

KANONKOP

WINE ESTATE

Vintage Report - 2009

The excellent quality of this vintage will forever be remembered as one of the greatest vintages, not only for Kanonkop, but for the South African industry as a whole. Lower yields and intensely concentrated flavours from healthy grapes resulted in the production of brilliant quality wines.

The post-harvest (2008) period was very warm and dry, and the first rains worthy of mention only arrived in May. From June to September the temperatures were lower, with above-average rainfall.

Even budburst occurred in all the vineyards. The cooler and very wet conditions of early spring led to low soil temperatures and uneven shoot growth. Flowering and ripening were also uneven, but berry set was good. The wet spring also led to lots of weed growth in the vineyards. Warmer conditions during the late growth phase and the ripening period necessitated the need for irrigation to ripen the grapes. The temperatures from October to November were normal with low rainfall. December was hotter than usual, but the evenings were cool, with good rain towards the end of the month.

Cooler conditions prevailed during early January, which continued until the end of the month. The soils showed high moisture levels, and the symptoms of leafroll virus were observed much later than usual. On the 27th of January there were still active growth tips on some of the Pinotage vines. The shoots also looked very healthy on all the Pinotage vineyards, and we did not sucker on the older spurs of the old vineyards, which gave more protection to the grapes. We also left the shoots longer before we started tipping (the wind arrived later this season). On the younger vines we left three shoots per spur, to see if it handled the wind better. The result was that the bunches hanged in close proximity to each other. We realised that in future, it will serve us better to remove the bunches on the weak shoots at a much earlier stage, when the grapes are only pea-sized, to avoid poor colour extraction and green flavours from unhealthy grapes.

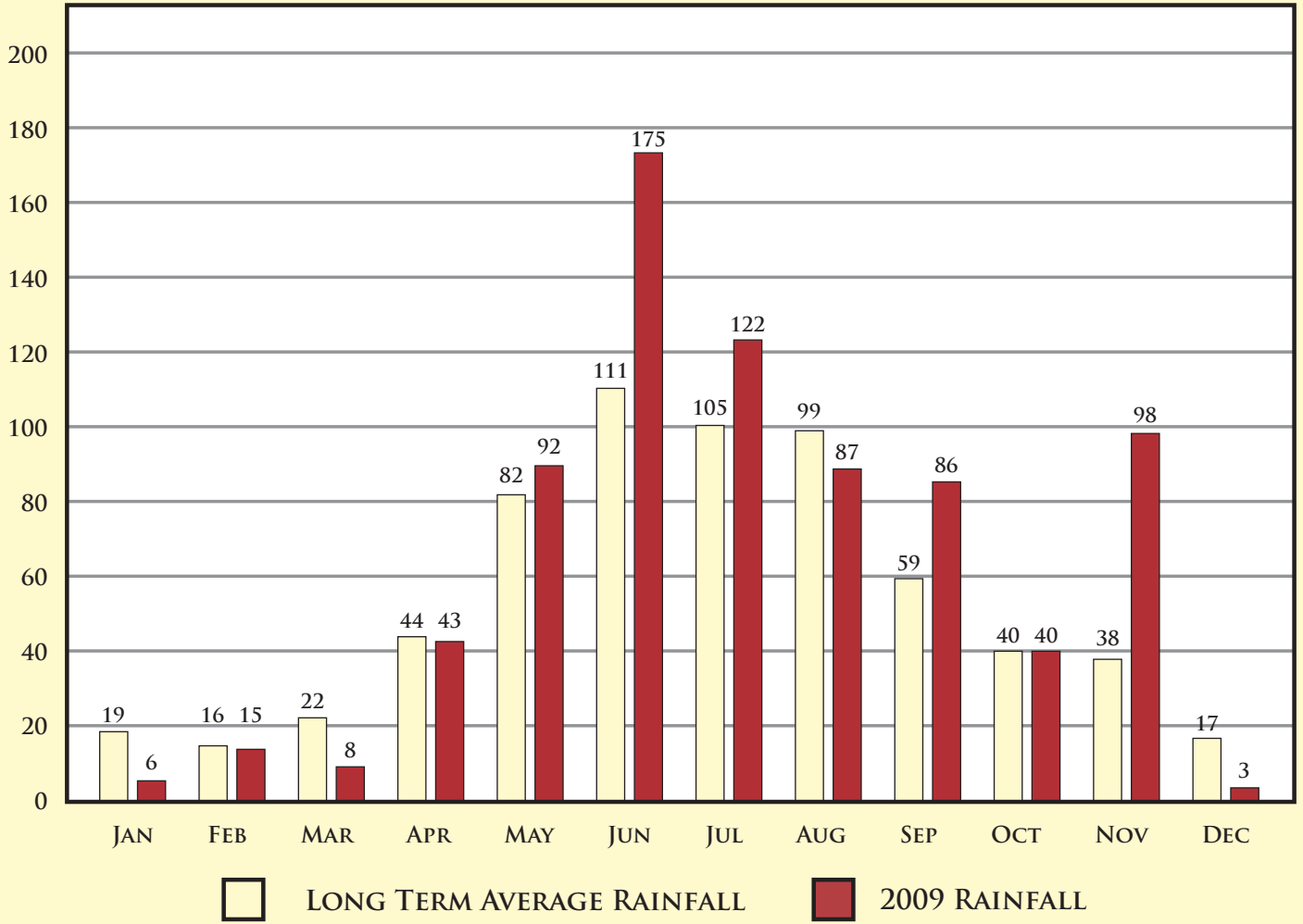
February and March were very dry and warm, with heatwave conditions in early March. The harvest kicked off on the 5th of February, with Pinotage as usual. The bunches looked healthy and very compact. It was a very healthy vintage, with no real threats of pests and diseases in the vineyards.

The must analyses were excellent, and intense colours were observed with all our red wines. This vintage produced wines with intense flavour concentration – wines which will mature gracefully for many years.

**KANONKOP VINTAGE RATING:
5 STARS**



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 RAINFALL (MM): 2009 VS LONG TERM AVERAGE



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 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (°C): 2009 MIN & MAX

