

Donkiesbaai

Concept

Donkiesbaai on the West Coast of South Africa has been the vacation home to the Engelbrecht family for four generations. Crayfish, Harders and a cold glass of Steen (Chenin Blanc) is part of the history that is Donkiesbaai and with this wine I raise a glass with family and friends.

Vintage : 2016

Grape Variety : Steen (Chenin Blanc)

Appellation : Piekenierskloof

Analysis : Alcohol – 13.99vol%
: pH – 3.21
: Acidity – 6.3g/l
: Res. sugar – 4.9g/l

Winemakers : Roelof Lotriet



JEAN ENGELBRECHT SUID-AFRIKA

Climate

Piekenierskloof has a warm climate, but enjoys light winds from the southwest which results in cool evenings. The vineyards grow at high altitude and the approximate rainfall is 360mm per annum. This was a very dry vintage, with the average rainfall being only 184mm.

Soil

The vineyards are situated on a northeastern slope at the very top of Piekenierskloof pass near Citrusdal. The Chenin Blanc bush vines are planted in deep sandy soil and yielded only 3 tons per hectare in this specific vintage. Extreme heat and dry land conditions necessitates deep root development, which serves as a great buffer against the harsh conditions. Grape berries were smaller and more concentrated in this 2016 vintage because of the dry climate. Yields were much smaller but the quality of the grapes were exceptional.

Vinification

The grapes are de-stemmed, crushed, pressed and left over night to settle. 50% of the wine was then fermented in old French oak barrels for six months and the other 50% was spontaneously fermented in concrete egg tanks, prior to bottling.

Tasting Notes

Colour – Pale Straw

Aroma – Invigorating citrus fruit dominate the initial impression, hints of lemon and winter melon adds to the freshness of the wine. There is a subtle undertone of vanilla that adds to the complexity of the wine.

Palate – The first impression is citrus fruit that follows through beautifully onto the palate with crisp lemony zest. The wine is well structured and leads up to a well-rounded and balanced finish. There is a delightful lingering aftertaste of stone fruit and pear.