

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2017

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 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 leaf. 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	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% 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 2017

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 6.4g/L pH 3.49 RS 3.4g/L
Bottling Date	December 2018

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
Five Stars – 95 Points	Platter's Wine Guide	2021
Gold Medal – 95 Points	Decanter World Wine Awards	2020
94 Points	Tim Atkin SA Wine Report	2020
90 Points	Prescient Cape Bordeaux Red Blend Report	2020
Silver Medal	International Wine and Spirits Competition	2019

