

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2016

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 before serving.

VINTAGE

Following a warm start to the year, the Winter of 2015 was dry but cold enough to allow our vineyards to properly rest. A very warm, dry Spring and Summer resulted in an early bud-burst and record high temperatures in December and January brought forward the need to irrigate. As in 2015, the vintage started very early. In the middle of January Rustenberg was engulfed in fire as the entire Simonsberg mountain burnt, sadly destroying 5 hectares of the estate's vineyards. Generally very low yields of concentrated fruit make the wines of the 2016 vintage upfront and opulent.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot 5% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot, 2% 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 2016

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 3.49 RS 2.7g/L
Bottling Date	December 2017

WINE

Tasting Note	A powerful wine that rewards aging. In its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, blackcurrant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and sour cherry notes. As the wine ages, its fine grained tannins soften and a 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
93 Points	Tim Atkin SA Report	2019
92 Points	Decanter Magazine	February 2019
90 Points	Winemag Cape Bordeaux Red Blend Report	2019
Silver Medal	International Wine Challenge	2019
Silver Medal	Decanter World Wine Awards	2019
Silver Medal	International Wine & Spirit Competition	2018
Silver Medal	Veritas Awards	2018

