

Dombeya Chardonnay 2007

The wine has a light green colour. The nose is inviting with fresh flavours of lime, peaches and hints of smokiness at the end. The palate has a soft but firm entry followed by a velvety butter flavour and stonefruits. This wine would be best enjoyed with food.

variety : Chardonnay | Chardonnay

winery : Haskell Vineyards

winemaker : Rianie Strydom

wine of origin : Coastal

analysis : alc : 12.88 % vol rs : 6.0 g/l pH : 3.28 ta : 7.1 g/l va : 0.38 g/l

type : White **style :** Off Dry **wooded**

pack : Bottle **closure :** Cork

2009 John Platter Wine Guide - 4½ stars

in the vineyard : The soil consists of 10% clay and 50% gravel on a North-western slope. The row direction is 45° West of North. The stone fraction in this vineyard is less than in the other parts on the farm. Supplementary drip irrigation is used when necessary.

about the harvest: The growing season for the 2007 vintage was dominated by wind and late rains in December which caused a very low crop for harvest. The grapes were carefully monitored and even with the low crop, were treated in three batches to have different flavour components to blend in the final wine. This was also the first vintage that we experimented with natural yeast fermentation with very good results.

The grapes were all hand picked on three different occasions in order to have a spread of flavours, i.e. green apple, pear drops and floral.

in the cellar : After harvesting the grapes were pressed as whole bunches. Two batches were inoculated with Lalvin D254 and Anchor Vin 13 for fermentation. The first batch directly in barrels and the latter in tank (this yeast ferments very fast and thus better to control temperature by fermenting in tank). The last batch was put into barrels and left to ferment with its own natural yeasts. A total of 30% new French oak barrels (Mercrey) were used and the balance was second fills. In total this wine was in the barrels for 10 months. We blended 15% of the 2008 vintage into this before bottling in May 2008.

