



David & Nadia

From a rare patch of Paardeberg shale, Skaliekop 2021 captures Swartland's old-vine Chenin Blanc at its most precise, weaving cool citrus, stone-dust minerality and a quietly compelling, age-worthy calm.



David & Nadia
Wine of origin Swartland

93
Decanter



Skaliekop Chenin Blanc 2021

Swartland, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Skaliekop comes from the Paardeberg within Swartland, an area celebrated for dry-farmed bush vines and a warm Mediterranean climate tempered by maritime influence. Unusually, this vineyard sits on **very shallow shale soils**, a striking anomaly on a mountain better known for granite. That geological twist matters: shale tends to emphasise linearity and a stony, savoury cut, lending the wine its signature tension.

Planted in 1985 and farmed in a dryland context, the site is part of South Africa's heritage-vine movement and is certified under the **Old Vine Project**. A small tractor road divides Skaliekop from the neighbouring Platbos, highlighting how finely David & Nadia parse site differences on the same slope. Total production is tiny at 2,286 bottles, underscoring its rarity and single-vineyard intent.

Winemaking

Skaliekop 2021 is **100% Chenin Blanc**, harvested mid to late February across three picking dates to capture nuance rather than a single snapshot of ripeness. Each picking is handled and kept as a separate lot, allowing the final blend to be built from multiple threads of fruit, acidity and texture rather than one dominant component.

In line with the estate's minimal-intervention philosophy, the different lots are matured separately before blending, then bottled at the end of the year. The producer does not specify vessel types for this cuvée in the technical information, but the timeline implies a long, steady élevage of roughly nine to ten months from harvest to bottling. At 12.5% alcohol with 2.4 g/L residual sugar, pH 3.19 and total acidity 6.2 g/L, the wine's balance is clearly geared toward dry precision, longevity and mineral articulation.

Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 100% Chenin Blanc



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright straw with a green-gold sheen, clear and luminous in the glass.
- **Aroma:** Lifted citrus and white peach, then hints of grilled pineapple, chamomile and dried herbs, with a saline, wet-stone complexity and gentle spice.
- **Palate:** Dry, crystalline and tightly focused, combining zippy acidity with a silky, layered texture. Citrus and orchard fruit glide into a stony, savoury finish that feels long, precise and quietly powerful.

Did you know?

Skaliekop qualifies for the **Certified Heritage Vineyards** seal and forms part of the **Old Vine Project**, recognising South Africa's oldest, most historically significant vineyards and helping preserve them through premium single-site bottlings.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled line-caught seabass with lemon and capers:** The wine's saline minerality and citrus lift echo the dish's brightness while staying razor-clean through the texture of the fish.
- **Roast chicken with preserved lemon and thyme:** Herbal top notes and taut acidity cut through savoury juices, while the palate's silkiness complements roast depth.
- **Seared scallops with cauliflower purée:** Sweet shellfish and creamy purée are balanced by the wine's dry, stony drive and precise finish.
- **Goat's cheese tart with caramelised onion:** Tangy cheese meets brisk acidity, and the wine's subtle spice and orchard fruit amplify the tart's sweet-savoury contrast.

Decanter (DCT) : 93 Points (2021)

93
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Brighter and more generous on the nose, the 2021 Skaliekop Chenin Blanc offers focused and expressive aromatic dusty citrus tones with firm florals. Medium to full-bodied, the wine unfolds on the palate to reveal its impressive weight and texture before offering up flavors of lemon pastry cream with hints of petrichor. The wine concludes with a long-lingering, balanced and expressive finish that brings me back for more.



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