



DE TRAFFORD CHENIN BLANC 2004

VINEYARD BLOCKS

1 block (**Keerweder**) 32 year old vines on a 3 wire trellis on neighbouring cool, high altitude, SW slope. Deep red Hutton soil with good moisture retention. Unirrigated. Yield 3 tons / hectare.
2 blocks (**Post House**) 18 & 20 year old vines on a 7 wire trellis with moveable foliage wires. Lower slopes of the Helderberg, 8 km from the cooling influence of the sea. Gravelly Hutton and Escourt soil. Yield 6 tons / hectare. Lightly irrigated just after veraison.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

A late winter which delayed budding by about 2 weeks. Cool spring / early summer but a relatively trouble-free growing season. A single extremely hot day in January caused a lot of sunburn, especially in the Keermont vineyard. This significantly reduced the harvest but had little effect on quality. The delayed harvest gave us rich intense fruit from the earlier ripening Post House vineyard and a more subtle mineral character from the much later Keermont vineyard. The grapes were picked in the cool mornings @ 21 - 24° Balling.

Harvest dates: 11 / 2 / 04 - 19 / 3 / 04

PRODUCTION

Grapes lightly crushed and allowed 3 hours skin contact before gently pressing in a traditional basket press. Sulphur and dry ice added and natural settling allowed for 2 days before
100 % barrel fermentation with natural yeasts.

All the wine was kept in 225 l casks for 8 months with lees stirred 1 - 2 times a month initially. 25% new oak used – half French, half American. Most barrels did not go through malolactic fermentation.

Bottled unfiltered on the property by hand with only a light bentonite fining.

Bottling date : 18 / 11 / 04.

TASTING NOTES

An appealing pale yellow colour.

The nose shows nutty, creamy oak hiding the rich apricot and honey fruit and a complex mineral character. The palate is rich and full bodied. Oak dominating shortly after bottling, should soon evolve to highlight the rich fruit and long aftertaste. Probably best between 2005 and 2009.

Excellent with sushi, rich fish and seafood dishes, most white meats or on its own.

ANALYSIS

ALC. 13.85% SUGAR 1.6 TA 6.2 pH 3.42 VA 0.58 SO₂ 35 & 101