

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2010

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

A cold, wet Winter in 2009 allowed for the lovely, even budding of the vineyards during Spring, and the warm, sunny days that followed in Summer resulted in great flavour and colour development in the berries. Full fruit flavours and soft tannins, together with good aromatics and ideal acidity, made 2010 an excellent vintage.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	48% Cabernet Sauvignon; 45% Merlot; 4% Petit Verdot; 2% Malbec; 1% Cabernet Franc
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, February - March 2010

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed and Destemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
Extended Maceration	For +/- 7 days
Oak Aging	20 Months
Age and Type of Oak	46% new; 54% 2nd & 3rd fill 225L French Oak Barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.86% (14.5% on label) TA 6.5g/L pH 3.67 RS 1.8g/L
Bottling Date	December 2011

WINE

Tasting Note	Plum and cigar-box aromatics prelude a multi-layered palate with an elegant tannin structure. This Bordeaux blend typifies Rustenberg terroir and has good ageing potential, if cellared correctly.
Ageing Potential	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions



ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Gold Medal	Veritas Wine Awards	2012
Silver Medal	International Wine Challenge	2013
Silver Outstanding Medal	International Wine and Spirits Challenge	2013
Top 100 SA Wine	Top 100 South African Wine Awards	2013
92 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2013
90 Points	Wine Spectator	2013