



Mullineux

This extraordinary sweet wine from Swartland masterfully captures the essence of old-vine Chenin Blanc with precision, intensity, and an alluring saline finish.



Straw Wine 2021

Swartland, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Swartland, located in the Western Cape of South Africa, has emerged as one of the most dynamic wine-growing areas thanks to its dry climate, ancient soils, and a collective of innovative producers like Mullineux. The region's climate, with warm days and cooling afternoon breezes from the Atlantic, encourages phenolic ripeness while preserving acidity—crucial in the production of rich yet fresh straw wines.

Mullineux sources fruit for their Straw Wine from two prized **old-vine Chenin Blanc** vineyards that are essential to its style and balance. The first is a 44-year-old site on the **granite soils of the Paardeberg**, contributing mineral freshness and vibrant acidity. The second, on the **schist soils of Kasteelberg**, is 40 years old and imparts density, texture, and a distinctive saline tang. These low-yielding bush vines, rooted deep into ancient rock, deliver berries of outstanding concentration and expressive terroir-driven character.

Winemaking

The 2021 vintage is composed of **100% Chenin Blanc**, hand-harvested at typical ripeness for dry wines, then **naturally dried in the shade** for 16 to 30 days—allowing slow desiccation that concentrates sugar, acidity, and flavour without the intrusion of botrytis.

Once the berries reached optimal shriveling, they were whole-bunch pressed and settled before fermentation in **old 225L French oak barrels** (minimum 5th fill). Fermentation was spontaneous and extended over **eleven months**, ceasing naturally when the yeasts could no longer ferment further. This slow vinification deepened the wine's **silken texture and layered aromatics**. The wine remained on its lees in barrel until blending and bottling—done **unfined and unfiltered** to preserve purity and integrity.

Alcohol :8,50 %

Composition: 100% Chenin Blanc



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** A brilliant, viscous golden hue with glints of amber; its radiant clarity signals both sweetness and vitality.
- **Aroma:** Sun-dried apricots, candied lime peel, and honeysuckle intertwine with beeswax, saline minerality, and hints of almond and hay.
- **Palate:** Opulently textured yet lifted, showcasing layers of dried peach, orange zest, and ripe mango. The schist-derived pithiness yields to an evolving savoury, mebos-like (salted dried plum) character, supported by vibrant acidity and a long, glycerol-rich finish.

Did you know?

Mullineux Straw Wine's **residual sugar of 330 g/L** and **modest alcohol (8.5%)** make it one of the most intensely concentrated and balanced naturally sweet wines in South Africa. Despite its luscious profile, the wine retains tension and energy thanks to **Swartland's naturally high-acid old vines**—an expression rarely rivalled outside the world's classic botrytised dessert wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Foie gras terrine with fig compote:** The wine's richness balances the dish's unctuous texture while its acidity cuts through the fat.
- **Roquefort or Gorgonzola dolce:** Blue cheeses find harmony with the wine's sweetness and umami depth.
- **Persian apricot lamb tagine:** Complements the wine's dried fruit core while mirroring its savoury dimension.
- **Lemon tart with almond cream:** Enhances the citrus notes while the wine's texture matches the pastry's richness.

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)



Ripe, fresh and brilliant in the glass, the 2021 Straw Wine offers purity of stonefruit with picturesque peach aromas and apricot purée before succulent honeysuckle florals seduce the nose. Medium to full-bodied and with only 8% alcohol, the wine somersaults across the palate with a brilliant sweetness, focus, precision and finesse, unwinding and uncoiling as it hangs in the mouth. It concludes with impeccable balance over the incredibly complex, long-winding finish. Its beauty is sure to delight for decades to come.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2020)



The 2020 Straw Wine has a typically gorgeous bouquet of dried honey, quince, tangerine and touches of candle wax, displaying the usual wonderful delineation and freshness. The palate is extremely well balanced with a killer line of acidity that cuts a swath through the rich honeyed fruit. Notes of tangerine, peach and mango appear toward the finish. Irresistible. (NM)



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Straw Wine 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2020)



Medium gold in the glass, the 2020 Straw Wine opens to a gorgeous, honeyed and sweet citrusy nose that exudes power, elegance and precision. Aromas of quince paste, apple cider reduction and sappy honeysuckle flowers waft from the glass with a kiss of volatility and notions of candied Meyer lemon and raw honeycomb. Medium to full-bodied and with only 7.5% alcohol, the weight of this wine is impressive—it is mouth-coating with a generous lusciousness and sweetness yet still possesses the laser-beam acidity of Chenin Blanc. The wine continues to evolve on the palate as it unpacks and unfolds its secrets over the somersaulting and seemingly never-ending finish. Bravo! I know that the majority of the world tends to think of France's Loire Valley when it comes to Chenin Blanc, but with expressions like this from South Africa, the world will wake up one day and realize just how important and significant this variety is to South Africa and what potential it has in capable hands. This wine has me thinking. It's so unique and tastes as if Quarts de Chaume from Loire and Vendange Tardive from Alsace were to collide. (AM) 95+



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