Alheit Vineyards

Alheit Vineyards Fire by Night 2023 is a pure and vibrant expression of Paardeberg Chenin Blanc, offering an elegant balance of minerality, energy, and precision.

Fire By Night Chenin Blanc 2024

, South Africa

Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 100% Chenin Blanc

Region and Vineyards

Fire by Night is produced from the **Nuwedam vineyard** on the Paardeberg in the Swartland region of South Africa. This iconic site, known for its **decomposed granite soils**, provides the perfect foundation for wines of elegance and focus. The vineyard sits on a high ridge at **300–350 meters above sea level**, benefitting from clean mountain air and excellent drainage.

The vines, planted between **1972 and 1985**, are **dry-farmed bush vines**, a rarity that produces concentrated, expressive fruit. The different slopes (east, west, and north-facing) provide a diverse range of characteristics to work with, contributing to the wine's complexity and depth.

Winemaking and Maturation

The grapes for Fire by Night 2023 were **hand-sorted and whole-bunch pressed**, ensuring optimal quality. The raw juice, left intentionally cloudy, underwent **wild fermentation** in a combination of **cement eggs, large foudres, and old barrels of varying sizes**. Fermentation lasted approximately one month.

The wine was aged on its lees for **12 months**, followed by an additional five months in tanks on fine lees without fining, resulting in a wine of remarkable purity and texture. This minimalist winemaking approach highlights the vineyard's unique terroir.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale yellow with greenish reflections.
- **Aroma**: Flinty reduction with notes of green citrus, mountain herbs, and subtle thatch.
- **Palate**: High energy and tension, with tightly coiled acidity and a pure, racy character. The finish is bracing, long, and etched with mineral precision.

Did you know?

The name **Fire by Night** carries personal significance for the Alheit family, referencing the biblical story of guidance through a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. It reflects their reverence for the vineyard and its divine inspiration.

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Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled sea bass with lemon and herbs**: The wine's vibrant acidity and minerality complement the delicate flavors of the fish.
- **Goat cheese and honey tart**: The wine's citrus and herbal notes balance the sweetness and creaminess of the tart.
- **Linguine with clams**: Its saline character and bright profile enhance the briny and buttery flavors of the dish.
- **Herbed roasted chicken**: The wine's high energy pairs beautifully with the savory and aromatic herbs.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2023)

Chris and Suzaan Alheit seek out grapes from heritage vines in various regions, but they have found something very special in the granite mountains of Paardeberg in the Swartland. The Alheit Vineyards 2023 Swartland Fire By Night shows an initial hint of flinty reduction that hints at citrus, bitter almond, wild sage and crushed stone. The motto "A Note to the Mountain" is expertly conveyed thanks to the wine's freshness and a sense of rigid minerality that gives backbone and bite. Rating: 94+

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2023)

A tight, very fresh chenin blanc showing white grapefruit, crushed stones and fennel on the nose. It's medium-bodied, taut and linear. Very bright and youthful for now. From vines planted between 1972 and 1985 in the Paardeberg.