



RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2014

Origin

The designated vineyard for the making of Vergelegen's Reserve Chardonnay is Korhaan/Southern black korhaan/black bustard named after one of South Africa's indigenous birds. The vineyard itself is south facing and ± 220 meters above sea level. It is protected from the south-easter's onslaught by two other vineyards but that doesn't mean that nature doesn't 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 tons per hectare. The Korhaan Chardonnay was picked on 6 March 2014.

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 43 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 10 months with regular battonage, then stabilized and bottled on 30 January 2015.

Composition

100% Chardonnay

Analysis

14.03% Alc
2.5 g/l RS
7.1 g/l TA
3.18 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/orange blossom, white peach, pineapple, apricot and hints of hot buttered toast. The taste is long and elegant with a lively minerality. Serve at 12 degrees Centigrade with crab, fresh trout, smoked salmon, crayfish or lobster.

Winemakers Notes

The 2013 Reserve had a stellar year: Gold medal in Lyon, Gold medal at the San Francisco International Wine Competition and Gold and Regional Trophy at the IWSC as well as being nominated for a Platter 5 star. In October 2015, the 2014 Reserve Chardonnay was rated as one of the top chardonnays in Christian Eedes Prescient Chardonnay Report 2015 Awards. Release date: 01 December 2015.