

7. Red Pat Curtis

Wine: John X Merriman

Producer: Rustenberg, Stellenbosch, SA

Year: 2005

%: 14.3

Cepage: 54% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec

Tasting Notes:

A brilliant Merlot dominated Bordeaux blend – excellent value. This wine shows notes of red berry fruits, chocolate and a round spicy earthiness. Its soft and elegant tannins makes this succulent wine a superb match to red meats and spicy sausage – Waitrose

Shows concentrated smooth ripe fruit with a nice dark spicy structure. Ripe with some chalky minerality: almost lush. A nice forward style with just a hint of greenness that works in the context of this wine. 88/100 The Wine Anorak

Rustenberg is a large 1200 hectare estate dating back to the 17th Century. It began bottling in 1892 and has the distinction of being the Cape's estate with the longest bottling history. The cellar still has wines from the 1950s which still taste good!

Controlled irrigation is used to alleviate stressed vines and maximise the quality of the grapes. All grapes are hand harvested in the early mornings and all vineyard blocks are vinified separately then blended for added complexity. Picking often takes place over a 2 week period.

For the second consecutive year, Rustenberg was judged South Africa's champion Bordeaux Blend cellar. Owner Simon Barlow and assistant winemakers Gareth le Grange and Randolph Christians – on behalf of winemaker Adi Badenhorst – were awarded the Calyon Trophy for best wine, the John X Merriman 2005, at a gala dinner on 14 March in Johannesburg.