

RUSTENBERG WINES

JOHN X MERRIMAN 2009

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 2009 vintage has been hailed as one of the best vintages of the decade. Following on from a normal cold, wet Winter was a Spring that allowed balanced growth and rain at the right times. The Summer was warm but devoid of heat waves and the small, later ripening crop of fruit that arrived in the cellar was seamless, requiring the winemaking team to simply guide the wines through the cellar with little intervention. The result: balanced, opulent and ageable wines.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	51% Cabernet Sauvignon; 35% Merlot; 7% Petit Verdot; 4% Malbec; 3% Cabernet Franc
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 – April 2009

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	20 Months
Age and Type of Oak	35% new; 65% 2nd & 3rd fill 225L French Oak Barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg Whites (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.61% (14.5% on label) TA 6.2g/L pH 3.59 RS 3.1g/L
Bottling Date	January 2011

WINE

Tasting Note	Plum and cigar-box aromatics prelude a multi-layered palate with an elegant tannin structure.
Aging Potential	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Top 100 Wine	Top 100 South African Wine Awards	2012
94 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2012
90 Points	Winemag 10 Year Old Wine Report	March 2019
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2012

