



LE BONHEUR

Le Bonheur Wine Estate (PTY) LTD

8 June 2022

Le Bonheur Chardonnay scores 94 points at the 2022 Decanter Wine Awards

The Le Bonheur Estate Chardonnay 2021 was awarded a 94 point rating at the Decanter World Wine Awards, further endorsing the quality of the high altitude Chardonnay from this historic estate.

Le Bonheur winemaker William Wilkinson particularly values balance, finesse and natural Chardonnay. “We work with a balance of younger and old vineyards, which benefit from the cooling effect of afternoon shade from Klapmuts Hill. This results in a medium-bodied wine, with crisp acidity, zesty citrus notes and layers of white peaches, oyster shells and delicate oak spice,” explains Wilkinson.

The wine comprises a selection of batches that were harvested at different levels of phenolic ripeness. The components that were harvested earlier were fermented in stainless tanks and contribute bracing acidity, refreshing fruit and minerality. This crisp blending component is complemented by richer batches, from an older vineyard at a high altitude. This block stands out in terms of retaining freshness and acidity the wine is fermented in 500L blond toasted French oak barrels.

Dating back to the early 1700s Le Bonheur has a rich winemaking heritage. The estate was a trading post where travellers between Cape Town, Paarl, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch replenished their stock and relaxed at the natural springs close to the Le Bonheur Manor House. This happy heritage is also the origin of Le Bonheur’s name, which means “Happiness” in French.

Refer to the video below for more information about William’s happiness and how he draws inspiration from bodyboarding in his winemaking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQbMR-8QEIU>



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Le Bonheur winemaker, William Wilkinson, at the Estate's maturation cellar.



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Altitude plays an important role in Le Bonheur's terroir. With vineyards planted up to 450m above sea level, Le Bonheur has some of the highest sites in Stellenbosch.

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