

Iona, Elgin Highlands Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin, South Africa, 2023

Producer Profile

At 420m above sea-level, set high above the picturesque Elgin Valley Andrew Gunn founded Iona. It is here overlooking the Atlantic ocean that he has secured some of the coolest vineyards in the Cape.

In a country where cool climate vineyards are like gold dust, these vineyards are veritable nuggets. There is an extremely long growing season, allowing Andrew to create wines with complex flavours and a fresh, elegant style. The approach is hands off and the land is farmed according to organic and biodynamic practices with a particular focus on ensuring the health of the soils whilst pests are kept under control by the resident flock of geese that roam the vineyards.

Viticulture

These wines represent the unique meso climate of the Iona Elgin Highlands. This elevated plateau sitting at an average of 450m above sea level is home to the coolest vineyards in the country. A combination of gravel bed, sandstone and silica soils quartz soils with underlying clay support the vines which were planted between 1997 and 2012. The aim is for elegance, balance and to express the unique terroir of the Elgin Highlands. Grapes were hand-picked into crates early in the morning to ensure that the grapes stayed cool.

Winemaking

Each of the 9 blocks are harvested and vinified separately. After gentle pressing, the must was settled, maintaining a temperature of 6-8°C. Fermentation occurred at 14-16°C, using different commercial yeast strains particularly suited to Sauvignon Blanc. The wine was kept on the gross lees for 5 months and stirred regularly to enhance the richness of the mid-palate. The small amount of Sémillon was fermented naturally in 2nd and 3rd fill 500L French oak barrels to enhance the mid palate weight and to add complexity to the wine. A selection of different Sauvignon Blanc vineyard sites were naturally fermented in 500L French oak barrels. The barrel fermentation component made up 4% of the final blend.

Tasting Note

Beautiful purity of lime and ripe gooseberry, with tropical, floral and fine herbal notes, ruby grapefruit and white pear drop on the finish. This is cool climate Sauvignon Blanc – vibrant, mineral, elegant, balanced and delicate, with a long, layered and complex finish.

Food Matching

Fresh asparagus, chicken and seafood dishes but is also enjoyable by itself.



Product code: 1315

Technical Details

Varieties:

Sauvignon Blanc 96%
Semillon 4%



ABV: 13%

Closure: Screw cap

Colour: White

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Ageing

Time: 4 Months

Type: French 500L

% wine oaked: 4

% new oak: None

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