SECKFORD AGENCIES

RUSTENBERG WINES

RUSTENBERG

JOHN X MERRIMAN, RUSTENBERG

Vintage 2020



TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Alcohol	Residual sugar
14	2.6
pH	**Acidity**
3.65	5.6

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 2020 blend consists of Cabernet Sauvignon 43%, Merlot 36%, Petit Verdot 14% and Malbec 7%. 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 2020 vintage will be remembered as a good vintage produced under the spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the globe. Fortunately the Rustenberg harvest was not affected by the government-sanctioned lockdowns, allowing all fruit to be picked and processed when ripe. A good winter in 2019 saw a return to average rainfall for the year. Two unusual weather events in the growing season, a large rainstorm and a heat wave, impacted some varietals flowering and berry set, however, in the context of the entire vintage these had a minor impact. Crop levels were up by 15% from the 2019 vintage, which saw a return to yields being average to slightly above average for most varietals. Quality wise, the white wines have superb acids and more moderate alcohols with wonderful fruit concentration.

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.

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	Stellenbosch	No