

# RUSTENBERG WINES

## STELLENBOSCH CHARDONNAY 2018

### INTRODUCTION

Rustenberg is a well-known producer of high quality Chardonnays and the Stellenbosch Chardonnay embodies our house style. Careful tending and selection in the vineyard followed by traditional wild barrel fermentation and maturation produces a classic Chardonnay balancing the expression of fruit, freshness, full malolactic fermentation and the influence of oak.

### VINTAGE

This vintage was impacted by the fourth year of the ongoing drought in the region. The 2017 Winter was cold and dry, followed by a dry Spring and Summer, with bouts of unusual weather. A number of thunder storms resulted in a late onset of additional vigour in the vineyards. Unsettled weather and wind during flowering, along with a freak hail storm and low levels of soil moisture decreased yields by 20% to 50%. The harvest began closer to its average start date and the smaller berries and bunches yielded lower juice volumes per ton. The lower yields resulted in the wines showing excellent concentration and body, producing rich, robust reds and fruit forward, expressive whites and rosé.

### VINEYARDS

Wine of Origin	Stellenbosch
Varietal Blended	100% Chardonnay
Soil Types	Decomposed Granite
Trellising/Pruning System	VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioned), 2 Node Spur Pruned
Irrigation Type	Minimal Drip Irrigation
Picking Method & Date	Hand Picked in January and February 2017

### WINEMAKING

Extraction Method	Whole Bunch Pressed
Fermentation Vessel	300 Litre Oak Barrels
Yeast	Wild (Uninoculated)
Lees Aging	10 Months
Oak Aging	100% aged for 10 months
Malolactic Fermentation	Yes, 100%
Age and Type of Oak	25% New French oak (Remainder 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> fill oak)
Fining Agents Used	Isinglass & Bentonite
Final Analysis	Alc v/v: 13.5% TA 4.7g/L pH 3.42 RS 2.9g/L
Bottling Date	October 2018

### WINE

Tasting Note	Apricot, coconut and orange peel aromas followed by flavours of marzipan, sponge cake and citrus rounded off with carefully judged oak and balanced, fresh acidity
Aging Potential	8+ years from vintage under ideal cellaring conditions

### ACCOLADES

AWARD	COMPETITION/PUBLICATION	YEAR/EDITION
93 Points	Decanter Magazine	December 2019
90 Points	Tim Atkin SA Report	2019
Silver Medal	Decanter World Wine Awards	2019

