

CRYSTALLUM

Crystallum, 'The Agnes' Chardonnay 2015

PRODUCER

This small winery was established in 2007 by brothers Peter-Allan and Andrew Finlayson. Their father, Peter, was a pioneer in the production of cool climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at Bouchard Finlayson, so after university it seemed the natural thing for the boys to return home and source some fruit from the Hemel-en-Aarde valley to start their own label.

Crystallum is now one of the most highly regarded wineries in South Africa. Yet the Finlaysons are determined to make even better wines. Peter-Allan has sourced fruit from some new vineyards, while winemaking has evolved. All the wines are now wild fermented, and new oak has been reduced to help the bright fruit shine through.

VINEYARDS

The 2015 The Agnes Chardonnay is produced from three different vineyards in the Hemel en Aarde and Overberg regions. The soils of these vineyards range from heavy clay to intermediate shale and sandstone. The final blend retains the characteristics of these individual sites but attains an identity which is both unique and greater than the sum of its parts.

VINTAGE

2015 was an excellent vintage. A very cold and wet winter was followed by a moderate and dry summer. This permitted advanced flavour development at low sugar levels.

VINIFICATION

The Agnes was produced using the traditional method of transferring the whole grape clusters straight from harvesting into the press and running the juice off into a settling tank. The juice was then transferred the next day into 228 litre French oak barrels, 10% of which were new. Fermentation occurred naturally in barrel, where it remained for nine months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The seventh vintage of The Agnes is concentrated and beautifully balanced. The nose is wonderfully expressive with notes of lime, grapefruit, nectarine and ripe peach. The palate is intense and layered with a strong fruit core and lovely fresh acidity.



VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2015
Region	Cape South Coast
Grape Varieties	100% Chardonnay
Winemaker	Peter Allan Finlayson
Closure	Stelvin
ABV	13.5%
Bottle Sizes	75cl