

## Rustenberg John X Merriman 1999

1999 was a warm vintage and the resulting ripeness is fully expressed in this wine. The spicy oak and ripe cassis, blackcurrant and cherry aromas are complemented by an approachable and seamless tannin structure.

**variety :** Merlot | 64% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc

**winery :** Rustenberg Wines

**winemaker :** Adi Badenhorst

**wine of origin :** Stellenbosch

**analysis :** alc : 13.6 % vol    rs : 1.5 g/l    pH : 3.5    ta : 6 g/l

**type :** Red    **style :** Dry    **wooded**

**pack :** Bottle

The South African Trophy Wine Show 2002 - Bronze

First Class - South African Airways for 2002

Bordeaux Blend Reserve Club Winner - SA's Wine-of-the-Month Club 2002

89+ Points - Robert Parker's "Wine Advocate"

4 1/2 Stars - Wine Magazine SA (September 2001)

Silver - International Wine Challenge 2001

4 Stars - John Platter Wine Guide 2002

90 Points (Outstanding) - Review from March/April issue of Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

90 Points (Wine Spectator - May 2002)

Silver Medal (Médailles de Argent) - Concours du Mondial 2002

**ageing :** A complex, many-layered wine, which will repay maturation in cellar conditions for the next 8-12 years.

**in the vineyard :** Situation: South West slopes of the Simonsberg

Altitude: 300m

Distance from sea: approx. 25km

Soil Type: Hutton (Decomposed granite)

Rootstock: Richter 99 + 110

Ages of vines: 7-13 Years

Trellising: All vertically shoot positioned

Pruning: All 2 node spur pruning

**about the harvest:** The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvest the 2nd week of March 1999, and the Merlot was harvested the 4th week of February 1999.

Yield: 6.5 tons/hectare average

**in the cellar :** Closed tank fermentation with regular oxidative pumpovers. Malolactic fermentation in oak. Regular racking, no filtration, 20 months barrel maturation. (All French oak, 50% new). Oak used Nevers, Alliers and Tronçais. The wine was bottled on the 13th November 2000.

