

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2019

### 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 2019 vintage was a challenging one for the Rustenberg team. While the winter of 2018 was a welcome break from the previous four winters of drought, most vineyards had not fully recovered and produced below average yields. A warm snap in June and a wet Spring, coupled with a wetter than average Summer harvesting season made 2019 a challenge, with some late harvest thinning or multiple harvests of the same vineyard required to achieve uniformity. Early and mid-season ripening varieties performed well, all achieving flavour ripeness at lower alcohol levels, while late ripening varieties required patience and extended time on the vines, again achieving lower alcohols overall, but creating ripe, structured wines.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg-Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	43.5% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec, 7.5% Petit Verdot
<b>Soil Types</b>	Decomposed Granite
<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, February-March 2019

### WINEMAKING

<b>Extraction Method</b>	Crushed and Destemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
<b>Fermentation Vessel</b>	Stainless Steel Tanks
<b>Yeast</b>	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
<b>Extended Maceration</b>	For +- 7 days
<b>Oak Aging</b>	100% aged for 20 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	35% New French Barriques; 65% 2nd & 3rd fill
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14% TA 5.6g/L pH 3.72 RS 3.4g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	December 2020

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	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.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
93 Points – 4.5 Stars	Platter's Wine Guide	2022
93 Points	Tim Atkin MW South African Report	2021
92 Points	James Suckling	2022
Silver Medal – 91 Points	Decanter World Wine Awards	2021

