

Donkiesbaai

Concept

Donkiesbaai on the West Coast of South Africa has been the vacation home to the Engelbrecht family for four generations. Crayfish, Harders and a cold glass of Steen (Chenin Blanc) is part of the history that is Donkiesbaai and with this wine I raise a glass with family and friends.

Vintage : 2017

Grape Variety : Steen (Chenin Blanc)

Appellation : W.O. Western Cape

Analysis : Alcohol – 9.29vol%
: pH – 3.58
: Acidity – 8.1g/l
: Res. sugar – 214.8g/l

Winemakers : Roelof Lotriet



Climate

Piekenierskloof has a warm dry climate, but enjoys light winds from the southwest which results in cool evenings. The vineyards grow at high altitude and the approximate rainfall 360mm per annum. This was a dry vintage, with the average rainfall being 317mm. The Stellenbosch and Swartland climates receive an average annual rainfall of approximately 400ml together.

Soil

With 2017 vintage grapes coming from the original vineyard on a north eastern slope at the very top of Piekenierskloof pass, we have carefully sourced and incorporated a small percentage of Chenin Blanc from pockets in the Stellenbosch and Swartland regions, chosen to compliment the style in which we make our Donkiesbaai Hooiwijn. All these individual blocks of Chenin Blanc bush vines are planted in deep sandy soil and yields 3 tons average per hectare. Extreme heat and dry land conditions necessitates deep root development which serves as a great buffer against the harsh conditions. Grape berries were smaller and more concentrated in this 2017 vintage because of the dry climate. Yields were much smaller but the quality of the grapes were exceptional.

Vinification

The grapes were harvested at optimal ripeness, and left on straw mats for 3 weeks to dry. This allows the sugars to concentrate and the flavor compounds to fully express themselves. The wine was barrel fermented, and then matured in French oak barrels for 6 months before bottling. Only 4000 bottles were made in the 2017 vintage.

Tasting Notes

Color – Deep straw

Aroma – Aromas of refreshing citrus peel, orange blossoms, granola and ripe mango give this wine a beautifully complex and layered bouquet.

Palate – Upfront flavors of dried apricots, honey, dried apple slices and ripe mangos lead the palate into a subtle hint of dusty straw and marmalade, integrating well to reveal an opulent and lingering finish