

Product code: 2724

Raats Family Wines, Eden High Density Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2021



Producer Profile

Bruwer Raats is a gentle giant of a man and his reputation is starting to match his stature. His mastery of chenin blanc and cabernet franc is bringing him praise from around the world as "the most exciting and forward thinking winemaker" in Stellenbosch.

As part of the new wave of South African winemakers, Bruwer crafts soil specific wines that embody the unique characteristics of the region. With hand harvesting, whole bunch pressing and using natural fermentation without fining or filtering it helps him create wines that are world class.

Viticulture

Decomposed Granite soils planted at 8000 vines per hectare planted around 8 years ago and trained in an individually staked trellis system at 8000 vines per hectare. Grapes were hand harvest during the second week of February. All grapes are from the Raats Eden High Density single vineyard block in Polkadraai, Stellenbosch.

Winemaking

Grapes were whole bunch pressed and no settling took place. It went straight to barrel for a natural fermentation. The wine was kept on its lees for 11 months in 300L tight grained French oak.

Tasting Note

The wines fresh and delicate yet inviting nose displays peach blossom, greengage, lime, green apple, white peach, pineapple, ginger, angelica and peppery spiciness. The palate shows notes of quince, granadilla, kumquat, mandarin orange, melon, pear and lemon-meringue against a backdrop of steely minerality. Hints of roasted hazelnuts and almonds add to the complexity of the palate. The wine is exceptionally linear and fresh with a fine texture and finishes with notes of fennel and the ginger spiciness promised by the nose.

Food Matching

Enjoy with oysters, bouillabaisse, scallops or other seafood, or even slow roasted pork belly.

Awards

Vinous 94 Points

The 2021 Chenin Blanc Eden High Density Single Vineyard comes from the tiny patch of vines literally outside Bruwer Raats's house, half aged in concrete egg and half in neutral oak. This has a nuanced bouquet with mirabelle and jasmine, traces of dried apricot and peach skin. You can really lose yourself in these aromatics. The palate is succinctly balanced, very focused and quite linear with razor-sharp definition, quite spicy on the finish with stem ginger and a touch of white pepper. This is one to lay down. 94 Points, NM, August 2022.

Technical Details

Varieties:

Chenin Blanc 100%

ABV: 13.5%

Closure: Natural cork

Colour: White

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Ageing

Time: 11 Months

Type: French

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: 50