

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2003

### 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

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

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	52% Cabernet Sauvignon; 42% Merlot; 5% Cabernet Franc; 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Soil Types</b>	Decomposed Granite
<b>Trellising/Pruning System</b>	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
<b>Irrigation Type</b>	Minimal Drip Irrigation
<b>Picking Method &amp; Date</b>	Hand Picked, March –April 2003

### WINEMAKING

<b>Extraction Method</b>	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
<b>Fermentation Vessel</b>	Stainless Steel Tanks
<b>Yeast</b>	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
<b>Extended Maceration</b>	Up to 2 weeks
<b>Oak Aging</b>	20 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	50% new; 50% 2nd & 3rd fill 225L French Oak Barrels
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14.91% (15% on label) TA 6.3g/L pH 3.55 RS 2.5g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	January 2005

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	Well rounded wine which will increase in complexity and character with bottle age as is customary of Rustenberg's red wines. Aromas of spice and red fruit balanced by fine, elegant tannins – a combination which is indicative of well managed vineyards and mature fruit. Should be decanted before serving.
<b>Ageing Potential</b>	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Champion Bordeaux Blend	SA's Calyon Bordeaux Blend Challenge	2006
Top 100 SA Wine	Top 100 South African Wine Awards	2013
5 Stars	UK Decanter Magazine	June 2006
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2006

