

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This wine is named after a former owner of Rustenberg, John Xavier Merriman, who bought the farm in 1892 in sympathy with farmers suffering from the phylloxera crisis. He played a great role in revitalizing Rustenberg and in promoting the tourism and agricultural value of Ida's Valley, the area close to the town of Stellenbosch in which Rustenberg is situated. The John X Merriman is Rustenberg's Estate wine, a blend of Bordeaux varietals that illustrate the ageability and true expression of Rustenberg's finest vineyards.

### VINTAGE

After a wet, cold Winter there was plenty of water available when required in the mild Summer months to ensure that the vineyards matured naturally, without undue stress. During the harvest, perfect phenolic ripeness was achieved at low sugar levels with soft, ripe tannins in the reds and plenty of flavour and acidity in the whites after longer than usual hang times in a cool growing season.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec
<b>Soil Types</b>	Decomposed Granite
<b>Trellising/Pruning System</b>	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
<b>Irrigation Type</b>	Minimal Drip Irrigation
<b>Picking Method &amp; Date</b>	Hand Picked, February-March 2012

### WINEMAKING

<b>Extraction Method</b>	Crushed and Destemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
<b>Fermentation Vessel</b>	Stainless Steel Tanks
<b>Yeast</b>	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
<b>Extended Maceration</b>	For +- 7 days
<b>Oak Aging</b>	100% aged for 20 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	35% New French Barriques; 65% 2nd & 3rd fill
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14.05% (14% on label) TA 5.6g/L pH 3.76 RS 3.3g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	December 2013

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	A powerful wine that rewards aging. In its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, black currant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine grained tannins soften a softer more savoury palate develops revealing wonderful drinkability and tertiary complexity.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions



### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Top 100 SA Wine	Top 100 South African Wine Awards	2015
Platinum Award	South African Wine Index Awards	2015
Silver Medal	International Wine and Spirit Competition	2015
Silver Medal	Michelangelo International Wine Awards	2014
92 Points	Tim Atkins MW Report	2015
91 Points	Decanter Magazine	2015
90 Points	Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar	2015
90 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2015
Five Stars	Diners Club Platter's Wine Guide	2017