SECKFORD AGENCIES

RUSTENBERG WINES

RUSTENBERG

JOHN X MERRIMAN, RUSTENBERG

Vintage 2021



Named after a former owner of Rustenberg, John Xavier Merriman, who bought the farm in 1892 in sympathy with farmers suffering from the phylloxera crisis.

TASTING NOTE

The John X Merriman is a powerful wine that rewards aging. The 2021 blend consists of Cabernet Sauvignon 63%, Merlot 20%, Malbec 11% and Petit Verdot 6%. In its youth the wine is worth decanting and expresses cassis, black currant and dark fruits complemented with cigar tobacco and sour cherry notes. As the wine ages and its fine grained tannins soften a softer more savoury palate develops revealing wonderful drinkability and tertiary complexity.

(Magnums & Half bottles available)

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2021 vintage was produced with the challenges of COVID-19 ever present. The winter of 2020 started late after a warm autumn and was cold with plenty of rain. The cool and wet conditions extended well into spring, through summer and much of the harvest season. The result of these conditions was slow, steady, stress-free vineyard growth and fruit development. Yields were higher than average in red varietals and the slow ripening season saw excellent flavour and tannin development. These well-structured wines with moderate alcohols and good acidity should show plenty of potential to age.

VINIFICATION DETAILS

Grapes were hand-picked and crushed and de-stemmed on arriving at the winery. Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks with regular pump overs and an extended maceration of up to seven days. After primary fermentation the wine was transferred to oak barriques (35% new French; 65% second- and third-fill) for 20 months' maturation.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Alcohol	Residual sugar
14	2.4
pH	**Acidity**
3.65	5.5

AWARDS

DWWA: Silver
Tim Atkin MW: 92 pts
Platter: 90 pts

ATTRIBUTES

Origin	Variety	Malolactic Fermentation	Bottle Size	Vegetarian
South Africa	Red Blend	Yes	75cl	Yes

Winemaker	Fining Agent	Closure	Region	Vegan
Murray Barlow	Egg white	Screw top	Simonsberg - Stellenbosch	No