

The Fledge & Company

Vagabond 2016

Cape White Blend

39% Chardonnay, 24% Viognier,

18.5% Grenache Blanc,

11.5% Steen & 7% Verdelho



Philosophy – *Prudentia Sine Vino* – an independently minded wine. A multi-varietal, multiregional, “old skool” barrel fermented & matured Cape white, bottle unfiltered & unfiltered. An endeavour to showcase the diversity of the Cape.

Vineyard – Combination of low yielding prime vineyard sites scattered across the length & breadth of the Cape combining a myriad of ancient soils, aspects & climes. All fruit was hand harvested at dawn. Quite possibly the most tempestuous vintage in the Cape – super low winter rainfall, early spring, hot summer, heat waves & erratic weather – resulted in small clusters of fruit, great concentration & very lithe wines.

Vinification – The Chardonnay – both cool climate *climats* one on Table Mountain sandstones, the other on sandstone shale soils; Viognier – a small block wedged in sandstone shales; & Verdelho – a five year old block harvested second week January - were

crushed, allowed a period of skin contact, pressed directly into old French oak barrels of varying size, inoculated with neutral yeasts strains & cold fermented. Old bush vine Swartland Steen from granitic soils was naturally fermented in large old French barrels & matured in puncheon. The Grenache blanc was allowed extended skin contact, crushed, settled & racked into 400L barrels inoculated with neutral yeasts. Each component was matured separately for about 9 months prior to a barrel selection, final blending and bottled unfiltered & unfiltered. Only yeast & small amounts of sulphur are added during the process.

Wine – Svelte, zesty, shy yet complex with layers of flavour & heady aromatics emerging with time in the glass – making for an ideal foil to mild Cantonese & Cape Malay cuisine, soft *fromage* & *charcuterie* or simply sip on its own. Serve lightly chilled & best decanted in youth. Cellar in confidence to enjoy the complexities of this fine blend.

Anorak Facts

Vintage 2016 yielding 5940 bottles

Alc. 12.64 %

pH 3.24

TA 5.8 g/l

RS 2.2 g/l

W.O. Western Cape (Elgin, Stellenbosch, Tradouw, Swartland & Klein Karoo)

Track record: 2015 - 93 pts Tim Atkin MW / 90 pt Christian Eedes winemag.co.za

Drink now – 2026++ | **Cellar Horizontally** | **Best Decanted** | **Serve Lightly Chilled**

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