

RUSTENBERG WINES

PETER BARLOW 1997

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

Having had a cold, wet Winter, the Spring of 1996 continued in this vein resulting in troubled flowering and berry set and late development and ripening of the fruit. The vintage was one of the latest and longest on record. Patience was key during the harvest and we harvested well into April to get the best quality, flavour and tannin ripeness. 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 1997

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: 12.41% TA 6.6g/L pH 3.73 RS 1.4g/L
Bottling Date	January 1999

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
4 ½ Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2000
90 Points	Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2000

