

RUSTENBERG WINES

PETER BARLOW 1996

INTRODUCTION

The name of this wine pays tribute to the man who recognized the potential of Rustenberg, and bought the farm in 1941, reuniting the property, restoring its buildings and investing in its potential to make world class wines. The oldest Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard on the estate is named the Peter Barlow block and consistently produces powerful, long-lived Cabernet Sauvignon that is given the best possible treatment in the cellar. Peter's family now continues his legacy. We recommend decanting this wine before serving.

VINTAGE

The ground work for a good vintage in 1996 was laid in the Winter of 1995 which allowed for plenty of ground water to be accumulated and for the wines to go into dormancy. Spring was perfect and the vintage was set to be the finest on record until rain struck in late January. Rigorous crop selection and yield reduction were required to ensure ripeness was achieved in the face of such a cool vintage. White wines from this vintage tend to be lighter and easier drinking in style with superb acid structures, while the reds are medium in body with supple tannins.

VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Simonsberg, Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite, Valsrivier, Bainsvlei
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, March 1996

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
Extended Maceration	3 Weeks
Oak Aging	20 Months
Age and Type of Oak	100% new French oak barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 12.5% TA 6.2g/L pH 3.7 RS 1.7g/L
Bottling Date	January 1998

WINE

Tasting Note	Violets, mint, coffee and blackberry dominate the aroma. Similar characters are evident on the palate, but combined with layers of fine-grained tannin.
Aging Potential	10 to 15 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
5 Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	1999
92 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	1999

