

Ataraxia Chardonnay 2009

This Chardonnay can be characterized as being New World in provenance but Old World in stylistic leaning. A chiselled, focussed wine that effortlessly manages to be both subtle and intense. It has a rich core of fiercely expressive grapefruit, white peach, ripe pear and grilled hazel nuts aromas and flavours. The palate is penetrating and profound yet graceful and poised. A forceful mineral acidity is beautifully balanced by a subtle yet compelling intensity of fruit. A classic length, creaminess and intriguing complexity define this stylish, world class Chardonnay.

variety : Chardonnay | 100% Chardonnay

winery : Ataraxia

winemaker : Kevin Grant

wine of origin :

analysis : alc : 13.9 % vol rs : 2.9 g/l pH : 3.32 ta : 7.8 g/l

type : White **wooded**

pack : Bottle **size :** 0 **closure :** Cork

4.5* by John Platter

in the vineyard : This wine is the seamless product of some truly unique, extreme and radical vineyard sites situated in the Hemelen- Aarde area and Elgin Valley. Soils from these sites are derived from well-drained Table Mountain sandstone which overlay intrusions of clay rich shale from the Bokkeveld group. Because of the cool climate that exists there, the grapes were required to hang long on the vine in order to reach optimum ripeness.

about the harvest: Picked during the early hours of the morning during the last week of February and the first week of March 2009, the grapes were rushed to the cellar to ensure that all the exciting fruit flavours were preserved to be eventually reflected in this wine.

in the cellar : A minimalist, non-interventionist winemaking approach was adopted. It is 100% barrel fermented and carefully matured in specially selected small French oak barriques sourced exclusively from Burgundian coopers. Fortnightly batonnage was employed throughout the 10 month maturation period.

