

La Motte

2008 CHARDONNAY



ORIGIN

Grapes for the 2007 La Motte Chardonnay originate from La Motte at Franschhoek. The vineyard lies 200m above sea level. Location of La Motte 33°53' latitude, 19,5° longitude, Franschhoek Valley, South Africa.

VINTAGE

Forecasts by producers of early fruit such as peaches were confirmed – the season was at least two weeks late. The period towards ripening was cool and created ideal conditions for an exceptional year, described by some as European. Sugar levels rose slowly, which was a very positive aspect. Rain, however, complicated timing and special care had to be taken during harvesting. Grapes were harvested on different dates in order to create a variety of flavours in the wine.

VITICULTURE

Vineyard blocks: 6 (4,9 ha)
Soil type: Clovelly
Direction planted: North-South
Density: 4 630 vines per hectare (2,7 x 0,8)
Root stock: Richter 99
Clone: CY 3
Year planted: 1997
Trellising: Perold
Irrigation: Drip

Vineyards are managed to maintain a perfect balance between leaf coverage and yield.

VINICULTURE

All the grapes were pressed whole-bunch and the juice was handled reasonably oxidatively. The clean juice was placed

into 225-litre French oak barrels where it was inoculated with yeast and fermented at between 17 to 20 degrees Celsius. Malolactic fermentation was also allowed in the barrels. One third of the juice was fermented in stainless steel tanks without malolactic fermentation. After fermentation the lees was stirred regularly over a period of 11 months. One third of the barrels in which the wine was matured was new. After maturation all the components were blended and the wine was bottled in the La Motte cellar. This was the first year that screw tops were used for the wine during bottling. After two months of bottle maturation 5 500 cartons (6 x 750ml) were released as 2008 La Motte Chardonnay.

ANALYSIS

Alcohol	13,61% vol
Residual sugar	2,4 g/l
Total acid	5,66 g/l
pH	3,42

CELLARMASTER'S IMPRESSIONS

At bottling stage, this wine had a straw colour with a slight green tint. The aroma has an intense citrus blossom nose, supported by fresh pineapple and yellow apple fruit. A straw nuance reveals the contribution of the oak. The palate is silky-round, with hints of caramel and nuts, while the finish lingers with lime freshness.

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE

Essentially a fine-food wine. Excellent with caviar, snails, carpaccio, pâté, crayfish (Cape rock lobster), prawns, langoustine, mussels, and creamy cheese.