de Trafford

WINES (PTY) LTD

DE TRAFFORD CHENIN BLANC RESERVA 2018

VINEYARD BLOCKS

Sadly this was the very last vintage for these 34 year old bush vines in the foothills of the Helderberg 4km from False Bay. Sandy, gravelly Escourt soil and lightly irrigated at veraison. Yield 4 tons/ha.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

Another excellent vintage to follow 2017 after 2 years of drought. Winter started a bit late, but was cold enough to get dormancy off to a good start. Bud break started late as winter dragged on into September. The early growing season was windy with cold and wet periods leading to uneven flowering and berry set resulting in lower yields. The rest of the growing season was dry and hot followed by much cooler temperatures in February with especially cool nights. Disease pressure was very low. We had a slightly later start to harvest with very few rain problems and this vineyard produced a beautiful, healthy crop with small bunches and small berries.

PRODUCTION

Grapes lightly crushed and allowed about 3 hours skin contact before gently pressing in a traditional basket press.
A single 700L old French oak barrel that took more than a year to finish fermenting and tasted so delicious we decided to keep it longer in barrel and bottle it separately. 19 months in total without any racking. Malolactic fermentation completed before it fermented dry. No fining was necessary.
Bottled on the property by hand unfiltered.
Bottling date: 10/10/2019 (64 x 12 x 750ml)

TASTING NOTES

Bright pale yellow colour. Dusty apricots and lemon curd nose with hints of apple cider and beeswax. Restrained, fine and complex. Vibrant creamy palate with layers of flavours from the 19 months long fine lees contact. Crisp and fresh yet with depth and substantial texture on the long, fine finish. The extra maturity in barrel means it's great to drink now, but stable enough to last at least 10 years. Ideal with lightly spicy fish and shellfish or poultry dishes.

ANALYSIS

ALC. 13.32%   SUGAR: 3.3 g/l   TA: 5.2 g/l   pH: 3.40   VA: 1.02 g/l SO_2: 33 free & 72 total

DAVID TRAFFORD