



KANONKOP

WINE ESTATE

Vintage Report - 2020

The preceding winter of 2019 gave us a good head start – the best winter we've had over the past four years with sufficient wet and cold units.

Warm weather during September and October resulted in rapid and even budbreak. From the get-go after the winter dormancy period, all the vineyards showed signs that the 2020 harvest will be earlier than the norm. Very good rains at the end of October / beginning of November relieved a lot of the stress on the vines, and the shoots and leaves developed quite vigorously. The whole month of November was cooler than usual, and December too was around 20 degree C cooler than the long-term average.

During the 2nd week of January, we experienced some very strong winds – up to 177km/h at times – as well as a short heat wave. However, due to the cooler temperatures experienced during November and December, the vines managed to build up a buffer against these challenging conditions and thus prevented any major loss of quality in the grapes. At this stage, the harvest looked extremely promising, with an above-average quality of grapes expected to be harvested.

Throughout the harvesting period the weather remained very favourable, with relatively warm days, no significant heat waves and cool night-time temperatures. The condition of the vineyards remained in good health continuously, and this could be seen in the analyses of the juice. The grapes were very healthy and no rot was observed anywhere. The season resulted in excellent ripeness levels in the Pinotage, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, and the Cabernet Franc delivered above-average quality.

Throughout the season the different grape varieties were picked between 7 and 10 days earlier than normal. Both the Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc were picked at lower sugar levels than the long-term average, which will result in wines with elegant structures and moderate alcohol levels. The crop was only slightly bigger than the small 2019 harvest, but the overall small berry size will deliver wines with intense flavour and aromatic spectrums. We obtained beautiful ripe tannins throughout the season, and we expect that the 2020 vintage will deliver elegant, classic wines with extended ageing potential.

KANONKOP VINTAGE RATING: 4 STARS

