

RUSTENBERG WINES

STELLENBOSCH RM NICHOLSON 2017

INTRODUCTION

This wine is named after a former charismatic owner-winemaker, Reginald (“Reg”) Merriman Nicholson, who lived and worked on the farm for 30 years and was the creator of Rustenberg’s famous “Dry Red” blend. Just as the Dry Red was an unconventional blend, the RM Nicholson is a new world style blend of classic varieties that would typically not be combined. The result is a blend of Bordeaux and Rhone varieties aiming to express the typicity of each vintage, unrestrained by convention to create great wine. We recommend decanting this wine before serving.

VINTAGE

The Winter of 2016 was dry but cold as drought conditions persisted in the Western Cape. Despite the drought, a warm, dry spring and little wind meant that there was little disease pressure and little stress on the vineyards beyond the heat. Harvest started slightly earlier than usual but was 10 days later than the record early start of the 2016 vintage. Careful use of irrigation to offset the dry drought conditions and cold nights experienced during the first four months of the year resulted in superb quality, and wonderful acidity, colour and flavour concentration in the wines. Indications are that 2017 will be an excellent vintage with plenty of potential to age well.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	50% Shiraz; 30% Merlot; 20% Cabernet Sauvignon
Soil Types	Hutton and Tukululu
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, March 2017

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
Extended Maceration	Up to 7 days
Oak Aging	16 Months
Age and Type of Oak	20% new and 80% 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fill French and American oak barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14% TA 5.8g/L pH 3.44 RS 2.0g/L
Bottling Date	October 2018

WINE

Tasting Note	Blackcurrant aromas are complemented by scents of dried herbs and notes of black pepper and spice, followed by a palate with serious structure from the Bordeaux varieties and finishing off with softness from the Shiraz.
Aging Potential	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions.

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Silver Medal – 90 Points	Decanter World Wine Awards	2020
Silver Outstanding Medal	Veritas Wine Awards	2019
Silver Medal	International Wine and Spirits Competition	2019

