

Alheit Vineyards

Alheit Vineyards Nautical Dawn is a bold and dynamic single-origin Chenin Blanc , showcasing the intense concentration and natural acidity of Stellenbosch's False Bay coastal vineyards.



Nautical Dawn Chenin Blanc 2024

, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Nautical Dawn originates from the **Rustenhof farm** in Firgrove, located on the southern edge of Stellenbosch, near False Bay. The vineyard lies on **Sinai Hill**, where small granite domes break through the soil. This **dry-farmed bush vine Chenin Blanc** , planted in **1978**, thrives on the shallow granite soils of the upper slopes, just 4 kilometers from the ocean.

The maritime influence of False Bay, combined with the relentless **southeasterly wind** , ensures slow, concentrated ripening. These conditions contribute to the vineyard's early harvest despite its extreme coastal exposure, creating a Chenin Blanc of **intense flavor and natural acidity**.

Winemaking

The grapes for Nautical Dawn were **hand-sorted and whole-bunch pressed**, ensuring optimal quality. The juice was intentionally kept **cloudy and untreated**, undergoing a **wild fermentation** in old barrels of various sizes. This natural fermentation process lasted approximately two months.

The wine was aged on its **lees for 12 months** in barrels, followed by a further **five months in tank on fine lees**, ensuring a pure and textured final wine. This minimalist winemaking approach captures the essence of the vineyard's terroir.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright straw yellow with a slight golden hue.
- **Aroma**: Tangy yellow fruit and soft spices dominate the nose, with subtle saline and mineral undertones.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and powerful, driven by vibrant acidity and saline tension. The finish is long and intricate, leaving a layered impression.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chenin Blanc

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Did you know?

The name **Nautical Dawn** refers to the magical phase of dawn between astrological and civil dawn, when it's still dark enough to see stars for navigation but light enough to hoist a sail. This evocative name reflects the wine's connection to the sea and its eastward-facing vineyard.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled prawns with garlic and lemon**: The wine's saline and citrus notes complement the freshness of the seafood.
- **Herbed goat cheese tart**: Its bright acidity and soft spice balance the creamy and tangy elements of the tart.
- **Oysters with mignonette sauce**: The saline character of the wine mirrors the brininess of oysters, creating a perfect harmony.
- **Lobster risotto with saffron**: The wine's complexity and freshness enhance the luxurious flavors of the dish.

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2023)

This has fragrant apricot, peach, lemon and honeysuckle aromas. It's medium-bodied, with lovely freshness and purity. From old bush-vines overlooking False Bay

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2022)

Complex and more lively than previous vintages, the 2022 Nautical Dawn offers better cohesion in the glass with a ripe, rich, round nose. Medium-bodied, the palate provides succulent acidity with a bright mouthfeel before showcasing a delightful mineral tension with a kiss of seaspray across the mid-palate. It concludes with a spicy finish that has me coming back for more. Be patient with this one—you'll be tempted to open it before it's time. The wine is fresh and bright and will likely be better with another year in the bottle. 5,100 bottles were produced after resting in foudre.