

RUSTENBERG WINES

FIVE SOLDIERS 2003

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 2003 vintage was one of the standout vintages of the decade from both a quantity and quality point of view. Following a normal Winter and cool Spring with little rainfall, the vintage was generally temperate and dry with late rains and cooler conditions at the end of vintage, relieving the water starved vines. Small berries, great natural acidity and fruit concentration on top of a large crop make the 2003 wines exceptional.

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 2003

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 16 Months
Malolactic Fermentation	Yes, 100%
Age and Type of Oak	100% New Burgundian Barrels
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.5% TA 5.9g/L pH 3.16 RS 1.7g/L
Bottling Date	September 2004

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
91 Points	Wine Spectator Online Edition	2005
Silver Medal	London International Wine Challenge	2006
Silver Medal	Decanter World Wine Awards	2006
4 Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2007

