Ashbourne

SANDSTONE 2024



WINE OF ORIGIN HEMEL-EN-AARDE VALLEY

SOIL - Table Mountain Sandstone derived soil
ACID: 6.80 g/l
PH: 3.48
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 2.60 g/l
FERMENTATION AND MATURATION: Sauvignon Blanc in Terracotta Amphorae and Ceramic Egg, Semillon in Nomblot Egg and neutral oak barrels, Chardonnay in Terracotta Amphorae and neutral oak barrels - for 6 months
BLEND: 66% Sauvignon blanc 16% Chardonnay 18% Semillon
FRUIT: Hemel-en-Aarde Valley 100%
YIELD: 1.7 tons/ha, 10.20 hl/ha
PRODUCTION: 760 cases of 12 bottles equivalent

Growing Season

Budding was earlier and more even than for the 2023 vintage, but the Cape Storm of September 24th/25th caused damage which resulted in significantly lower yields. In general, Sauvignon blanc handled the challenges of the growing season well versus other varieties, where high rainfall and untimely rainfall created significant disease pressure. At 25.05 centigrade for the average maximum temperatures for the 4 "hottest" months (Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar) building up to and during harvest, 2024 was warmer than the particularly cool 2023. Burgundy, for example, for the equivalent period in the Northern Hemisphere has an average of 24.66 centigrade. Harvest finished earlier than 2023 with ripening more variable, requiring careful selection. Our Sauvignon blanc acids were wonderfully high at harvest, although in some parcels the pH was a little higher than 2023. The wines produced have beautiful texture and electricity. There was just not enough of them.

Wine Style

This is an innovative white blend that captures the most beautiful possible expression of the sandstone-derived soils in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. Free by design of excessively dramatic varietal fruit, the focus of the wine is on bright, hard minerality, salinity and vibrant natural acidity, coated by a full and gentle viscosity derived from a unique endemic yeast and the method of vinification, not from high alcohol. Nearly three decades of family experience have gone into this blend.

Green Practices:
Certified Sustainable *(Integrated Production of Wine, Biodiversity & Wine Initiative Champion)*