

RUSTENBERG WINES

FIVE SOLDIERS 1997

INTRODUCTION

The Five Soldiers vineyard is named after five tall stone pine trees called the "Five Soldiers" that tower over this site. Carefully selected Chardonnay bunches from this area are hand harvested for this special wine and then given royal treatment in the cellar. The final product is a very complex full-bodied wine, approachable in its youth however careful cellaring will exhibit the depth of the wine's complexity and will reward patience.

VINTAGE

Having had a cold, wet Winter, the Spring of 1996 continued in this vein resulting in troubled flowering and berry set and late development and ripening of the fruit. The vintage was one of the latest and longest on record. Patience was key during the harvest and we harvested well into April to get the best quality, flavour and tannin ripeness. White wines from this vintage tend to be lighter and easier drinking in style with superb acid structures, while the reds are medium in body with supple tannins.

VINEYARDS:

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	100% Chardonnay
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite, Hutton and Tukulu
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, February 1997

WINEMAKING:

Extraction Method	Whole Bunch Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	225 Litre Oak Barrels
Yeast	Wild (Uninoculated)
Lees Aging	Aged On Lees For Duration Of Oak Aging
Oak Aging	100% aged for 15 months
Malolactic Fermentation	Yes, 100%
Age and Type of Oak	100% New Burgundian Barrels
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14% TA 5.4g/l pH 3.37 RS 2.3g/l
Bottling Date	September 1998

WINE:

Tasting Note	A complex array of characters that only shows with time in the glass. Tremendous concentration on the palate, with flavours of almond, peach and spice. Balanced with great persistence on the palate.
Aging Potential	10+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES:

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
4 Stars	John Platter's Wine Guide	1999

