

ANNO



1700

**VERGELEGEN**

## RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2012

### Origin

The designated vineyard for the making of Vergelegen's Reserve Chardonnay is Korhaan, named after one of South Africa's indigenous birds. The vineyard itself is south facing and  $\pm 220$  meters above sea level. It is protected from the south easter's onslaught by two other vineyards but that does not mean that nature does not throw other curved balls, as in November 2001 when the crop was destroyed by hail! The soils are classified as Clovelly which means that their origin is in the Stellenbosch granites. The vineyard is not irrigated and because of the tough growing conditions yields never exceed 6 tonnes per hectare. The Korhaan Chardonnay was picked on 16 March 2012.

### Vinification

Grapes were whole-bunch pressed with no skin contact. The juice, with some clarification, was racked into 50% new French oak barrels (Francois Frère, Dargaud & Jaegle) and 50% second-fill and third fill barrels for alcoholic fermentation. The spontaneous onset of fermentation was allowed for and after 3 days the barrels were inoculated with a pure culture yeast strain. Fermentation took approximately 15 days to complete- once the sugar was fermented, all 25 barrels were topped up. Only one-third of the barrels were allowed to complete malolactic fermentation to retain optimum acidity/freshness. The young wine was left on the gross lees for 12 months with regular batonage, then stabilized and bottled on 24 April 2013.

### Composition

100% Chardonnay

### Analysis

13.31% Alc  
1.9 g/l RS  
6.4 g/l TA  
3.25 pH

### Maturation

Drink over the next five years.

### Tasting Note

The wine shows an attractive lemony yellow-green colour with a complex nose of citrus, white peach, pineapple, spice, citrus blossoms, apricot and buttered toast aromas. The taste is long and elegant with a lively minerality.

