

RUSTENBERG WINES

FIVE SOLDIERS 2001

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

The Winter of 2000 was dry and fairly warm and this led into a warm Spring before conditions cooled off in Summer to allow for a long moderate to warm ripening season in 2001. The warm Winter resulted in our vineyards not fully going into dormancy and as a result the crop levels of the vintage were very low. However, the good ripening season meant that the smaller harvest was exceptional from a quality perspective. Small berries resulted in the production of very flavourful, rich wines built to age and packed with concentrated fruit.

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 2001

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 14 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 6.1g/L pH 3.15 RS 5.6g/L
Bottling Date	November 2002

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
4 Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2004
4 Stars	SA Wine Magazine	February 2004

