



ASTROLABE

2024 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	5.1 g/l
Total acidity	6.3 g/l
pH	3.24

VITICULTURE

Climate: Mean temperatures were average to well above average from September through to February 2024, with accumulated growing degree days over 10% higher than normal. Over the same period, rainfall was only 46% of normal, and soil water deficit was 46% higher. These dry conditions, and fewer berries on the bunches, meant fruit was entirely free of fungal disease at harvest. Lower bunch numbers and bunch weights lead to the harvest being amongst the smallest over the last ten years. The light crops helped the canopies survive the dry, and fruit flavour was excellent.

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.

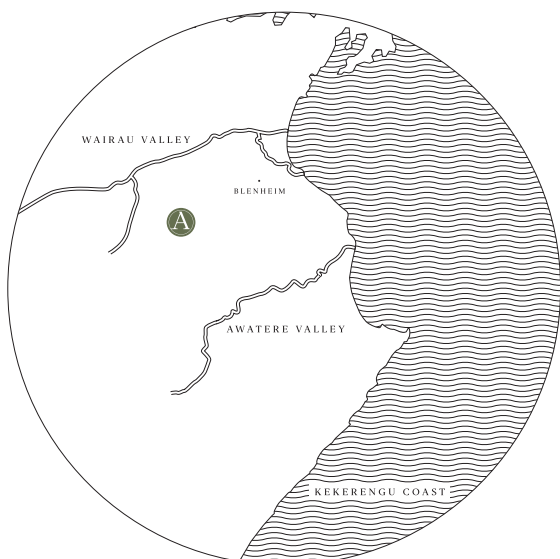
Vine Management: Standard trellis, with pruning to two to four canes, and vertical shoot positioning. Vines are trimmed closely, well tucked and lightly leaf plucked.

Harvest Date: The 30th of March, 2024.

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 24th July, 2024.



Simon Waghorn - Winemaker
Waghorn Family Wines