



# ASTROLABE

## 2021

### SOUTHERN VALLEYS

### SEC CHENIN BLANC

#### VARIETY

100% chenin blanc.

#### GRAPEGROWERS

Grown at Wrekin Vineyard  
by Jan and Andrew Johns.

#### LOCALITY

Upper Brancott Valley, Southern Valleys,  
Marlborough, New Zealand.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Alcohol	13.50%
Residual sugar	6.4 g/l
Total acidity	6.3 g/l
pH	3.27

#### VITICULTURE

**Climate:** The 2020–2021 growing season was warmer than normal, though cooler than two of the recent very warm years of vintages 2018 and 2019. Little rain fell from December to late March, and water deficit conditions prevailed. Cold and wet Spring flowering conditions resulted in fewer berries per bunch and significantly reduced yields — about 70% of normal. Above average sunshine and heat, coupled with the light crop, gave a record early harvest. The vine canopies survived the arid weather, largely due to the light fruit load, and fungal disease was largely non-existent. Wines from the vintage tend to have good concentration.

**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:** 6th April, 2021.

#### 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 22nd June, 2021.



Simon Waghorn - Winemaker  
Waghorn Family Wines