

KANONKOP

WINE ESTATE

Vintage Report - 2014

The Stellenbosch region produced an exceptional harvest in 2014 with regards to yield and quality, together with one of the wettest seasons we had in years. Extreme high water supply during the cell division phase, good climate conditions during flowering and berry set as well as the absence of damaging winds, all contributed to good yields.

The winter preceding the 2014 harvest was very cold with solid rainfall throughout. The rain continued to fall after budburst (which was 2 weeks later than usual), with not a lot of warm weather in between. 100mm of rain fell on the 15th of November, which had a negative effect on the Cabernet Sauvignon which was flowering during this time. A warmer period arrived only for a couple of days towards the end of November.

Temperatures had risen significantly during December, and by the end of the year the annual rainfall was the highest measured in 48 years. High soil water levels and high temperatures led to vigorous growth, which required timeous canopy management. Only one suckering action was done on the bush vine Pinotage vineyards, and the shoots looked very healthy. The first strong wind of the season only arrived on the 6th of December and while some damage occurred, it was not nearly as bad as in previous years. This warm wind helped to suppress an outbreak of downy mildew, but the shoots looked very dry and wilted thereafter.

The summer was relatively dry and warm, with less wind than usual. 40mm of rain fell on the 7th and 8th of January, which was not a bad thing as it nullified the need for irrigation. On the 9th of January, it was noted that the Pinotage is late this year, with very few berries going into veraison yet.

Very warm conditions in the middle of February accelerated the harvest, resulting in big volumes of grapes arriving at the cellar in a short period of time, placing immense pressure on our cellar facilities. Frequent rain showers, especially during March, impeded the ripening process and the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested later than usual.

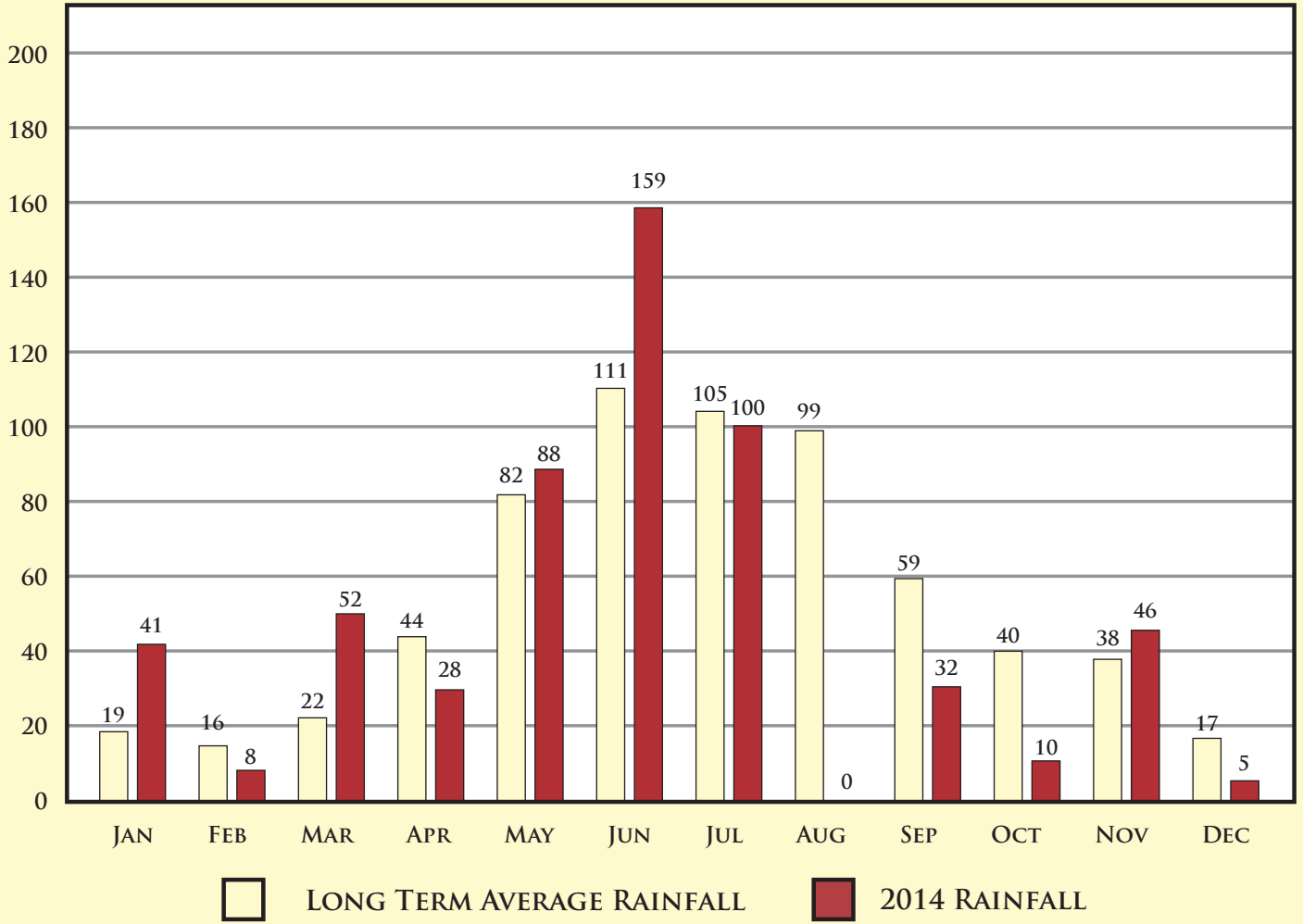
The pressure of fungal diseases was very high as a result of the wet weather conditions during the growth season and the fact that the soil remained wet for a long time. Downy Mildew occurred at the beginning of the growth season, and Botrytis rot also caused some visible damage.

Overall, juice recoveries were higher than usual, grape analyses were acceptable and maturity was reached at lower sugar levels. Despite higher yields, the red wines were elegant and of exceptional quality, with beautiful colours.

**KANONKOP VINTAGE RATING:
4 STARS**



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 RAINFALL (MM): 2014 VS LONG TERM AVERAGE



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 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (°C): 2014 MIN & MAX

