

RUSTENBERG WINES

STELLENBOSCH RM NICHOLSON 2009

INTRODUCTION

This wine is named after a former charismatic owner-winemaker, Reginald ("Reg") Merriman Nicholson, who lived and worked on the farm for 30 years and was the creator of Rustenberg's famous "Dry Red" blend. Just as the Dry Red was an unconventional blend, the RM Nicholson is a new world style blend of classic varieties that would typically not be combined. The result is a blend of Bordeaux and Rhone varieties aiming to express the typicity of each vintage, unrestrained by convention to create great wine. 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	Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	50% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% Syrah; 5% Petit Verdot; 3% Cabernet Franc; 2% Malbec
Soil Types	Hutton and Tukululu
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Regulated deficit irrigation via pressure compensated drippers
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked, Mid-February – End March 2010

WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
Fermentation Vessel	Stainless Steel
Yeast	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
Extended Maceration	Up to 7 days
Oak Aging	16 Months
Age and Type of Oak	20% new and 80% 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fill French and American oak barrels
Fining Agents Used	Egg White (Albumen)
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 14.5% TA 5.6g/L pH 3.62 RS 2.7g/L
Bottling Date	August 2010

WINE

Tasting Note	Black currant aromas are complemented by scents of dried herbs and notes of black pepper and spice, followed by a palate with serious structure from the Bordeaux varieties and finishing off with softness from the Shiraz.
Aging Potential	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions.

ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
89 Points	Neal Martin, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	2011
4 Stars	John Platter Wine Guide	2011

