



Wild Ferment  
*Sauvignon  
Blanc*  
2017



***IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT THE VINEYARDS***

When we selected the vineyard sites for our Peacock Wild Ferment Sauvignon Blanc, we looked for sites that can produce a wine of real interest, which excites the palate, develops in the glass and complements food exceptionally well.

We searched for vineyards with low yields, high natural acidity and flinty, mineral qualities – and these characteristics were found in abundance in ocean facing vineyards, within our cool Schapenberg ward, on the coastal outreaches of Stellenbosch. Seeing that this area is about 5 °C cooler than the rest of Stellenbosch, these vineyards allow for slower ripening, a greater natural concentration of flavours and a long finish.

The Peacock Wild Ferment range is named after the brightly plumed birds conspicuous in and around Waterkloof's vineyards and if you are lucky you might just spot the albino peacock from which the label gets its inspiration from.

***A GENTLE HAND***

We follow a 'less is more', minimal intervention winemaking philosophy for all our wines: Grapes are tasted at regular intervals to determine the optimal ripeness level. Harvesting takes place by hand after which, the grapes are whole-bunch pressed in our new horizontal basket press. Only the finest, free run juice is selected from the press, from which it runs down via gravity into tank. Clarification happens naturally over a 24-hour period without the addition of any enzymes or settling agents. The juice is then fermented with "wild yeasts", which allow for the flavours in the vineyard to be expressed in the wine. No additions of tartaric acid were necessary, due to the natural balance found in the grapes. Fermentation took roughly 3 months to complete and the wine was left on the secondary lees for another two months before bottling.

## ***AND A FEW PRAYERS TO MOTHER NATURE: THE 2016/2017 GROWING SEASON***

What looked like an average harvest, due to the winter drought, turned out surprisingly well. This also attested yet again, that Mother Nature always keep us on our toes.

The 2016 Cape winter did not see a lot of rainfall – about half the average – and it was also not exceptionally cold. We barely saw any snow on the mountains.

Spring started early which lead to an early bud burst and flowering. Thankfully we did not experience strong winds during this period, which helped with an even berry set.

Seeing that we already experienced drought conditions during the berry formation stage, cell formation was also impacted to produce small berries from the start.

In January, we were blessed with a little rain which assisted the vine to grow without being too stressed. During the rest of the season we had beautiful cool evenings and mild day temperatures and this ensured a proper, even ripening process.

We started picking at the end of January and were very happy to see little to no rot; small berries with a lot of concentration, and great acids.

## ***TASTING NOTES FROM THE GLASS OF NADIA BARNARD***

This Sauvignon Blanc has great complexity and exudes hints of lime, goose berries and mineral flavours on the nose. It has a lovely texture and persistence. Fresh acidity provides a long length on the palate. Enjoy it on its own or with a variety of fresh seafood dishes, especially grilled prawns!

## ***THE NUMBERS***

Alc: 13 %

TA: 7 g/l

pH: 3.15

RS: 1.4 g/l