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BLANKbottle, Stellenbosch Verdelho Aasvoël (2020)

Producer	BLANKbottle
Distributor	Blue Crane Imports
Category	Wine - Still - White
Grape variety	Verdelho
Region	Western Cape, South Africa
Subregion	Coastal Region
Appellation	Stellenbosch
Vintage	2020



Sizes

750 mL × 12 — BB-AV-75-20

Distributor's notes

In 2014 I received a phone call from a fellow winemaker. “Do you need some Verdelho?” he asked. I am always on the lookout for something interesting and Stellenbosch Verdelho fits the bill...

He is the buyer for this little vineyard, but the 2014 crop was huge and his tanks were full. I bought what grapes he had left and the wine turned out to be fantastic! So obviously I would love to buy some every year, but the production of a normal year is not high enough to accommodate another buyer. So I became an Aasvoel - an Afrikaans word for a “vulture” - sitting on a pole, watching the vineyard. If something falls off the truck, I pick it up (figuratively speaking of course!). In other words, if it is a high production year, I get some grapes. In 2015 I got nothing, 2016 and 2017 came and went and I was still sitting on the pole - eagerly watching. And then in harvest 2018 it came: the call “do you want to make another Aasvoel?” Total production 914 bottles - 100% Stellenbosch Verdelho.

And here I am again, on the pole - waiting...and fortunately it came through again in 2020.

Whole bunch press, spontaneous fermentation, aged one year in older French barrels.

About the producer

Regarded as one of the most innovative producers in South Africa, in 2004 Pieter Walser pursued an ambition to make wine of quality, excitement and mystery - for those intrigued by what’s in the bottle, not by what’s on the label. Armed with an education in Agriculture, Viticulture and Oenology, and a nomadic, adventurous spirit, BLANKbottle was born. Pieter sought creative flexibility, and to be unconstrained when it came to style, region, vintage and cultivars. This led him to form alliances with vineyards, winemakers and wineries throughout the country, and the opportunity to craft unique blends of premium character. This versatility turned out to be the BLANKbottle edge.

Pieter’s eclectic range is from vineyards positioned across the Western Cape, representing diverse regions, micro-climates, soil types, and varieties, ultimately leading to different wine styles and the ability to also introduce once-off limited runs of compelling wines. As Pieter tells it himself, “When I started BLANKbottle, my goal was to create an honest wine brand that had no limitations in order to break down any preconceived expectations....I’ve come to realize that the road I’m on does not necessarily lead to the perfect winery. Rather, it’s an adventure, it gives me stories to tell, and that I count as my true riches and success.” As it turns out, the BLANKbottle labels are in fact as exceptional as the wine, having recently won multiple awards, including the Grand Prix, at the 2015 Wine Label Design Awards.

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