



- **Country:** South Africa
- **Region:** Stellenbosch
- **Subregion:** Ida's Valley
- **Vintage:** 2021
- **Colour:** White
- **Grape Variety:** Sauvignon Blanc
- **ABV:** 13.5%
- **Bottle Size:** 75cl
- **Closure:** Screw Cap
- **Style:** The finest Sauvignon Blanc
- **Drink With:** Goats' cheese, all manner of fish and shellfish dishes or even asparagus.

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RUSTENBERG SAUVIGNON BLANC - STELLENBOSCH 2021

<https://gerrardseel.co.uk/products/rustenberg-sauvignon-blanc-stellenbosch-2020>

What a wonderful Sauvignon Blanc. A superb effort from Murray Barlow and his team. Coming from the regions highest vineyards the acidity is protected and is the freshness of the fruit. The nose is bursting with Sauvignon aromas of tropical fruits while still retaining those notes of gooseberry and grass. Hints of passionfruit emerge with oxygen and the crisp, fresh palate is incredible. A wine not to be missed.

The grapes were harvested by hand and vinification was in inert stainless steel tanks. Aged on its lees for 2 or 3 months without the slightest hint of oak, it has wonderful complexity and depth of flavour.

ABOUT THE GROWER

The Rustenberg Estate stands on an impressive 880 hectares against the iconic Simonsberg Mountain in Stellenbosch, with a glimpse of Table Mountain in the distance. Of the 880 hectares, 110 hectares are under vine (with plans to plant more), 200 hectares make up the beautiful pastures and farmland for grazing cattle, a portion hosts the historical farm and winery buildings, and the rest of Rustenberg is comprised of conservation land, made up of natural "fynbos" (the indigenous flora of the Cape) and a myriad of wildlife including porcupines, caracals, and cape leopard.

Rustenberg has a wine-growing history dating back to 1682, when Roelof Pasman recognised its vine-growing potential. By 1781, some 3000 cases of wine were produced on the farm each year. Production doubled by the end of the century and a new cellar was built, where wine has been bottled for an unbroken period since 1892.

In the early 1800s, Rustenberg was divided by the then owner Jacob Eksteen and a section was given to his son-in-law, who named it Schoongezicht and sold it soon after. Investment and development at Rustenberg and Schoongezicht hit a peak around 1812, resulting in beautiful homesteads and flourishing vineyards. But, by the middle of the century, recession coupled with vine disease brought bankruptcy and dispossession.

Schoongezicht was rescued in 1892 by future prime minister John X. Merriman, and Rustenberg by his brother-in-law Sir Jacob Barry. Together, they revitalised the estates. Fruit was sent to Covent Garden; new vines were grafted onto disease-resistant American rootstock; wines were exported to England and continental Europe, even as far afield as Siberia.

In 1941 Peter and Pamela Barlow bought Rustenberg, later acquiring Schoongezicht and reuniting the properties. Peter lovingly restored many of the old buildings on

the property and developed the farming capacity of the estate by building dams and renovating the winery.

Their son, Simon, took over the running of the farm in 1987, having run Nooitgedacht, a property on the foothills of the Helderberg Mountain in Stellenbosch for a number of years. Simon reinvigorated the property as South Africa emerged from post-Apartheid isolation. He built a new winery and imported modern virus free clones and grape varieties to replant the estate's vineyards. Simon is actively involved in the everyday running of the farm, along with his wife Rozanne who is responsible for the grounds and gardens.

Simon and Rozanne's son, Murray, farms full time with his parents, having returned from completing his Masters in Oenology from The University of Adelaide in Australia in 2012. Murray has brought a renewed passion and a modern outlook to the operation, and he is primarily involved in the winemaking and marketing on the property.

The Barlows have now been at Rustenberg for over 70 years, the longest period that any one family has owned the estate.