

THE TANGRAM

DURBANVILLE HILLS



THE TANGRAM WHITE BLEND 2023

The tangram is a Chinese geometrical puzzle consisting of five triangles, a square and a rhomboid, which can be arranged to make various forms and pictures to tell a story.

To master the Tangram, one has to look at the whole puzzle to understand and form the myriad of images to be shaped. Our Tangram is skillfully crafted from the following seven elements; our three wine makers, earth, wind, fire & water. A noble blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon was created. This wine was rested in French oak barrels for 10 months and is an expression of an illustrious cool climate wine

APPELLATION: Durbanville, Cape Town

VARIETALS: 88% Sauvignon Blanc and 12% Semillon

VINTAGE 2023: The growing season began with a relatively mild and dry winter which stood the vineyards in good stead for an early budburst and flowering. However, a cold, wet summer then set in and ripening slowed as a result.

IN THE VINEYARD: The Sauvignon Blanc grapes were selected from four different blocks on southern and eastern slopes with deep, red soils. The soils have very good water-holding capacity to prevent stress in dry conditions. The low bearing, 35-year-old bush vines produce beautifully balanced fruit with mineral flavours accompanied by the younger, higher slope vines with tropical fruit, kept cool by the cool Atlantic and False Bay sea breeze.

The two 18-year-old trellised vineyards higher up on the hill supplied the more typical fruity aromas. At a height of 180 to 200 meters above sea, they are exposed to the cool southeasterly breezes blowing in from nearby False Bay.

The Semillon block was planted in 1996 in the cool heart of the valley, where the vines are known to contribute to the fullness of the palate. Satellite technology was used to identify the premium spots in each block. Only grapes from these spots were harvested and used to make this wine. The decision on when to pick was made by regularly tasting the grapes to establish the ripening profile and prevent overly fruity grapes to enable complexity rather than mere fruitiness. To safeguard gentle handling of the grapes during harvest, the winemakers hand-selected a dedicated team that picked the grapes, ensuring a careful selection of the best fruit in the vineyard.

IN THE CELLAR: Both the Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon were handpicked at optimum ripeness in the early morning. The grapes were crushed and allowed to cold settle for three days, with lees stirring once a day. The clean juice was racked to a stainless-steel fermentation tank and inoculated with a selected yeast strain. The first 5°B of fermentation was done in tank and thereafter transferred to barrels to complete fermentation.

MATURATION: The winemakers selected a combination of new and old French oak barrels; focusing on three sizes, namely 300 litre, 500 litre and 600 litres to mature the wine for a further 10 months to ensure a better extraction of the flavours and overall complexity. During maturation the wine was regularly stirred to add complexity to the blend. After maturation, the winemaking team spent a number of days selecting the best barrels to create the perfect blend.

COLOUR: Light olive green with lively bright edges

AROMA: Upfront aromas of tropical fruit, yellow fruit, peaches, apricot, grapefruit, and winter melon with a hint of citrus.

TASTE: Full concentrated wine with an abundance of tropical fruit, citrus supported by a fresh minerality and a salty finish.

FOOD PAIRING: Exquisite when served with any shellfish, oysters, mussels, sushi, veal and chicken dishes.

AGING: For optimum enjoyment, decant at least one hour before consumption and serve at 15°C-18 °C. If stored in optimal conditions, the wine will last at least a decade.

ANALYSIS: Alc. 14.12% (Vol) / RS 2.25g/l / TA 6.25g/l / pH – 3.42