

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## JOHN X MERRIMAN 2013

### 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

The vines emerged from a cold, wet Winter and enjoyed even budding in the Spring of 2012. Strong winds in early Summer affected the yields and canopies of some varieties but cool and consistent weather in early 2013 resulted in later than usual ripening. The cool growing season meant the grapes reaching their flavour ripeness with low sugars resulting in medium-bodied, elegant wines being produced.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<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 2013

### 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>	100% aged for 20 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	35% New French Barriques; 65% 2nd & 3rd fill
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14.5% TA 5.7g/L pH 3.51 RS 2.4g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	December 2014

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	A powerful wine that rewards aging. In its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, black currant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine-grained tannins soften, a softer more savoury palate develops revealing wonderful drinkability and tertiary complexity.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
Double Gold	National Wine Challenge / Top 100 SA Wines	2016
Silver Medal (92 Points)	Decanter World Wine Awards	2016
Silver Medal	International Wine and Spirit Competition	2016
Silver Medal	Veritas Awards	2016
93 Points	Tim Atkin MW Report	2016
90 Points	James Molesworth – Wine Spectator	October 2016
90 Points	Riscura Red Hot Wine Awards	2016

