

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2005

### 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 varieties that illustrate the ageability and true expression of Rustenberg's finest vineyards. We recommend decanting this wine before serving.

### VINTAGE

Following a dry Winter in 2004 the entire growing season of 2005 was warm and dry. The result was a very early harvest and rigorous bunch selection due to poor berry set and uneven ripeness. The wines produced from this harvest tend to be big and bold in style and are packed with fruit. The whites tend to be best consumed young, while the reds are very concentrated and will reward aging, with plenty of ripe fruit to appreciate as the wines age.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	54% Cabernet Sauvignon; 33% Merlot; 6% Petit Verdot; 4% Cabernet Franc; 3% Malbec
<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, February – March 2005

### 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>	For +- 7 days
<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: 14.47% (14.5% on label) TA 5.7g/L pH 3.58 RS 2.1g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	January 2007

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	A classic vintage. The Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were very typical of Rustenberg and will be long aging if cellared correctly. As usual, the aromatics are complex and typical of Rustenberg terroir the wine will age beautifully and will continue to improve in the bottle.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Silver Medal	Decanter World Wine Awards	2008
Silver Medal	International Wine Challenge	2008
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2008 and 2009
Best Bordeaux Blend out of 40 submissions	SA's Wine of the Month Club	November 2007

