

THE BERNARD SERIES



OLD VINE CHENIN BLANC 2017

The Bernard Series was named after Bernard Podlashuk, visionary co-founder of the Bellingham brand and maverick winemaker. Never quite satisfied to be just ordinary, he is recognised for his daring vision, sheer audacity and unabated drive that helped place South African wine on the map. The legend of his tenacity and innovative flair lives on through the Bernard series, Bellingham's premium range of hand-crafted wines.

Variety: 100% Chenin Blanc

Origin: Coastal Region (Agter-Paarl, Stellenbosch and Cape Town)

Vintage Comment: "Everything worked in our favour," Winemaker Richard Duckitt comments "I rate it higher than 2015, possibly even as good as 2009. Certainly the wines are a lot more accessible earlier than we've had for a long time."

In the Vineyard: The grapes for this celebrated wine are from 3 exceptional Chenin Blanc vineyards aged between 35 and 47 years. These low yielding old bush vines grow in soils that are predominately weathered granite, and produce fruit with rare complexity, stellar acidity and balance.

In the Cellar: Grapes are hand harvested at 24°Balling and are pressed in whole bunches before single-lot fermentation. The wine is wood matured for 12 months in 50% new French oak and 50% second fill barrels with extended lees contact and regular batonnage for richness and added depth and dimension.

Tasting Notes: A luminescent gold wine with fleshy peach, passion fruit, honey melon, papaya and pineapple fruit aromas layered with whiffs of oatmeal and crushed wheat that follow through with lavish concentrated fruit flavours from the nose – powerful yet balanced on the palate with discernible, yet seamless and subtle spicy oak complexity. The riveting finish is fresh and intense with tremendous length, making it a great wine for enjoyment with food.

Alc 13.83% | RS 2.4 g/l | pH 3.34 | TA 6.5 g/l

A WINE BY **Bellingham.**
FOUNDED 1693