

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2011

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. We recommend decanting this wine before serving.

VINTAGE

Despite a dry Winter, there was plenty of water when required in the hot Summer months to get the vineyards to mature naturally without excessive irrigation. Good vineyard canopies allowed optimum light penetration for uniform ripening and development of good colour and flavour. At harvest, the berries came in at lovely low sugars due to cool conditions and were packed with flavour.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	55% Cabernet Sauvignon; 37% Merlot; 4% Petit Verdot; 2% Malbec; 2% Cabernet Franc
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, February-March 2011

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed and Destemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
Extended Maceration	For +- 7 days
Oak Aging	20 Months
Age and Type of Oak	41% New 225L French Oak Barrels; 59% 2nd & 3rd fills
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.33% (14% on label) TA 5.6g/L pH 3.6 RS 2.9g/L
Bottling Date	December 2012

WINE

Tasting Note	Plum and cigar-box aromatics prelude a multi-layered palate of savoury dark fruits with an elegant tannin structure. This Bordeaux blend typifies Rustenberg terroir and has good ageing potential, if cellared correctly.
Ageing Potential	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions



ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Silver Medal	Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show	2013
Silver Medal	Veritas Wine Awards	2013
Silver Medal	Decanter World Wine Awards	2014
Top 100 SA Wine	Top 100 South African Wine Awards	2013 / 2014
93 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2013
92 Points	Wine Spectator	2014