

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## STELLENBOSCH MERLOT 2014

### INTRODUCTION

Merlot has been a mainstay red grape variety on Rustenberg since the late 1970's where its lead role has been to complement Cabernet Sauvignon in blends. Rustenberg's Merlots tend to be bigger and bolder in body and are structured to have excellent aging potential, pairing well with red meat based dishes and rewarding decanting before being served.

### 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

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Soil Types</b>	Decomposed Granite, Hutton and Tukulu
<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 2014

### WINEMAKING

<b>Extraction Method</b>	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
<b>Fermentation Vessel</b>	Stainless Steel
<b>Yeast</b>	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
<b>Extended Maceration</b>	7 days
<b>Oak Aging</b>	16 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	20% new and 80% 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fill French 225L barrels
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg Whites (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14.26% (14% on label) TA 5.5g/L pH 3.64 RS 3g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	August 2015

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	Rich aromas of blackberries, cassis, eucalyptus and dark chocolate follow through to a smooth palate that is both balanced and well-rounded with fine grained tannins. This wine can be enjoyed now or will benefit from maturation in ideal cellar conditions.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	8 – 10+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions.

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Double Silver	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2016
Silver Medal	Concours Mondial de Bruxelles	2016
Silver Medal	Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show	2016

