

THE PLEDGE

Sauvignon Blanc undoubtedly presents an extraordinary commercial opportunity. It currently holds the single-variety pole position in terms of bottles exports from South Africa. There is growing global interest in the variety and its pungent character and fresh, zesty, crisp palate.

Regional diversity is South Africa's strength when it comes to Sauvignon Blanc, with the best parcels from various regions likely to present meaningful diversity and intriguing building blocks. South Africa has a vital, pivotal role to play with regard to the stylistic approach to Sauvignon Blanc as it's able to produce a style that showcases both New Zealand's pungent style and the more subdued, classic, mineral style of Sancerre.

Based at our Grand Domaine cellar in Stellenbosch's Devon Valley, Winemaker Natalie Botha has travelled the wine regions of the Western Cape to source small parcels of truly expressive Sauvignon Blanc that showcases the true terroir of its region. With regions as far afield as Lutzville, St Helena Bay and Stanford the parcels are guaranteed to represent the variety of styles that South Africa prides itself on.

Arriving at different times throughout the 2017 harvest, each parcel will be hand-sorted and pressed separately before being transferred to separate tanks for fermentation. Each of the 10 parcels will be vinified as the winemaker sees fit to bring out the best of the terroir's character. Natalee will then be tasked with putting together a blend that showcases the best of the best in such a way that no one area dominates or overpowers another. The musical term *fugue* is probably the best way to describe The Pledge's blend: *A contrapuntal composition whose basic structure consists of a theme stated successively in different voices...*

Areas of grape production:

Darling, Durbanville, Elgin, Elandsbay ST Helenabay, Lutzvile, Devon Valley Stellenbosch, Stanford, Sunday Glen Walkerbay, Witzenberg Ceres.



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Sauvignon Blanc 2017

Varieties: Sauvignon Blanc 100%

Tasting Notes: Expressive and exuberantly generous. Vibrant yet complex with ripe layers of summer fruits. A unique creature that cannot be compared to any of its peers.

Vineyards:

We travelled the wine regions of the Western Cape, South Africa to source small parcels of Sauvignon blanc. Each parcel was selected to showcase the true terroir of its specific region. Each parcel has different soil types, irrigation methods and trellising systems all to suit that specific vineyard and climate.

Winemaking:

Each parcel is vinified separately at Grand Domaine to bring out the best of the terroir's character. It is then blended to showcase the best of the best in such a way that no area dominates or overpowers another to deliver the best expression of Sauvignon blanc the Western Cape has to offer in a particular season.

The different parcels where the grapes were sourced from, include: Lutzville, St Helenabay, Ceres, Darling, Durbanville, Stellenbosch, Elgin, Botriver, Stanford and Sundays Glen. Bottling took place on 26 Jul 2017.

Wine Analysis:

Alc: 13.62%
RS: 2.9 g/l
pH: 3.44
TA: 6.7 g/l



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