

Huilkrans 2019

ALHEIT VINEYARDS, SKURFBERG, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



HARVEST & VINTAGE NOTES

Huilkrans is a single origin Chenin Blanc that has gained a very strong following amongst Chenin lovers and is considered by critics to be approximately equal to Magnetic North in quality. If Magnetic North is the tenor voice of Skurfborg, then Huilkrans must be the deeper baritone. It works on a lower, richer frequency, but it is still unmistakably from this great appellation.

There is something very special about this place in the mountains - the isolation, old vines, low rainfall, and deep red sand over red clay soils. Huilkrans is made from old dry farmed Chenin parcels planted between 1974-1989 on a gentle southern slope at 450m above sea level. These big bushvines are wide planted (low density vineyards) with yields of just over 1 ton/Ha or around 0.6hl/Ha in 2019.

The grapes were hand sorted and whole bunch pressed. The juice was very lightly settled (it's a very cloudy raw juice) and no additions are made. Wild fermentation took place in 12 year old, 300L barrels, and lasted for about one month. The wine was kept on lees for around 12 months, then rested in tank on fine lees without fining for a further six months prior to bottling. Very simple, careful winemaking.

Huilkrans 2019 has an open nose of orange skin and custard apple, soft spice and rooibos. The palate is already showing some of its potential, beautiful and full, hemmed in by earthy/rusty minerality plus acid that kicks like a giraffe who touched an electric fence.



WINEMAKERS: Chris & Suzaan Alheit

GRAPES: 100% Chenin Blanc (bushvines)

VINE AGE: planted 1974-1989

ALCOHOL: 13.88%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 1.7 g/L

TOTAL ACIDITY: 6.5 g/L

pH: 3.30

BOTTLING DATE: June, 2020



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Neal Martin, *Vinous*, April 2021



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