



# Five Soldiers 2024

## 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 Winter of 2023 was cold and wet, as was the season’s Spring, leading to the late budding of many varieties. While the excellent ground water availability was welcome, the early growing conditions were challenging due to the influence of rain. The resultant humidity, and at other times high winds, ultimately resulted in lower cropping levels. As Summer progressed, the influence of the El Nino weather phenomenon brought ideal warm, dry ripening conditions, as well as an early start and end to the vintage, a relief from the past few wetter harvests. The overall quality of the wines produced across the board in 2024 was superb. The white wines of this vintage have excellent acidity, thanks to the cool start to the season and express fully ripe fruit, a benefit of the warmer second half of Summer in the lead up to and during the harvest 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 2024

### 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: 13% TA 5.75g/L pH 3.45 RS 3g/L
Bottling Date	June 2025

### 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

<b>Award:</b>	<b>Competition/Publication:</b>	<b>Year/Edition:</b>
93 Points	James Suckling	2025
93 Points - Silver	International Wine Challenge	2026 – Tranche 1

