

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whalehaven Seascape Reserve Chardonnay 2023 awarded “Master” — the highest accolade at The Global Chardonnay Masters 2025

Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa, 28 October 2025

Whalehaven Wines is proud to announce that its Seascape Reserve Chardonnay 2023 has been awarded the Master medal — the highest distinction possible — at the Global Chardonnay Masters 2025, part of The Global Wine Masters series organised by The Drinks Business (UK).

The “Master” honour is reserved for wines that demonstrate exceptional quality and varietal expression, typically scoring 97 points or higher from judging panels of Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers and senior buyers.

This recognition places the Seascape Reserve Chardonnay 2023 firmly among the world’s elite wines and marks a significant milestone for Whalehaven as it strengthens its footprint in premium export markets. The award builds on Whalehaven’s history of excellence, having earned multiple top international accolades for previous vintages across global competitions, reaffirming Whalehaven’s consistent position among South Africa’s top cool-climate Chardonnay producers.

Award Significance

The Global Wine Masters series is globally respected for its rigorous, varietal-specific blind tastings and its independence from geographic or price bias.

“We work with only the highest calibre of judges, with panels comprised solely of Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers and senior buyers” notes the competition’s organisers - ensuring that only wines of genuine distinction achieve the Master title.

This accomplishment underscores Whalehaven’s pursuit of precision viticulture, purity of site expression, and international benchmark quality in cool-climate Chardonnay.



Tasting Profile

A refined, maritime-influenced Chardonnay with aromas of acacia blossom, citrus zest and subtle vanilla spice, leading to a vibrant palate of green apple, pear and roasted cashew. The cool coastal origin imparts distinctive saline minerality and linear acidity, balanced by creamy lees texture and fine oak integration.

Structured yet elegant, this wine showcases the precision, freshness and depth that define Hemel-en-Aarde Chardonnay.

Winemaking & Viticulture

- **Vineyard Origin:** Sourced from the Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, rooted in decomposed granite and sandstone soils, providing natural balance and minerality.
- **Harvest:** Hand-picked in early March 2023 at optimal ripeness for acidity and flavour concentration
- **Pressing:** Whole-bunch pressed with fewer solids and lower phenolic extraction.
- **Fermentation:** 100% barrel fermentation in French oak barrels (35% new)
- **Maturation:** 10 months
- **Fining/Filtration:** Gentle clarification and light filtration prior to bottling.
- **Closure:** Natural cork.

Producer's Comment

"This Chardonnay encapsulates the spirit of the Cape's southern coastline — refined, mineral and vibrant. Receiving the Master accolade in London affirms that South African Chardonnay now stands shoulder to shoulder with the world's best. It shows the exceptional skill of Richard Kershaw, Dudley Wilson, and of the whole Whalehaven team." says Silvana Bottega, Proprietor of Whalehaven Wines.

Availability & Allocation

The 2023 Seascapes Reserve Chardonnay is fully allocated before release, with all stock reserved for international markets and prestige clients.