



Chad Swartland Chenin Blanc 2014

Swartland, Coastal Region, South Africa



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| Grape Varieties | 100% Chenin Blanc |
| Winemaker | Tim Martin |
| Closure | Natural Cork |
| ABV | 13% |
| Residual Sugar | 2g/L |
| Acidity | 3.8g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.65 |
| Bottle Sizes | 75cl |
| Notes | Vegetarian, Vegan |

PRODUCER

Under Tim's 'About Me' page on his website, there is only one sentence that reads: "One day I decided that what I really wanted to do with my life was make wine". Before that, Tim was working in the City. The financial crisis led him to study wine and eventually to make his first vintage in 2014. Tim's vineyards are located in the Swartland (Qaisar and Chad) and Paarl (Mothership). Mothership, which he personally farms, following biodynamic and Fukuoka practices, is in the process of converting to biodynamic agriculture. Qaisar is also farmed organically, while Chad is from a conventional vineyard. The wines are made with minimal intervention in an immaculate cellar located in Cape Town using traditional methods (basket press and spontaneous fermentations in large oak vats of 500-2000 litres).

VINEYARDS

The Chenin Blanc grapes are grown in a 30 year old, dry farmed, bush vine vineyard in the Paardeberg, Swartland. They grow on shallow, sandy, decomposed granite soils.

VINTAGE

The 2014 vintage was characterised by quite a cool winter and an unusually rainy spring. These spring rains as well as more rain, which fell late in the growing season, meant that farmers had to be extra vigilant in managing the vineyards in order to avoid fungal disease and ensure a successful ripening period. The 2014 vintage has generally produced wines that are more medium bodied with great drinkability and according to Tim, his wines are showing well and are drinking beautifully now.

VINIFICATION

The Chenin Blanc grapes were hand-harvested and crushed, basket pressed and then fermented in 2000 litre Austrian oak casks. The wine was kept on its lees for 11 months without battonage and racking, adding depth while maintaining purity.

TASTING NOTES

Chad is meant for youthful imbibing. On the nose there are flinty, chablis-like aromas but the palate offers a more rounded citrus and tropical fruit character.