

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2018

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

This vintage was impacted by the fourth year of the ongoing drought in the region. The 2017 Winter was cold and dry, followed by a dry Spring and Summer, with bouts of unusual weather. A number of thunder storms resulted in a late onset of additional vigour in the vineyards. Unsettled weather and wind during flowering, along with a freak hail storm and low levels of soil moisture decreased yields by 20% to 50%. The harvest began closer to its average start date and the smaller berries and bunches yielded lower juice volumes per ton. The lower yields resulted in the wines showing excellent concentration and body, producing rich, robust reds and fruit forward, expressive whites and rosé.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% 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 2018

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% TA 5.8g/L pH 3.45 RS 3.5g/L
Bottling Date	January 2020

WINE

Tasting Note	The John X Merriman is 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
93 Points	Tim Atkin SA Wine Report	2020

