



BACKSBERG

FAMILY TREE RANGE

Smuggled Vines

CHARDONNAY

Best enjoyed
within 3 to 10 years.

Alc 13.5% | RS 2.5 g/ ℓ
pH 3.3 | TA 7.0 g/ℓ



VINTAGE 2024 **W.O.** FRANSCHHOEK

The Family Tree honours the rich tapestry of people and places that were integral in the Backsberg legacy. In 1976, father and son Michael and Sydney Back, in defiance of the authorities, smuggled some of the very first Chardonnay buds into South Africa from Europe in a suitcase. This resulted in 60 000 Chardonnay vines.

VITICULTURE Rolling morning fog and cool breezes during the hot summer months as well as one of the highest elevation sites in the Franschhoek Valley provide the optimal climate for this expressive Chardonnay. Stony clay-rich Greywacke soils give this wine its unique style, chalky minerality and natural acidity.

VINIFICATION Picked on the 14th of February 2024 at 23 ° Balling with high, vibrant and exciting natural acidity. Crushed and pressed within the day, the juice was then allowed to settle for several days with fermentation taking place in a combination of new French oak barriques (12%) and older 300ℓ barrels. A combination of natural yeast alongside 3 alternative strains were used with total fermentation time being six weeks. Due to the high natural acidity of this vintage, one third of the blend went through malolactic fermentation. Initially the lees was stirred up in a process of bâtonnage weekly until the end of May and then monthly thereafter to fine and add body. This results in well-integrated oak. The wine was allowed to mature in barrel until December 2024 with a total of 10 months in oak. This year's vintage was surely an act of love and nurturing.

TASTING NOTE A bright gold hue with honeyed apple, cashew and butterscotch on the nose, this wine is a toast to the duo's tenacity. This Chardonnay boasts vibrant and appealing acidity. Bold notes of tropical fruit, grapefruit, vanilla pod and a chalky minerality lightly dance across the palate which is matched by a silky finish.

This flavour-filled wine ideally matches cheese and dried fruit, seafood and creamy pasta dishes.

Sustainably crafted since 1916 | www.backsberg.co.za