



Monument

Sémillon 2020

Monument Sémillon is a single vineyard wine from a remarkable old vineyard in Franschhoek. This wine represents a bygone agricultural era in the Cape. It showcases great old Cape DNA in a way that few other wines can.

Vineyards

These grand old vines are farmed by father and son, Anton and Koos Roux on their family farm, La Colline. They are direct descendants of the Huguenot refugee Paul Roux who arrived in the Cape in 1688. Anton's grandfather planted the vineyard in 1936 on an elevated South facing slope overlooking the valley below. The parcel is situated between 310 m and 350 m above sea-level. The soil is mostly granitic with plenty of quartz.

There are a few different shades of Sémillon growing together here: from emerald green to amber, rose and mauve. These genetic oddities are typical of the Cape's older Sémillon vineyards, and seem to be extinct in the rest of the world. This affords us the chance to make something unique to the Cape.

Winemaking and Maturation

We pick all of these different shades of grapes together. The grapes are hand sorted and whole bunch pressed. The raw juice is settled overnight with no additions, then racked relatively clean compared to our Chenins. Wild fermentation takes place in old barrels, usually lasting around one month. The wine was kept on primary lees in barrels for 18 months prior to bottling without fining. Very simple, careful winemaking.

Tasting Notes

The grand old La Colline vineyard makes its comeback after sitting on the bench in 2019. We've had to change the name for legal reasons, another winery having registered the name La Colline for a completely unrelated wine many years ago. So be it. Besides, Monument is the perfect moniker. Perhaps it's the name we should have dreamt up years ago.

The wine has a deep golden colour. Expressive nose of blossoms and mandarin, wax and dried herbs. The palate is textured and complex. Intense, pointed finish. Again, the wine makes me think of walking through a humble door into a very large ornate room.

Technical Details

100% Sémillon

Wine of origin: Franschhoek

Production: 1389 Bottles

Bottling: June 2021

Alcohol: 13.14%

RS: 1.59 g/litre

TA: 5.5 g/litre

pH: 3.27

The Name: In many ways, this parcel is a living monument to a bygone agricultural era and to the history of the Cape wine. Of course, Franschhoek is also famous for the Huguenot Memorial Monument.