

Hill&Dale Chardonnay 2009

Colour: Crisp, clear and vibrant with hues of lime green and golden straw.

Bouquet: Very typical Chardonnay profile with wafts of fresh lime, butterscotch and mingling tropical fruits. Toasty oak nuances are very subtle in the background with their hints of vanilla.

Taste: Medium-bodied and uncomplicated with the palate confirming what the nose experienced. Creamy citrus dominates initially while the same hints of vanilla show at the end. The crisp acidity results in a clean, refreshing and lingering aftertaste.

Enjoy it on its own or with creamy seafood dishes, roast pork and lightly smoked poultry.

variety : Chardonnay | 100% Chardonnay

winery : Hill and Dale

winemaker : Guy Webber & Samantha de Morney-Hughes

wine of origin : Stellenbosch

analysis : alc : 13.99 % vol rs : 2.4 g/l pH : 3.44 ta : 5.6 g/l

type : White **style :** Dry

pack : Bottle **closure :** Screwcap

ageing : Ready to drink now, but the wine will gain in complexity and character with another one to two years of cellaring.

in the vineyard : Background

Stellenzicht's Hill&Dale label offers a range of accessibly styled wines with a New World character for international appeal, created by award-winning winemaker Guy Webber. Despite their being made for early and easy enjoyment, Webber has eschewed a generic format for these wines, instead choosing to express their origins clearly. Grapes for the Hill&Dale range of wines are selected exclusively from the Stellenbosch region, with an extensive vineyard management programme under the guidance of vineyard guru, Prof. Eben Archer.

Vineyard Location:

The sites on which the grapes were grown vary from cool, south facing slopes to warmer, north-west slopes and vary in altitude from the warmer, low-lying plains to the cool, elevated slopes of the Helderberg and Simonsberg Mountains. All the vines are trellised and are grown predominantly in soils of decomposed granite, although some Table Mountain sandstone and shale are also found on a number of the slopes. The vines are grafted onto nematode-resistant rootstocks and are pruned and trained in a style so as to reduce the yield and optimise the quality of the fruit from which the wine is produced.

about the harvest: The grapes were harvested by hand at between 22° and 25° Balling.

in the cellar : After destalking and crushing, the juice was separated immediately from the skins. Pure yeast cultures were inoculated into the juice in order to optimise the fermentation process at around 14° to 16° C, which lasted between 18 and 21 days. A combination of French and American oak was used during fermentation to enhance the fullness and character of the variety and to add an extra dimension to the wine's complexity.

After extended lees contact of three months, the wine was allowed to clarify itself naturally under gravity for about two months prior to being blended with a touch of Sémillon to add to the overall freshness of the wine.

