

Delaire Graff Banghoek Chardonnay

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: South Africa

REGION: Western Cape

APPELLATION: Stellenbosch

CEPAGE: 100% Chardonnay

WINEMAKING: The grapes underwent meticulous bunch sorting as part of the quality process. Whole-bunch pressing was followed by barrel fermentation over 14 days in French oak. To preserve freshness, no bâtonnage or malolactic fermentation was conducted. The wine matured for 10 months in 225-liter French oak barrels, 40% of which were new. Fermentation was carried out using inoculated yeast.

THE STORY

Delaire Graff Estate is situated in the heart of Stellenbosch, South Africa's most historic and prestigious wine region. The estate was founded in 1679 by Simon van der Stel, whose sound knowledge of viticulture and the art of winemaking fostered traditions that have grown through the centuries. In 1982, John Platter, the well-known wine writer, bought the estate, then known as Avontuur. Looking at the magnificent view, he decided to rename the farm Delaire Estate, meaning "From the Sky." Laurence Graff, Chairman of Graff Diamonds International, acquired the estate in 2003 and vowed to transform it into South Africa's most desirable art, hospitality and wine destination.

THE ADJECTIVES

OVERALL: A Crisp, Mineral-Driven Masterpiece

AROMAS / FLAVORS: Vanilla, ripe peaches, honeycomb, a touch of minerality

MOUTHFEEL: Elegant, layered mouthfeel with a smooth, lingering finish

THE SELLING POINTS

AWARDS: 93pts James Suckling, 92pts Tim Atkin

SUSTAINABILITY: Vegan

PAIRINGS: Roasted chicken, creamy pastas, grilled seafood, and light Mediterranean dishes

