

BUITENVERWACHTING Chardonnay 2009



Winemakers	Hermann Kirschbaum and Brad Paton
Varietal Blend	100% Chardonnay
Appellation	Constantia
Alcohol Content	13%
TA	5.4 g/l
pH	3.41
RS	2.7 g/l



VINEYARDS:

Located on the east-facing slopes of the Constantiaberg, Buitenverwachting's vineyards originally formed part of the Constantia Estate, founded by the Cape's first governor, Simon van der Stel, in the late 17th century. Breezes sweeping in from False Bay, a mere 12 kilometers away, make it one of South Africa's coolest winegrowing areas.

The Chardonnay is planted in Clovelly soils, a form of decomposed granite, on south-northeast facing slopes. The vineyards are dry farmed.

VINTAGE:

2009 was an exceptional vintage – one of the best on record! Cool weather in late spring and early summer was followed by a warm, dry ripening phase, with heat spikes in late February and early March. Whites are marked by a rich, powerful and complex character.

VINIFICATION AND MATURATION:

A portion of the hand-picked grapes was whole bunch pressed, while the remainder was crushed and left in contact with the skins for 24 hours before pressing. The wine was fermented in French Allier oak barriques (50% new, 50% second fill) and was aged in barrel for 10 months.

TASTING NOTES:

Packed with rich aromas and flavors of pear, melon, figs and grilled nuts with subtle hints of butterscotch and spice, this powerful yet elegant bottling is reminiscent of Meursault. Beautiful floral notes and smoky, complex minerality add to this lovely Chardonnay's intrigue.