

Rietvallei Classic Estate Natural Unwooded Chardonnay 2012

This is an elegant, fruity Chardonnay. The nose explodes with flavours of fresh citrus and orange blossom. The palate reveals green apple flavours and is full-bodied with a good balancing acidity and finishes with a lingering, yeasty aftertaste.

Pair with seafood, salads and poultry dishes. Serve chilled (7 - 10°C).

variety : Chardonnay | 100% Chardonnay

winery : Rietvallei Wine Estate

winemaker : Kobus Burger

wine of origin : Robertson

analysis : alc : 12.96 % vol rs : 1.9 g/l pH : 3.45 ta : 6.8 g/l va : 0.37 g/l so2 : 145 mg/l fso2 : 40 mg/l

type : White **style :** Dry **body :** Full **taste :** Fruity

pack : Bottle **size :** 0 **closure :** Screwcap

2013 Veritas Wine Awards - Bronze

2012 Veritas Wine Awards - Silver

in the vineyard : The Chardonnay vines are planted on slopes facing southeast and are situated at 152 meters above sea level. The vines are all trellised and under micro irrigation and were established from 1983 to 1999.

about the harvest: The grapes are harvested by machine at optimum ripeness (23 - 24° Balling) at the coldest part of the day, which is from 02:00 - 10:00 am in the morning.

in the cellar : In the cellar only the free-run juice is used and allowed to cold settle for two days. The clean juice is then racked and taken to the fermentation tanks where special cultivated wine yeast is inoculated and the fermentation temperature controlled between 16 - 17°C. After fermentation, which takes about two weeks, the wine is left on the lease for at least four months, stirred weekly. This process of lease contact gives complexity and richness to the wine and is also known as the 'Sir Lie' method. No oak is involved in the process of the making of this wine.

