

MMAD

VINEYARD

BLEWITT SPRINGS

2021 CHENIN BLANC

JANCIS ROBINSON
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NOVEMBER 2023

Full screwcapped bottle 1,348 g. First planted 1939 on sandy, iron-rich clay soils with sufficient elevation in Blewitt Springs to benefit from breezes off the ocean to the west. Hand-picked fruit. Approx one-third was whole-bunch pressed and barrel-fermented in used French oak puncheons, and the remainder was crushed and fermented in open concrete tanks before transfer to puncheons. Probably picked early to mid February.

Pure varietal, lightly honey and apples expression with masses of acidity – all natural. Really very youthful! It'll be fascinating to see how this ages. Persistent and creamy-textured.

16.5+ POINTS

TONY LOVE
INDAILY

DECEMBER 2022

A really exciting inaugural release from the Shaw+Smith team out of their new Blewitt Springs vineyard, bringing a heap of flavour in a lemon to tangelo-like way; fruit and skin, with salivating, maritime backdrops. Turning many a learned head about a trending variety.

CHES COOKE,
FIVE WAY CELLARS 'ORACLE'

NOVEMBER 2022

60% of the fruit is taken from the 1964 plantings, and 40% from 1990 plantings. Whilst old-vine material is cherished and provides great intensity, winemaker Adam Wadewitz stresses the importance of the 1990 contribution, providing freshness and a counterpoint to the denser, older material.

The Chenin looks great. It's dry and starts off with youthful exuberance, showing white stone fruit and yellow apple. The second half of the palate is where the most interest is, though. The wine slowly, subtly builds texture, with fleshy fruit hanging off the succulent acid line. Orchard fruit, melon, pear skin etc. This texture is gained, I am told, from the use of some skins being included in the ferment, which took place in concrete vats (Adam likes the porosity of these compared to stainless steel) before going into old 500L puncheons. There is some wax and lanolin across the finish, and all signs point to the wine developing very nicely in bottle over the coming years

GOURMET TRAVELLER

The medley of citrus notes combined with sea spray minerality makes this wine your next go-to-pairing for chargrilled fish and octopus. the wines for this chenin blanc were planted by in 1964, resulting in huge amounts of complexity and drive (especially for a first release.)

AUSTRALIAN CHENIN BLANC
CHALLENGE 2022

OCTOBER 2022

BEST CHENIN BLANC OF AUSTRALIA TROPHY

BEST 2022-2021 CHENIN BLANC TROPHY

SHANTEH WALE
THE WINE PILOT

The highly anticipated MMAD wines have finally burst onto the market and its hard to imagine a more excitable audience than myself for this Chenin Blanc. It wafts out of the glass with Poire William pear, glaze mustard fruits and wet sandstone. A delicate lily of the valley perfume is carried through with a real push of persistent natural acidity. A hint of salinity keeps the drinker looking for more. I'm impressed by the fineness of this wine and cannot wait to see how it will develop over time, it's got all the framework for building.

96 POINTS

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NICK STOCK
THE WINE MAGAZINE

Plenty of lemon and apple fruit with tightly wound mineral-edged reduction that is well -curated. Driving acidity sits in a soft shell and there's a handy textural stamp on the finish. Chenin blanc works well in this region and this style is bang-on.

93 POINTS

SARAH AHMED
DECANTER

Fresh underripe citrus and green apple peel aromas. All grapefruit and tart granny smith apple in the mouth with an assertive backbone of lipsmacking acidity and gentle phenolics (two hours of skin contact). On day two, there's hints of baked quince, kumquat and honey to suggest this piercing, intense, distinctly dry Chenin will reward bottle ageing.

93 POINTS

JAMES SUCKLING
JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Real chenin with sliced peaches, light fur and earth. Flowers, too. Medium body, dry and bright. Lively at the finish.

92 POINTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

JAMES HALLIDAY
THE AUSTRALIAN WEEKEND

Hand-picked, half whole bunch-pressed to used French puncheons for fermentation, the balance crushed into concrete tulip-shaped vessels before maturation in used French puncheons. The blend of components give rise to textured, layered citrus peel flavours sewn together by a shaft of glistening acidity.

95 POINTS

AUGUST 2022

CAMPBELL MATTINSON,
THE WINE FRONT

MMAD is an exciting (based on the quality of the initial releases) new project by Michael Hill Smith MW, Martin Shaw, Adam Wadewitz and David LeMire MW (M,M,A,D). If you like the wines of Shaw + Smith and/or Tolpuddle then you're likely to dig these wines, because they exhibit that same kind of care and consideration, though of course we're talking a very different region here. The jewel that is the Blewitt Springs sub-region proved too strong a lure; they liked it so much they bought the company (or, in this case, the vineyard). There's old vine Chenin involved here, planted in 1964, with some more recent plantings involved too. A variety of techniques were employed in this wine's vinification but some skin contact was allowed, as was time in concrete vats, as was time in puncheons. Seriously good wine. Intense, textural, a bit of x-factor and a finish that goes on and on. Citrus juice and rind, river stones, a peppery note, a hint of the sea. Some honey or perhaps honeyed but notes in there too; whispers on that sea breeze. Refined and powerful at once. MMAD has hit the ground running.

94 POINTS

PAUL EDWARDS,
THE WEST WEEKEND

Expressive, youthful, floral, apple blossom and waxy aromas. The flavours are dry and saline, with chenin's fresh signature of acid. Like many great cheniens, it is linear and crisp, but fleshy and textured. The textured mouthfeel is varietal but no doubt built upon through elevage in old puncheons and on yeast lees. Flavours of citrus, quince, baked apple. Minerally, neat and precise.

93 POINTS

HUON HOOKE,
THE REAL REVIEW

Very light green-yellow colour; the aroma is fresh and bright, lemony and herbal, also gently nutty. There's a Cognac oak-like note after time in the glass. In the mouth it's light to medium weight and gently fruity, with a refreshing dry finish and balanced acidity. Seamless finish with a trace of pepperiness and a subtle wisp of tannin. Plain in youth and could build more character with time.

90 POINTS

MMAD

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ERIN LARKIN,
WINE ADVOCATE

JULY 2022

I hope the producers in the east don't take this the wrong way, but as a West Aussie, it is a heartening and thrilling thing to witness such beauty in Chenin Blanc here from McLaren Vale. The area is so suited, it surprises me there aren't more great ones made. The only other that comes to mind is Aphelion. Two-thirds of the grapes from the newly acquired vineyard in Blewitt Springs were crushed and fermented in concrete fermenters, the other third was whole-bunch pressed and fermented in old 500-liter puncheons. Took a long time for it to chart its course over the year. The 2021 Mmad Chenin Blanc matured on lees, left cold and untouched for a quite a long time. In the mouth, this has soapstone, green apple and cheesecloth. The acidity is briny and fine, with a lanolin character that is woven throughout the palate. It has fabulous texture in the mouth – this is wonderfully typically Australian, distinctly different from South Africa and Loire. It has brilliant intensity of flavour, purity, concentration, poise and shape. Very good. There are notes of white peach, pear, waxy grip. Awesome. It will be better in time, too.

94+ POINTS