



# ASTROLABE

## 2023

### SOUTHERN VALLEYS SEC

### CHENIN BLANC

#### VARIETY

Chenin blanc

#### GRAPEGROWERS

Grown at Wrekin vineyard  
by the Johns family.

#### LOCALITY

Southern Valleys (100%), Marlborough,  
New Zealand.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Alcohol	13.0%
Residual sugar	7 g/l
Total acidity	7.3 g/l
pH	3.21

#### VITICULTURE

**Climate:** After a wet winter, spring was drier and warmer than normal, but regular rain events kept vines growing and in good health. Budburst was very good, and bunch numbers per vine were ahead of the long-term average. Through late spring and summer wet and humid conditions prevailed, and the outlook was for a difficult harvest period with high fungal disease potential. Late summer and autumn were very good, with sunny and dry weather that helped the harvest come through in very good condition and about a week later than recent seasons.

**Soils:** Some of the oldest in Marlborough, tight clays based on glacial outwash. The chenin block has a steep clay hillside with a northern aspect.

**Vine Management:** Standard trellis, with pruning to two to four canes, and vertical shoot positioning. Vines are trimmed closely, well tucked and lightly leaf plucked.

**Harvest Date:** The 5th of April, 2023.

#### WINEMAKING

The organically grown fruit was hand-picked and whole-cluster pressed and then tank fermented on light solids in stainless steel, using cultured yeast. The ferment was stopped before completion to retain sugar and balance the crisp acidity of the variety and the low pH from the extraction method. The resulting wine is long, fresh and drinkable, with a light spritziness to highlight the freshness of the style.

Bottled 20th June, 2023.



  
Simon Waghorn - Winemaker  
Waghorn Family Wines