

Stellenzicht Golden Triangle Chardonnay 2000

The colour shows the golden straw hues typical of this style of wine, but with a distinct, limey greenness. On the nose, fresh citrus aromas are backed up by an underlying butteriness and nuances of toasty oak. Tropical flavours are experienced on the palate while hints of lemon and lime provide an elegant, fresh finish. The wine is full and complex and provides well the balance between boastful power and subtle elegance, ending in a clean, lasting aftertaste.

Enjoy at around 14-16°C with a cold salad spread with smoked Angelfish or peppered Mackerel. Veal and tender poultry dishes with creamy sauces will compliment the wine well after some bottle maturation.

variety : Chardonnay | Chardonnay

winery : Stellenzicht Vineyards

winemaker : Guy Webber

wine of origin : Coastal

analysis : alc : 13.9 % vol rs : 2.1 g/l pH : 3.13 ta : 5.2 g/l va : 0.61 g/l

so2 : 110 mg/l fso2 : 39 mg/l

wooded

pack : Bottle

ageing : The fullness of the wine, combined with its good acid balance, indicates good maturation potential and the wine should develop well to an age of up to five years.

in the vineyard : At ages of between nine and twelve years old, the vineyards from which the fruit were selected in crafting this wine are grown in decomposed granite at altitudes ranging between 180 and 400 metres above sea level. The vines are all grafted onto nematode-resistant Richter 99 and 110 rootstocks and are trellised onto five-wire fence-type trellises. Winter pruning was to two spurs and the vineyards yielded an average of 3.2 tonnes per hectare. Two supplementary irrigations were given during the growing season in order to prevent excessive moisture stress in the vines.

about the harvest: The grapes were hand-picked during the first week of February.

in the cellar : The grapes were destalked and lightly crushed in order to allow the juice to run free. The juice was then slowly drained under gravity before being allowed to settle overnight at a temperature of around 12°C. The average sugar content of the grapes at harvest was 23.8° Balling with good acids and pH values of 7.5 g/l and 3.25 respectively. The clear juice was inoculated with pure, WE14 and NT116 yeast strains and allowed to begin fermentation in stainless steel. After 5° Balling had fermented out, the must was transferred to a combination of new- and second fill oak barrels in which the alcoholic fermentation was completed. Malolactic fermentation was then induced and followed through to completion in order to add complexity and provide stability to the wine. With regular batonnage, the wine was then matured on its primary fermentation lees for nine months before being readied for the bottle.

Barrels used in the maturation of the wine were as follows:

70% New 300 litre barrels of which 90% were French oak and 10% American White oak and 30% Second-fill 225 litre barrels of which 90% was French oak and the remaining 10% American.

