

NEW DAWN

BY RÜDGER VAN WYK

OG CHENIN BLANC | STELLENBOSCH | 2024

"OG" STANDS FOR "ORIGINAL GANGSTER," A TERM BORN FROM GANG CULTURE THAT HAS COME TO SIGNIFY SOMEONE AUTHENTIC, EXCEPTIONAL, AND FOUNDATIONAL. IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH AFRICAN WINE, CHENIN BLANC IS THE OG VARIETAL—VERSATILE, RESILIENT, AND DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE COUNTRY'S WINE HISTORY. ITS ADAPTABILITY HAS MADE IT A BACKBONE OF THE INDUSTRY, USED IN EVERYTHING FROM CAP CLASSIQUE TO DRY WHITES, SWEET WINES, AND EVEN SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST BRANDIES.



THE VINEYARD

This wine is sourced from Kaapzicht Wine Farm, located in Stellenbosch, in the Western Cape. The fruit comes from dry-farmed bush vines planted in 1985 on northwest-facing slopes. The site is exposed to warm afternoon sun but moderated by cool ocean breezes from Table Bay and False Bay. Regular coastal cloud cover supports even ripening, leading to wines with vibrant, upfront fruit and bright, zippy acidity.

WINE MAKING

My approach is minimal-interventionist, centered on expressing vineyard character through honest, thoughtful farming. Grapes were hand-harvested in the early morning while still cool, then whole-bunch pressed. The juice settled naturally in stainless steel for 24 hours without sulfur, before being transferred to seasoned barrels to ferment with native yeasts. The wine matured for 10 months in oak, with minimal handling, gentle filtration, and a small sulfur addition at bottling.

THE OTHERS

Danie Steytler of Kaapzicht is a quiet force in South African wine—a fourth-generation winemaker rooted in Stellenbosch tradition, yet progressive in spirit. His influence extends beyond Pinotage and Chenin, into the lives and careers he helps shape. Through humility and generosity, he opens doors for others. His behind-the-scenes support continues to foster a more collaborative, inclusive future for South African wine.

"THIS IS NOT NOSTALGIA.



THIS IS MOMENTUM."

-RÜDGER VAN WYK