



Chardonnay Clone Demo At Creation Wines

First year of monitoring our Chardonnay clone demonstration at Creation Wines

In 2022, fourteen Chardonnay clones grafted onto Richter 110 were established at Creation Wines in the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge to evaluate their performance under cool-climate conditions. Each clone is represented by approximately 50 vines, allowing for meaningful comparisons of growth, yield and fruit composition.

The 2026 season marks the first year of structured monitoring, with replicate panels of each clone measured individually. Detailed measurements include bunch weight, berry weight and berry volume, as well as estimated yield expressed as kilograms per vine and tonnes per hectare. Standard juice analyses are also conducted to assess key ripening parameters and provide insight into fruit composition across the different clones. A second Chardonnay clone demonstration block at Bon Vallon in Robertson provides a valuable point of comparison between two regions where Chardonnay plays a central role. Evaluating the same clonal material across contrasting environments helps generate meaningful insights into clone–site and seasonal interactions.



Image 1: Block established in September 2022.

Chardonnay clones established in the demo block

- CY 95 ● CY 96 ● CY 12 ● CY 5 ● CY 548 ● CY 20 ● CY 268 ● CY 270
- CY 3 ● CY 55 ● CY 76 ● CY 77 ● CY 9 ● CY 277

Chardonnay clones were established using certified plant material supplied by Vititec.

Together, these demonstrations add value for the industry by improving understanding of how different Chardonnay clones perform in two important production regions, supporting more informed clonal selection and future planting decisions



Image 2: The ADVICO team in action during harvest at Creation Wines, on 3 February 2026.

Location

Region	Cape South Coast
District	Walker Bay
Ward	Hemel-En-Aarde Ridge

Site Characteristics

Soil	Medium to deep weathered soils on sandstone, shale and granite
Terrain	Foothills
Elevation	274 m
Distance from sea	10 km

Vineyard Details

Planting year	2022
Clones	14 Chardonnay Clones (Vititec)
Aspect	North-West
Row width	2.50m
Vine spacing	1.20 m
Irrigation	Drip
Trellis	Single Guyot

CHARDONNAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

6 574 ha Total Chardonnay plantings (2025)
+0.2 % vs 2024

Ranked **#7** cultivar nationally

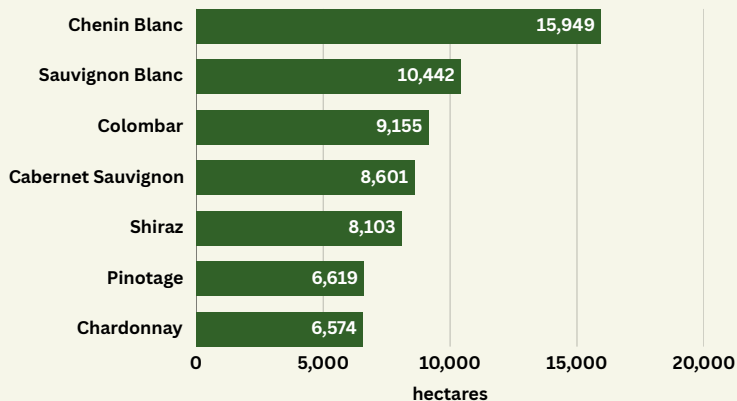


Figure 1: Leading wine grape cultivars by vineyard area (ha). Source: SAWIS (2025) – Status of wine-grape vines as on 31 December 2025.

Table 1: Note. Adapted from Yay for Chardonnay by Vititec, 2021, Wynboer. © 2021 Vititec.

Clones	Production	Wine
Classic Clones		
8, 76	Average	Aromatic, balanced, and typical good base wine
3, 5, 95	Average	Fine, full-bodied wines, balanced, typical, good base wine
Alternative Clones		
96	Above Average	Crisp wines, suitable for still and sparkling wines
277	Average to Above	Balanced, mineral aromas, suitable for still/sparkling wines
Qualitative Clones		
9, 548	Low	Distinctive, balanced and complex wine
1067	Low	Concentrated and complex wines
1066	Very low	Refined, distinctive, aromatic and well-balanced wines
Sparkling Wine Clones		
55, 78, 121, 131	High	Suitable for sparkling wines

New plantings across (hectares)

● Chenin Blanc	412
● Colombar	326
● Sauvignon Blanc	293
● Chardonnay	152
● Pinotage	136



Source: SAWIS (2025) – Status of wine-grape vines as on 31 December 2025.

[Click here for A Decade of Chardonnay Growth on the Cape South Coast](#)

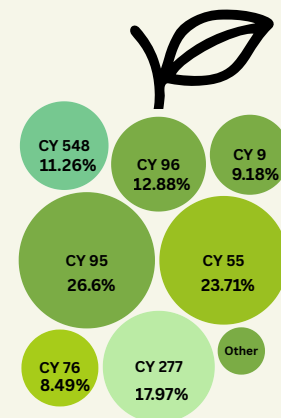


Figure 2: Chardonnay clonal selections grafted by Vititec in 2024 for 2025 plantings.

CAPE SOUTH COAST



2 629 ha
Total vineyard area (2025)

8th largest
 wine region in South Africa

Source: SAWIS (2025) – Status of wine-grape vines as of 31 December 2025.

Image 3: Heinrich Schloms – GIS Soil Scientist, Vinpro, GIS map illustrating the Cape South Coast wine region.

For more information about ADVICO visit at www.advico.co.za