

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2014

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.

VINTAGE

The vineyards emerged from a deep, long dormancy after the wet and cold Winter of 2013 into ideal spring conditions resulting in high cropping levels across all varieties. The summer of 2014 was cool with no major heatwaves and intermittent rain resulting in the production of lower alcohol white wines that enjoyed a longer than usual ripening period, while the reds from this vintage display restraint and finesse.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec
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 2014

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	100% aged for 20 Months
Age and Type of Oak	35% New French Barriques; 65% 2nd & 3rd fill
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.5% TA 5.7g/L pH 3.57 RS 3.6g/L
Bottling Date	December 2015

WINE

Tasting Note	A powerful wine that rewards aging. In its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, black currant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine grained tannins soften a softer more savoury palate develops revealing wonderful drinkability and tertiary complexity.
Aging Potential	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Double Platinum / Top 100	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2017
Wine Consistency Award	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2017
Silver Medal	International Wine Challenge	2017
91 Points	Cape Bordeaux Red Blend Report	2017
90 Points	Robert Parker, Jr – Wine Advocate	April 2017

