

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2006

### 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 varieties that illustrate the ageability and true expression of Rustenberg's finest vineyards. We recommend decanting this wine before serving.

### VINTAGE

Following a normal Winter in 2005, Spring was cool and rigorous green harvesting had to be undertaken late in the Summer months due to the slow shoot development and uneven ripening in some varieties. The warm, dry Summer made up for the lower yields, producing very balanced wines harvested at optimum ripeness.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	45% Cabernet Sauvignon; 38% Merlot; 13% Petit Verdot; 3% Cabernet Franc; 1% Malbec
<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 2006

### 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>	21 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	50% new; 50% 2nd & 3rd fill 225L French Oak Barrels
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14.3% (14.5% on label) TA 5.92g/L pH 3.5 RS 2.23g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	June 2008

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	Plum and cigar-box aromatics prelude a multi-layered palate with an elegant tannin structure. A Bordeaux blend that typifies Rustenberg terroir with good ageing potential, if cellared correctly. Wine at bottling is unfiltered and might throw a deposit over time, proving maximum flavours have been maintained.
<b>Ageing Potential</b>	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2009
91 Points	Steve Tanzer's International Wine Cellar	March/April 2009
Silver Medal	Sommelier India Wine Competition	2009
Francois Chartier's Coup de Coeur	Francois Chartier Annual Buying Guide - Francois Chartier is Quebec's most influential wine journalist and his book is the #1 seller on release, the <i>Francois Chartier's Coup de Coeur</i> is the highest accolade	2009

