



Great Grog

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United Kingdom
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Circle of Life White 2016



"The best release yet of this wild-fermented cuvée" according to Tim Atkin in his 2019 South Africa Special Report. Sauvignon Blanc / Chenin Blanc / Semillon. Vegan and Biodynamic.



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Balance Not Yet
Discount

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Manufacturer [WATERKLOOF ESTATE](#)

Description

SAUVIGNON BLANC 67%, CHENIN BLANC 29%, SEMILLON 4%

Production

Circle of Life White is neither defined by grape varietals, nor indeed a specific block within the vineyard, but instead encapsulates the myriad soils, aspects, altitudes and grape varieties found on this windswept, biodynamic farm. The windswept vineyard blocks are all, south facing (less sun exposure), 200-350m above sea-level and a mere 2 miles from The Atlantic. These factors combine to produce low yields, balanced grapes and wines with a true sense of place. Production is a miserly 4 tons per hectare. Grapes are hand-harvested and brought to the cellar by horses for hand-sorting. Extracting juice from the grapes is achieved through pressing the whole bunches. This is the most delicate way to extract the juice. After a settling period of 24 hours, a large proportion of the juice was destined for co-fermentation. That is to say, we determined a blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc prior to fermentation and transferred the majority into old 600 litre barrels, with the balance going into stainless steel tanks. Ultimately, this allowed for a better integrated and more complete end product. After a very long, natural yeast fermentation of seven months, the wine was left on the primary lees for a further four months. This helped to add more complexity and weight to the palate. The wine was then racked to fermentation tank and the final blend was made up, with the addition of further Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc. We make the wine as naturally as possible, with no additions of acids or enzymes allowed.

Tasting notes

The Sauvignon Blanc aromas are prominent on the nose, with beautiful lime and prickly pear notes. Intense flavours, with great balance. A tight mineral core and creamy mid palate from the Chenin Blanc allows for great complexity and a persistent finish. The Sauvignon Blanc lends lovely, fresh acidity to the wine.

Screwtop

Vegan and biodynamic.