

Atkin's pick: best South African old-vine Chenin



Alheit Vineyards, Magnetic North Mountain Makstok, Citrusdal Mountain 2016 97
£64 **St Andrews Wine Co, WoodWinters**

This remarkable Chenin comes from blocks 10 and 13 of Basi van Lill's West Coast farm. Aged in older wood, it has bracing acidity and minerality, with aromas of hay and spring blossom segueing into a chiselled, appley, stony palate with leesy complexity and an undertone of vanilla spice. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alcohol** 14%



Sadie Family, Mev Kirsten, Stellenbosch 2015 97
£99.99 **AG Wines**

This suburban vineyard may not be as remote as some of Eben Sadie's plots, but it still produces a very special wine. Made without skin contact since 2012 – and fresher as a result – it's tangy, saline and piercingly fresh. A pure, almost transparent expression of a special site. **Drink** 2018-2028 **Alc** 13.5%

Sadie Family, Old Vine Series Skurfberg, Olifantsriver 2016 97
£36-£39.90 **The Sampler, Vin Cognito**

Made with fruit from three farms on the slopes of the Skurfberg, this is one of only two pure Chenins in Eben Sadie's Old Vine Series. Naturally fermented in old wood, it has white flower aromas, notes of pastry and citrus, with a mineral-edged intensity that builds on the palate. **Drink** 2018-2025 **Alc** 14.5%



Botanica, Mary Delany Collection, Citrusdal Mountain 2014 96
£17 **H2Vin, The Wine Society**

The addition of a second vineyard source beyond its Henk Laing base boosted quantities to all of 5,000 bottles in 2014, with no change in the quality of Ginny Povall's wine. Focused, long and chiselled, with notes of brine

and oyster shell, subtle oak and wave after wave of flavour on the palate.

Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 14%



Kaapzicht, The 1947, Stellenbosch 2016 96
£37.95-£41 **Dunell's, Great Grog, Seckford**

Right up there with the very best Cape Chenins of the 2016 vintage. Danie Steytler's touch is very gentle here, marshalling a magical combination of old-vine concentration, minerality, lees and subtle oak. It's racy and focused, with flavours of tangerine, pear tart, pineapple and sweet spices.

Drink 2018-2028 **Alc** 13.5%



Reyneke, Natural, Stellenbosch 2016 96
£60 **Handford, Hermitage Cellars**

Unfined and unfiltered, this is a brilliant first release from this outstanding biodynamic domaine. Rich and deeply coloured, with dense, honeyed flavours, a leesy, savoury palate, notes of wet stone and tarte tatin, plenty of structure and a lingering, haunting finish. **Drink** 2018-2021 **Alc** 12.3%

Alheit Vineyards, Radio Lazarus, Stellenbosch 2015 95

£57 **St Andrews Wine Co, WoodWinters**
Radio Lazarus is sourced from two Stellenbosch vineyards – one at 400m, the other at 450m – and is a varietal Chenin of remarkable focus and concentration. Fermented in old wood and amphora, it's saline, pithy and stony, with ripe, leesy, hay and honey notes that are underpinned by minerality.

Drink 2018-2030 **Alc** 13.5%

DeMorgenzon, Reserve, Stellenbosch 2016 95

£23.95 **Lea & Sandeman**
Produced from a wonderful array of slopes and aspects, this is an effortlessly complex wine: exotic yet refreshing, viscous yet bone dry, rich yet restrained,

showing citrus, honey and stone fruit flavours and an enticing minerality.

Drink 2018-2024 **Alc** 14.1%



Ken Forrester, The FMC, Stellenbosch 2015 95
£25.69-£33.99 (2016)

Widely available via UK agent Enotria&Coe; AC Gallie, Love Wine
This just off-dry Chenin from the irrepressible Ken Forrester has really delivered the goods in this fantastic vintage, showing rich, spicy nutmeg and vanilla notes, a little

honey, some toast, refreshing acidity and balletic poise. An icon wine on great form. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 13%



Metzger, Maritime, Stellenbosch 2017 94
N/A UK www.metzgerwines.com

One of Wade Metzger's two site-specific Chenins, this unfined, unfiltered, ocean-influenced white comes from the Firgrove sub-region of Stellenbosch. Fresh and suitably saline, with subtle wood and a herbal, beeswaxy palate. **Drink** 2018-2025 **Alc** 13%



David & Nadia, Swartland 2016 93
£25.60-£27 **Justerini & Brooks, Vin Cognito**

Even the 'basic' Chenin Blanc from the Sadies comes from 35- to 49-year-old vineyards, sourced from six plots on granite, shale, iron and clay. Light, refreshing and bone dry, an impressive unirrigated Chenin with pear tart and citrus flavours. **Drink** 2018-2022 **Alc** 12.5%

Raats, Old Vine, Stellenbosch 2017 93
£15-£15.40 **The Drink Shop, The Fine Wine Co**
Impressive value from this Chenin Blanc-focused winery, combining oaked and unoaked portions. Beeswax and spices are complemented by notes of aniseed, citrus and an undertone of nectarine sweetness. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13% **D**