



# Five Soldiers 2023

## RUSTENBERG WINES

### Introduction

The Five Soldiers vineyard is named after five tall stone pine trees called the “Five Soldiers” that tower over this site. Carefully selected Chardonnay bunches from this area are hand harvested for this special wine and then given royal treatment in the cellar. The final product is a very complex full-bodied wine, approachable in its youth however careful cellaring will exhibit the depth of the wine’s complexity and will reward patience.

### Vintage

The 2023 vintage marked another vintage influenced by the La Niña weather phenomenon. The Autumn of 2022 was dry with below average and variable rainfall throughout the Winter. Spring too was dry, but cool, however, a massive cold front in December brought much needed rain, but increased disease pressure. This lead up to harvest set the scene for a challenging vintage and lower crop sizes. The early heatwaves experienced in January, as opposed to usually occurring in February, brought the white cultivars into line with their average picking dates and all of the white grapes were picked before the unseasonal rains experienced in late February and March. The cooler growing season and lower crops resulted in good acidity and concentration to the wines, while the warm lead up to harvest has given white wines from this vintage a burst of ripe fruit. All things considered, it was another good white wine vintage despite the challenging growing season.

### Vineyard

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg-Stellenbosch
Varietal Blend	100% Chardonnay
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite, Hutton and Tukulu
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, February 2023

### Winemaking

Extraction Method	Whole Bunch Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	300 Litre French Oak Hogshead Barrels
Yeast	Wild (Uninoculated)
Lees Aging	Aged On Lees For Duration Of Oak Aging
Oak Aging	100% Aged For 14 months
Malolactic Fermentation	Yes, 100%
Age and Type of Oak	72% New Burgundian 300L Hogsheads (Remainder 2 <sup>nd</sup> fill)
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 12.89% TA 5.9g/L pH 3.53 RS 3.6g/L
Bottling Date	June 2024

### Wine

Tasting Note	Characters of ripe citrus, melon and peach with great minerality, rounded out by well-judged oaking. A very complex wine with a long and creamy finish and a good acid backbone.
Aging Potential	10+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### Accolades

Award:	Competition/Publication:	Year/Edition:
Gold Medal - 96 Points	International Wine & Spirits Competition	2025
94 Points	International Wine Challenge	2025
93 Points	James Suckling	2024
90 Points	Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate	2025

