RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2015

INTRODUCTION

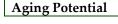
This wine is named after a former owner of Rustenberg, John Xavier Merriman, who bought the farm in 1892 in sympathy with farmers suffering from the phylloxera crisis. He played a great role in revitalizing Rustenberg and in promoting the tourism and agricultural value of Ida's Valley, the area close 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 cold wet Winter of 2014 started early and ended late, which is ideal for the vineyards' dormancy; however, an unseasonably cool Spring resulted in the vines going into Summer with 10 to 40% less crop than usual. The remainder of the season was warm and dry resulting in one of the earliest harvests on record. Zero disease pressure and small crops of fantastic ripe fruit combined with high natural acids make this potentially the vintage of the decade.

VINEYARDS

UNITER MED 0			
Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch		
-	52% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec, 1% Cabernet		
Varietal Blended	Franc, 1% Petit Verdot		
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 2015		
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 5.9g/L pH 3.56 RS 2.6g/L		
Bottling Date	December 2016		
WINE			
	The John X Merriman is a powerful wine that rewards aging. In		
	its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, black		
Tasting Note	currant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and		
	sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine grained tanning		



ACCOLADES		
AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
92 Points	Cape Bordeaux Red Blend Report	2017
91 Points	Tim Atkin SA Report	2017
90 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2021
Double Platinum / Top 100	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2017
Wine Consistency Award	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2017
Silver Outstanding	International Wine & Spirit Competition	2018

10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

wonderful drinkability and tertiary complexity.

sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine grained tannins soften a softer more savoury palate develops revealing

RUSTENBERG Stellenbosch John X Merriman

> SIMONSBERG-STELLENBOSCH SOUTH AFRICA