

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## STELLENBOSCH RM NICHOLSON 2016

### 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

Following a warm start to the year, the Winter of 2015 was dry but cold enough to allow our vineyards to properly rest. A very warm, dry Spring and Summer resulted in an early bud-burst and record high temperatures in December and January brought forward the need to irrigate. As in 2015, the vintage started very early. In the middle of January Rustenberg was engulfed in fire as the entire Simonsberg mountain burnt, sadly destroying 5 hectares of the estate’s vineyards. Generally very low yields of concentrated fruit make the wines of the 2016 vintage upfront and opulent.

### VINEYARDS

<b>Wine of Origin</b>	Stellenbosch
<b>Varietal Blended</b>	50% Shiraz; 30% Merlot; 20% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Soil Types</b>	Hutton and Tukululu
<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, March 2016

### WINEMAKING

<b>Extraction Method</b>	Crushed and De-stemmed Fruit, Pumped Over During Ferment
<b>Fermentation Vessel</b>	Stainless Steel Tanks
<b>Yeast</b>	Cultured Active Dry Wine Yeast
<b>Extended Maceration</b>	Up to 7 days
<b>Oak Aging</b>	16 Months
<b>Age and Type of Oak</b>	20% new and 80% 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fill French and American oak barrels
<b>Fining Agents Used</b>	Egg White (Albumen)
<b>Final Analysis</b>	Alc v/v: 14% TA 5.8g/L pH 3.46 RS 2.7g/L
<b>Bottling Date</b>	October 2017

### WINE

<b>Tasting Note</b>	Blackcurrant 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.
<b>Aging Potential</b>	Up to 10 years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions.

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
91 Points	Tim Atkin MW SA Report	2018
Double Gold Medal	Top 100 SA Wine Awards	2018
Silver Medal	International Wine & Spirit Competition	2018

