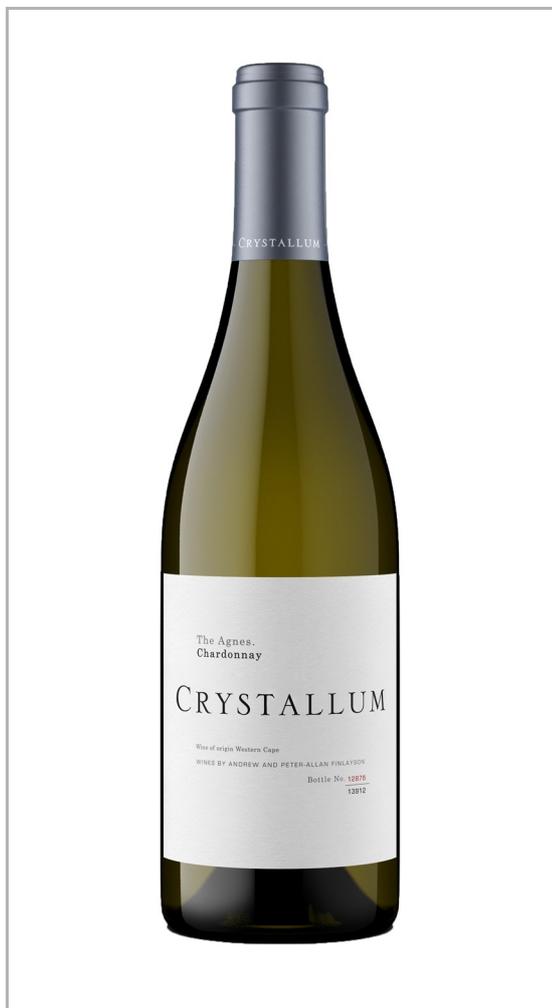


Crystallum, `The Agnes` Chardonnay 2020

Cape South Coast, South Africa



PRODUCER

This small winery was established in 2007 by brothers Peter-Allan and Andrew Finlayson. Their father, Peter, was a pioneer in the production of cool climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at Bouchard Finlayson, so after university it seemed the natural thing for the boys to return home and source some fruit from the Hemel-en-Aarde valley to start their own label. Crystallum is now one of the most highly regarded wineries in South Africa, yet the Finlaysons are determined to make even better wines. Peter-Allan has sourced fruit from some new vineyards, while winemaking has evolved. All of the wines are now fermented using indigenous yeasts and new oak has been reduced to help the bright fruit shine through.

VINEYARDS

'The Agnes' Chardonnay is produced from five different vineyards in the Hemel-en-Aarde and Overberg regions. The soils of these vineyards range from heavy clay to shale, sandstone and quartz. The final blend retains the characteristics of these individual sites, combining them to produce a wine which is both unique and greater than the sum of its parts.

VINTAGE

Healthy winter rainfall began to replenish water reserves in the soil and sustained the vines through the growing season. Cooler conditions in the lead up to harvest were beneficial. The grapes underwent a perfectly paced slow and steady ripening and were harvested with concentrated flavours balanced by fresh natural acidity. However, 2020 was still affected by the preceding drought years. This meant the vines were only just starting to recover fully and resulted in low yields. Despite this, Peter-Allan was "very happy with the quality and elegance" of the 2020 vintage.

VINIFICATION

'The Agnes' was produced using the traditional method of transferring the whole grape clusters straight into the press and running the juice off into a settling tank. The juice was then racked off the next day into 228 and 500 litre French oak barrels, 10% of which were new. Fermentation occurred naturally in barrel, where the wine then remained for nine months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The 2020 vintage is both a fuller bodied and more exotic vintage than its predecessor. Lifted aromas of white peach, papaya, jasmine and lemongrass entice on the nose. Its rich texture and mouthfeel is cut by a stony, saline spine that refreshes the palate. Notes of butterscotch and lemon curd are complemented by the wine's bright acidity and long finish.

Grape Varieties	100% Chardonnay
Winemaker	Peter-Allan Finlayson
Closure	Agglomerated Cork
ABV	13.5%
Residual Sugar	1.9g/L
Acidity	5.7g/L
Wine pH	3.32
Bottle Sizes	75cl