de Trafford
WINES (PTY) LTD

DE TRAFFORD CWG CHENIN BLANC L17 2025

Produced exclusively for the Cape Winemakers Guild Auction 2026

VINEYARD

Sourced from a wonderful 39-year-old vineyard (L17) in the Firgrove area, Stellenbosch, on the lower slopes of the Helderberg Mountain, 8 km from the cooling influence of the sea. 5 wire basic trellis - more like uplifted bush vines. Gravelly Hutton and Escourt soil. Yield 4 tons/ha. Unirrigated.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

One of the most outstanding vintages in Stellenbosch. It was a late starting wet winter with record rainfall in July 2024 that deeply replenished the soil, followed by a cool August and moderate September. The summer was mild with minimal heat spikes and roughly half the number of hot days compared to previous seasons. This allowed for a gradual, even ripening process that preserved natural acidity and vibrant aromatics. Harvest date: 7/2/25 @ 20,2 balling

PRODUCTION

Grapes lightly crushed and allowed about 2 hours skin contact before gently pressing in a traditional basket press. Sulphur added and natural settling allowed for 2 days before barrel fermentation with natural yeasts in a single neutral 400ℓ French oak barrel for 11 months with lees stirred as necessary to complete fermentation. Partial malolactic fermentation. Lightly fined with bentonite – a natural clay. Bottled unfiltered on the property by hand.

Bottling date: 11/12/2024 (80 x 6 x 750ml)

TASTING NOTES

The wine shows a light straw colour, with a rich nose of lemon skin, dried apricot and honey, lifted by notes of nuts and spices such as nutmeg. The palate is complex and dense, showing nutty, lemon skin and apricot flavours, leading to a long, dry, nutty finish. Drink now to 2032.

ANALYSIS

ALC. 13.16% SUGAR: 1.9g/l TA: 5,2g/l pH: 3.45 VA: 0.56 g/l SO_2 16_{free} & 85_{total}

DAVID TRAFFORD
A Cape Winemakers Guild member since 2000.

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