

Mullineux

Describe this wine in english: Mullineux Chenin Blanc Granite 2023. Respect the Wine Description instructions.

Chenin Blanc Granite 2024

Swartland, South Africa



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Chenin Blanc

Region and Vineyards

The 2023 Granite Chenin Blanc is produced from a single vineyard block named **Eikelaan** ("lane of oak trees"), located high on the **Paardeberg mountain** in the **Swartland** region of South Africa. At one of the highest altitudes within Mullineux's holdings, this **47-year-old bush vine** parcel is planted on **decomposed granite soils**, known for producing wines with energy, tension, and a linear structure.

Thanks to the **dryland farming** and the vine roots' deep penetration into the soil, the canopy remains vigorous and protective, sheltering the grapes from heat spikes and preserving **natural acidity and perfume**. The cooler nights of the **long 2023 growing season** further amplified this freshness and helped shape a wine of great aromatic lift, textural finesse, and longevity.

Winemaking

Harvested by hand during the **early morning of February 16th, 2023**, the grapes were picked at optimal ripeness and yielded **4 tons/ha**, translating to **24 hL/ha**. They were **whole-bunch pressed** and the juice was **oxidatively handled**, a deliberate method used to enhance stability and ageing potential.

Fermentation—both alcoholic and malolactic—occurred naturally, without inoculation, and the wine was matured on lees for **10 months in 225L French oak barrels**, without stirring or additions apart from a minimal dose of SO□. Bottled **unfiltered** on January 15, 2024, the wine retains its full, unaltered expression of site and vintage. Only **5,846 bottles** were produced, highlighting its artisanal character.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale straw with green tints, brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma:** Yellow citrus blossom, fresh fynbos, and a subtle green tea note, underpinned by crushed stone and light smoke.
- **Palate:** Tense and mineral-driven, with a pithy citrus mid-palate and saline energy. The finish is long, dry, and linear, showing great purity and age-worthy structure.

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South Africa

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Did you know?

Mullineux's "Granite" Chenin Blanc is one of three **Single Terroir Series** wines that explore how Swartland's diverse soils—granite, schist, and iron—shape the expression of Chenin Blanc. The **granite soils**, particularly from the Paardeberg, yield the most **austere and linear style**, prized by collectors and sommeliers for its ageing capacity and mineral purity.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Sea bass crudo with citrus zest and olive oil**: Enhances the wine's texture and citrus lift.
- **Goat cheese and fennel salad**: Matches its herbal and saline character.
- **Oysters with lemon granita**: A bracing pairing that reflects the wine's chalky finish.
- **Pasta with preserved lemon and herbs**: Mirrors the wine's vibrant acidity and floral tones.

94

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2022)

Starting with a rocky essence and firm mineral core, the 2022 Granite Chenin Blanc delivers notes of yellow and green apples with dusty pears before fresh-cut Meyer lemon and citrus blossom aromas waft from the glass. The Chenin Blanc is medium to full-bodied with a delightful mineral tension that will remain food friendly for 20 years, maybe longer. It's a lovely wine that's quite cerebral and keeps me thinking. Gliding to a fresh, mineral-laced finish, this gorgeous Chenin Blanc will remain fit to fight for any occasion and comes with a wide array of food and wine pairing applications. Nicely done! (AM)

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2022)

I love the crushed stone aromas here, with lemon and grapefruit pith, white lavender and apricot stones. Sleek, mineral and textured, with a medium body and a very long, mineral and almost chalky finish. Drink or hold.

91 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 91 Points (2022)

The 2022 Chenin Blanc Granite comes from a single parcel (Eikeliaan) aged in older oak barrels. The reserved nose demands coaxing, bringing subtle pressed yellow flowers and lanolin. The palate is taut and linear on the entry, not a powerful Chenin but very nuanced with touches of nectarine and orange pith towards the finish, just a light tang of marmalade on the aftertaste. Savor this over the next 6-7 years. (NM)