

Simonsig Sunbird Sauvignon Blanc 2010

Simonsig first bottled a Sauvignon Blanc in 1978, but it was only in the last 10 years that the variety started to reach its potential. Meticulous attention to site and clonal selection as well as flavour manipulation in the vineyard through scientific canopy management consistently results in quality grapes packed with flavour. Sauvignon Blanc is essentially a variety where the quality originates in the terroir of the vineyard. Over the last few years new Sauvignon plantings were made on the coolest site on the Estate. At an altitude of 250 - 280 meters the vineyards overlook False Bay a mere 20 km away to the South.

Brilliant huge of light straw with youthful green tinge. Combustion of tropical fruit flavours combined with sassy green pepper and hints of asparagus. The crisp acidity and mineral notes ensures a lingering fresh finish.

A great friend to fine seafood, poultry and pasta dishes. A perfect aperitif on warm summer days.

variety : Sauvignon Blanc | 100% Sauvignon Blanc

winery : Simonsig Family Vineyards

winemaker : Johan Malan

wine of origin : Stellenbosch

analysis : alc : 13.0 % vol pH : 3.3

type : White

pack : Bottle **closure** : Screwcap

2009

2010 Platter's Guide: 3.5 stars

2008

2009 Platter's Guide: 4 stars

2007

Wine of the Month Club Top 3 position - May 2007

2006

USA Wine Spectator 2007: 88 rating

2005

Beverage Testing Institute's Chicago Value Challenge: 87 rating, Silver Medal - Top 50 Wines Under \$15

2004

USA Wine Spectator (April 2005): 89 points - Smart Buy - Top 100 listed under \$15

2003

Wine Magazine's Best Value Wine Guide 2004: 2 stars

USA Wine Spectator 2004: 84 points

ageing : Further development of flavours should take place in the 12 to 24 months after the vintage, but the fruitiness is more pronounced early on.

in the vineyard : The 2010 vintage will be remembered as the smallest vintage in many years. Virtually every force of nature, pests and fungal disease contributed to the smaller yields. Although the 2010 vintage was not a vintage of quantity it most definitely was one of quality and concentrated fruit. Sauvignon blanc was a stand out variety in 2009 and we knew 2010 will be a challenge, but many winemakers believe that the quality is equal or even better than last year. We were delighted with the quality of the grapes we sourced from the cool climate Groenekloof ward in the Darling region on the West Coast. The grapes were intensely flavoured and combined with the quality of the Elgin and Simonsig grapes, we expected the 2010 Simonsig Sauvignon blanc to be a stand out wine with an excellent flavour profile.

about the harvest: Grapes are picked based on taste to keep track of flavour development in the vineyard. Cool grapes are picked early in the morning and

handled reductively all the way through vinification.

in the cellar : Limited skin contact is done on some batches to maximise fruit without losing acidity. A new way of pressing and lower juice recovery than previous years lead to wines with more elegance and finesse Juice is settled brilliantly clear and inoculated with a South African yeast strain. Fermentation temperature is kept low at 11 to 12° Celsius to increase the fruit ester intensity. After fermentation the wine is kept on the lees for as long as possible (3 - 6 months) and stirred to flesh out the mouthfeel.



Simonsig Family Vineyards

Stellenbosch

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