



Rurale 2018

(80% Chardonnay & 20% Pinotage)

VINEYARDS

Vondeling RURALE is comprised of 80% Chardonnay and 20% Pinotage. The Chardonnay grapes originate from a single block, located on a south-west facing slope on the decomposed granite soils of the Paardeberg Mountain. The Pinotage grapes are grown on our lower valley slopes in soils comprised of gravel and clay. Typically, the Pinotage grapes add weight and texture. Unlike *Méthode Cap Classique*, *Méthode Ancestrale* grapes are harvested with a potential alcohol of 12% (rather than 9%). This promotes a fuller, more rounded pallet with superior fruit expression without compromising on natural vibrancy and freshness.

VINIFICATION

Natural fermentation begins in a stainless-steel tank and when only a small, but critical amount of sugar remains, the fermenting wine is bottled and capped. Bottling must be done at the precise moment when there is enough remaining sugar to create a healthy, vibrant mousse, but not so much as to cause the bottles to explode. This single, continuous fermentation, using fruit which is approximately three weeks riper than the base wine used to make *Méthode Cap Classique*, is what makes *Méthode Ancestrale* unique. The wine is matured on its lees for 3 years before riddling and disgorging. Autolysis of the yeast cells increases richness, palate weight and creaminess to the wine. After being hand riddled over a one-month period, it is disgorged and topped using our flagship white blend, Babiana from the 2013 vintage, as an alternative to liqueur d'expédition. The name *Rurale* is the original name for what was later recognized by the French A.O.C as *Méthode Ancestrale*. We love the implication that this is an uncomplicated, yet pure expression of both the grape and its origins. *Rurale* was the first recognized *Méthode Ancestrale* to be produced in South Africa and remains the leader in this category. Vondeling was instrumental in drafting the technical description, which allowed this new category to be recognized in 2014. It is a highly labour-intensive way to produce sparkling wine, and for this reason, only 3300 bottles were produced. All grapes are grown and vinified on Vondeling Farm and Cellar.



TASTING NOTES & CELLARING & FOOD PAIRING

The wine displays a pale straw colour typical of bubbly that has enjoyed the benefits of extended lees maturation. Tiny, pearl-string bubbles and fine mousse abound. Beautiful aromas of lavender honey, lime, crisp apple with freshly baked pastry and toasted almonds on the nose. The palate is bright and zippy with vibrant acidity and a soft, creamy mouthfeel. Fresh apple appears again along with pears, confected lemon and a long, rich, lingering after taste. *Rurale* can be paired with smoked salmon, fennel roasted trout or fresh oysters with a squeeze of lemon, salt, and pepper.

Accolades

2016 Vintage:
2019 SA Sparkling Wine Championships – Double Gold
Platter Wine Guide 2020 – 4,5 stars

Analysis

pH 3.37
Total Acidity 8.0 g/l
Residual Sugar 4.7 g/l
Alcohol 11.94 %

