



TANNERS

WINE MERCHANTS



South African Chenin Blanc grapes

Taste the Grape: Chenin Blanc

Half Dozen

INTRODUCTION

Versatile, expressive and wonderfully complex, Chenin Blanc is one of the most adaptable white grape varieties. Whilst it thrives in the Loire Valley, it's also well-established in South Africa, where it has become the country's flagship white grape.

A high-acid variety that thrives in a range of climates, Chenin Blanc is unique in its ability to produce every style of wine imaginable, from dry and crisp to lusciously sweet, as well as moreish sparkling.

CHENIN BLANC AROUND THE WORLD

In its homeland of the Loire Valley (Vouvray, Savennières and Saumur), Chenin Blanc produces elegant wines across dry, sparkling and sweet styles. In cooler years or specific terroirs, it leans toward sharp acidity, minerality and crisp, citrus notes. It is susceptible to Noble Rot, but that's no bad thing! Noble Rot transforms the grapes into some of the world's most complex sweet dessert wines.

South Africa has truly embraced Chenin Blanc, where its high acidity thrives in the warmer climate. This New World style of Chenin often features rich, concentrated tropical fruit, like pineapple and mango and sometimes hints of vanilla if aged in oak.

TYPICAL FLAVOURS

Green Apple • Peach • Honey • Ginger

FOOD PAIRING

Goat's Cheese • Roast Pork with Apple Sauce • Apple Tart • Massaman Chicken Curry

A MATURE GEM

While most white wines are best enjoyed young, top-tier sweet and dry Chenin Blancs can easily cellar and mature for many years. There's a classic rule of thumb when matching food and wine: pair sweet with sweet. It's exactly what makes a luscious, sweet Chenin such a superb partner for desserts and sweet treats.

THE WINES

1. La Grande Marque Saumur Brut, France

Bin No: FI0806B

A lovely, pale golden colour, this is a fresh and lively Saumur with elegant fruit and a good hint of maturity from a minimum of 16 months ageing on lees. It is light, well-balanced and very drinkable.

2. Doran Vineyards Chenin Blanc Reserve, Voor Paardeberg, South Africa

Bin No: KW0057B

Barrel-fermented and aged for 12 months in Serbian oak, this is clean, crisp and fresh but with more body and character than is usually associated with this grape. Plenty of ripe apple and citrus fruit, with a note of honey and a lovely richness, as well as a delicate floral character.

3. Le P'tit Chenin, Anjou Blanc, Château de la Roulerie, France

Bin No: LW0032B

An attractive nose of white flowers leads to a palate that is juicy and fruity, with excellent length and delicious apple flavours. A very appealing wine from Philippe and Marie Germain.

4. Vouvray, Clos le Vigneau, Château Gaudrelle, France

Bin No: LW0020B

This full-bodied, just off-dry Chenin Blanc is produced biodynamically with minimal use of sulphur. Eric Pasquier and his son Emile have taken this wine up a notch since taking over in 2020.

5. Bogle Vineyards Chenin Blanc, Clarksburg, California, USA

Bin No: UW0001B

A delightful, floral nose of blossom leads on to a classic Chenin palate of honey, green apples and hints of pineapple. The finish is soft and silky. Patty Bogle heads up this family company, whose first vines were planted in 1968.

6. Savennières, Le Clos du Papillon, Domaine des Forges, France

Bin No: LW0023B

Intense, herbal nose with some toasty elements, then a mouth-filling, concentrated and savoury palate with great weight and minerality. This is bone dry and a serious incarnation of the Chenin Blanc variety.

SYMBOLS:  vegetarian  vegan  organic  biodynamic

Ordering from Tanners

For up-to-date pricing and additional wine information, please visit our website and type the Bin No. of the wine you're interested in, into the search box.

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