

discover diversity in a glass

CHENIN BLANC

HISTORY OF CHENIN BLANC IN SOUTH AFRICA



The first reference to Chenin Blanc under the name of "plant d'Anjou", was written by Charles le Chauve.



Chenin Blanc is believed to be amongst the first vine cuttings that arrived in South Africa in 1655 during the time of Governor Jan van Riebeeck



Under the watchful eye of Jan van Riebeeck, on 2 February 1659 the first grapes from three young vines were pressed.



The oldest Chenin Blanc vineyard block in South Africa was planted in 1942.



On 2 February 2024, we celebrated the 365th birthday of the South African wine industry and Chenin Blanc's role in it.

SOUTH AFRICAN CHENIN BLANC FLAVOUR PROFILE



PEAR



YELLOW APPLE



PEACH



QUINCE



GUAVA



PASSIONFRUIT

SOUTH AFRICAN CHENIN BLANC: THE NUMBERS



16 192 ha

The area under vine in South Africa of Chenin Blanc (2023). It is the most planted grape in the country.



7-12 °C

Ranging in flavour profiles from unoaked Chenin Blanc best served at 7 °C, while oaked Chenin Blanc wines are better served at 12 °C.



10+ years

Chenin Blanc's acidity allows it the ability to age very well. Chenin Blanc wines are able to be aged for over a decade.



14.5 %

Many South African Chenin Blanc wines fall within the 12 to 14.5 % alcohol by volume bracket.



52 %

More than half of the old vines in South Africa are Chenin Blanc.

CHENIN BLANC IN THE WORLD

South Africa is the largest producer of Chenin Blanc, accounting for more than half the global production.

1520-1535

A white grape known as Plant d'Anjou was first planted between 1520-1535 at a site known as Mont Chenin in the Loire.

7 366 894

Number of individual Chenin Blanc old vines planted in South Africa comprising 2 475 ha.

Chenin Blanc is South Africa's 45,9 million litres worth

45,9mil litres

second largest export cultivar. In 2023 our wineries exported R1,2 billion.

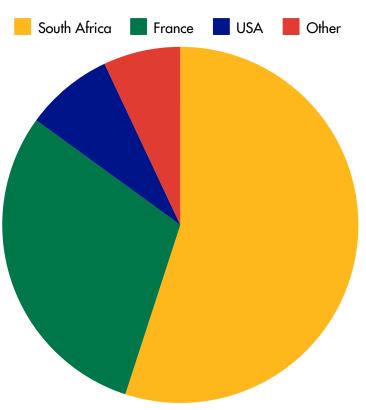
Steen

Initially identified as Steen in South Africa the varietal in question was later determind to be Chenin Blanc from the Loire. Steen was also misidentified as a Palomino mutation.

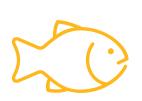
Versatile

Chenin Blanc is an extremely versatile varietal and is used in South Africa in the production of brandy, as well as blended and single varietal wines.

COUNTRIES WHERE CHENIN **BLANC IS GROWN**



RECOMMENDED CHENIN BLANC FOOD PAIRINGS



TROUT, HALIBUT & SMOKED SALMON



TURKEY &

CHICKEN

APPLE, QUINCE

& PEAR





SPICES & **SOFT COW MILK HERBS CHEESES**

Source: SAWIS & Chenin Blanc Association, 2024. For more info visit sawis.co.za & chenin.co.za.

GUINEA FOWL