

Paul Cluver Chardonnay 2016

Light toasted brioche on the nose with some citrus aspects and winter melon notes. Tangerine fruit and citrus blossom fragrances are apparent, with hints of vanilla pod and almond flakes. These characteristics follow through onto the palate. The fine, fresh acidity is natural, and adds poise and focus to the wine.

pFish, poultry, pork and game bird dishes work well with this wine. It works particularly well with creamy pastas and salmon dishes. The good acidity and balance between wood and fruit keeps the wine from being overly rich and consequently great without food too. Mussel soup is a perfect match./p

variety : Chardonnay | 100% Chardonnay

winery : Paul Cluver Wine Estate

winemaker : Andries Burger

wine of origin : Elgin

analysis : alc : 13.8 % vol rs : 2.23 g/l pH : 3.24 ta : 7.4 g/l

type : White style : Dry body : Medium taste : Mineral wooded

pack : Bottle size : 750ml closure : Screwcap

CN'12 – Wine Enthusiast - 90

CN'13 – Wine Advocate - 91

CN'13 – John Platter 2015 – 4.5 stars

CN'13 – Tim Atkin – 93

CN'13 – Tim Atkin Top – The Best of the Cape

CN'14 – Top 100 South African Wines

CN'14 – Tim Atkin – 93 points

CN'14 – Decanter Gold

Five Nations – Double Gold.

Old Mutual Gold – 94 points

Top100SA Wines

Stephen Tanzer describes our Chardonnay as "Creamy in texture, the finish really saturates the mouth with sexy oak tones and subtle notes of melon".

CN'15 - 2016 Decanter World Wine Awards - Gold Award

in the vineyard : pCurrently there are 14.17 hectares planted to Chardonnay on the estate, which equates to 17.9% of the total plantings. Clones include 175, 270, 95 and 548. The first vines were planted in 1987 and the youngest blocks in 2010. Vines range in age from 6 to 28 years. The soil is predominantly decomposed Bokkeveld Shale with underlying clay layers of varying depths. Vine orientation is East/West on the South east facing slopes and North/South on the South- South West facing slopes. Height above sea level ranges from 280 to 350 meters./p

about the harvest: pGenerally a very healthy crop resulting from a very cool vintage. Harvesting started 16th February and continued until 4th of March. Average yield was 6.6 tons per hectare and grapes came in at 21.8° - 23.5° Brix at an average temperature of 15° Celsius. In 2014 we started picking at night resulting in the grapes arriving cool and fresh at the cellar, in the 2015 vintage we had the coolest night temperatures of the past eight years./p

in the cellar : pThis wine was 100% wild fermented in a selection of French oak barrels. (20% new, the rest 2nd; 3rd and 4th fill.) Lees stirring was done to a much lesser degree than previous years to retain freshness. The wine remained on the lees for a total of nine months without any Sulphur addition. Only 10% of the wine went through malolactic fermentation, all without inoculation, further ensuring freshness and acidity. After tasting and blending trials, the wine was assembled from the best barrels, stabilised and prepared for bottling./p

