRED BY CAPE TOWN.

DURBANVILLE HILLS CHENIN BLANC 2023

BACKGROUND

Nine leading vineyard owners in the Durbanville district joined forces with Distell to create Durbanville Hills with the aim of promoting the regional individuality of this prime wine-growing area. The striking Durbanville Hills cellar sits on the side of a series of rolling hills with magnificent views of Table Mountain and Table Bay - the very geography that lies at the heart of what makes the wines so unique.

The Durbanville ward is considered one of the Cape's coolest wine regions, thanks to the sea breezes that drift inland from False Bay and Table Bay and the late afternoon mists that bathe the slopes. These conditions are ideal for the slow ripening of the grapes, allowing them to develop their full-flavoured, intense character. Grapes are sourced only from the shareholder-growers, all of whom farm within the limited appellation of Durbanville. Meticulous canopy management promotes concentration of varietal flavour. Cellar master Martin Moore uses highly advanced cellar technology to ensure optimal extraction of colour and flavour. Sustainable practices include maintaining the disciplines imposed by International Environmental Standard ISO 14001 such as in the treatment of waste water back to irrigation quality. In all its vineyards the growing practices prescribed by IPW (Integrated Production of Wine) are followed. These are designed to sustain natural resources. In addition, the members protect on their farms 320 ha of endangered Renosterveld as part of the Biodiversity Wine Initiative (BWI).

THE VINEYARD (VINEYARD CONSULTANT: HENK VAN GRAAN)

The Chenin Blanc fruit was sourced from the eastern and western slopes on the outskirts of the valley. The total area is 5.5 ha from a supplementary irrigated, vertically positioned trellising system on gravel soil. The vineyard has no slope and is planted in NW/SO direction. A cool and dry preceding winter with a cool pre-harvest season has resulted in a higher concentration of flavours in much smaller grapes. Production was slightly lower yielding than previous vintages, however with careful monitoring in the vineyard and frequent tastings for the desired ripeness, a wine of superb quality was produced. This year sees a fuller styled Chenin Blanc with prominent varietal characteristics.

THE WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested at optimum ripeness when the balance between fruit, sugar and acid was perfectly in balance. The grapes were gently crushed with minimal skin contact before the juice was separated from the skins. The juice was cold settled for 24 hours before it was racked from its primary lees and a percentage of the light lees was added again for further complexity. The juice was inoculated with a selected yeast strain to capture the fruity aromas, and fermentation took place at 13 - 15°C for 16 days. Thereafter it was racked from the primary fermentation lees and allowed to mature for another three months on its fresh lees to create a wine with a fuller mouth-feel.

WINEMAKER

Martin Moore and Kobus Gerber

COLOUR

Light olive green.

NOSE

Fruit-forward aromas of guava, passionfruit, peaches and blackcurrant with subtle box tree characteristics.

TASTE

A beautiful array of prominent blackcurrant, white peaches and ripe guavas. This wine is a full-bodied with a well-rounded palate and complex layers that linger for quite some time after each sip.

FOOD PAIRING

Enjoy this wine with creamy alfredo pasta, fresh summer fruit salad, light seafood and spicy pork dishes.

ALCOHOL

13.67%

RESIDUAL SUGAR

1.75g/l

TOTAL ACIDITY

6.15g/l

PH

3.41

