RUSTENBERG WINES

FIVE SOLDIERS 1999

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

Following a warm, dry Winter we had a perfect Spring with very little wind and enough rain and heat to see an excellent berry set and large crop of small berries on the vines. The harvest season was warm and near perfect which resulted in a stellar vintage giving rise to full bodied, expressive, powerful wines across all grape varieties. Vintage of the decade? We think so.

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 1999

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:** 13.75% **TA** 5.6g/L **pH** 3.41 **RS** 8.2g/L
Bottling Date	June 2000

WINE

Tasting Note	Characters of ripe citrus, melon and peach with great minerality, rounded out by well-judged oaking. A very complex wine with a long and creamy finish and a good acid backbone.
Aging Potential	10+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
90 Points	Wine Spectator	September 2001
86 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2001
4 Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2001