

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2007

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 cold wet Winter in 2006 even bud-burst was achieved in Spring followed by a great berry set and a large crop on most vines. January, however, presented a number of heatwaves and sped ripening up rapidly only to be tempered by rains in February and March. This was a harvest of two halves – warm conditions for the whites and cooler conditions for the reds. Experience and patience helped us create great quality wines under these tough conditions.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	48% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% Merlot; 6% Petit Verdot; 3% Cabernet Franc; 3% Malbec
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 2007

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	21 Months
Age and Type of Oak	44% new; 56% 2nd & 3rd fill 225L French Oak Barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.51% (14.5% on label) TA 5.9g/L pH 3.62 RS 3.25g/L
Bottling Date	May 2009

WINE

Tasting Note	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.
Ageing Potential	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
91+ Points	Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar	March/April 2011
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2010

