

KANONKOP

WINE ESTATE

Vintage Report - 2011

The 2011 harvest was about 10% larger in crop size compared to the 2010 vintage. This was mainly due to larger bunches with good “shoulder” development. Berry size were smaller though, which had a positive effect on the quality.

Kanonkop experienced a relatively good winter, but it was about 50mm drier than usual. Budburst was earlier than 2010 and fairly even. Cooler and wetter conditions during the last half of October and early November had a negative impact on berry set – the wet weather also contributed to excessive weeds in the vineyards.

Hail and thunderstorms were present in the beginning of December with a +/- 10% damage to some of the bush vine vineyards. December 2010 was characterised dry, warm and windy conditions, with below average rainfall and above average temperatures. The wind arrived later than previous years, and blew for longer periods – the most in 42 years! These factors resulted in low moisture levels in the soil. At the end of January this was not really noticeable around the vines, and especially the Pinotage bush vines showed very little signs of stress. Only Pinotage block 102B showed signs of stress with quite a lot of yellow leaves, and will need to receive water earlier in future.

The wind during December created an open canopy on most of the bush vines, which resulted in sun burn damage on some of the bunches. During the start of January, a heat wave caused more sunburn, and the vineyards were irrigated earlier, more regularly and with higher volumes of water. The dry, warm periods during the growing and ripening stages, which was one of the driest seasons for many years in Stellenbosch, resulted in earlier ripening for late cultivars like Cabernet Sauvignon, and the harvest finished about two weeks earlier than normal.

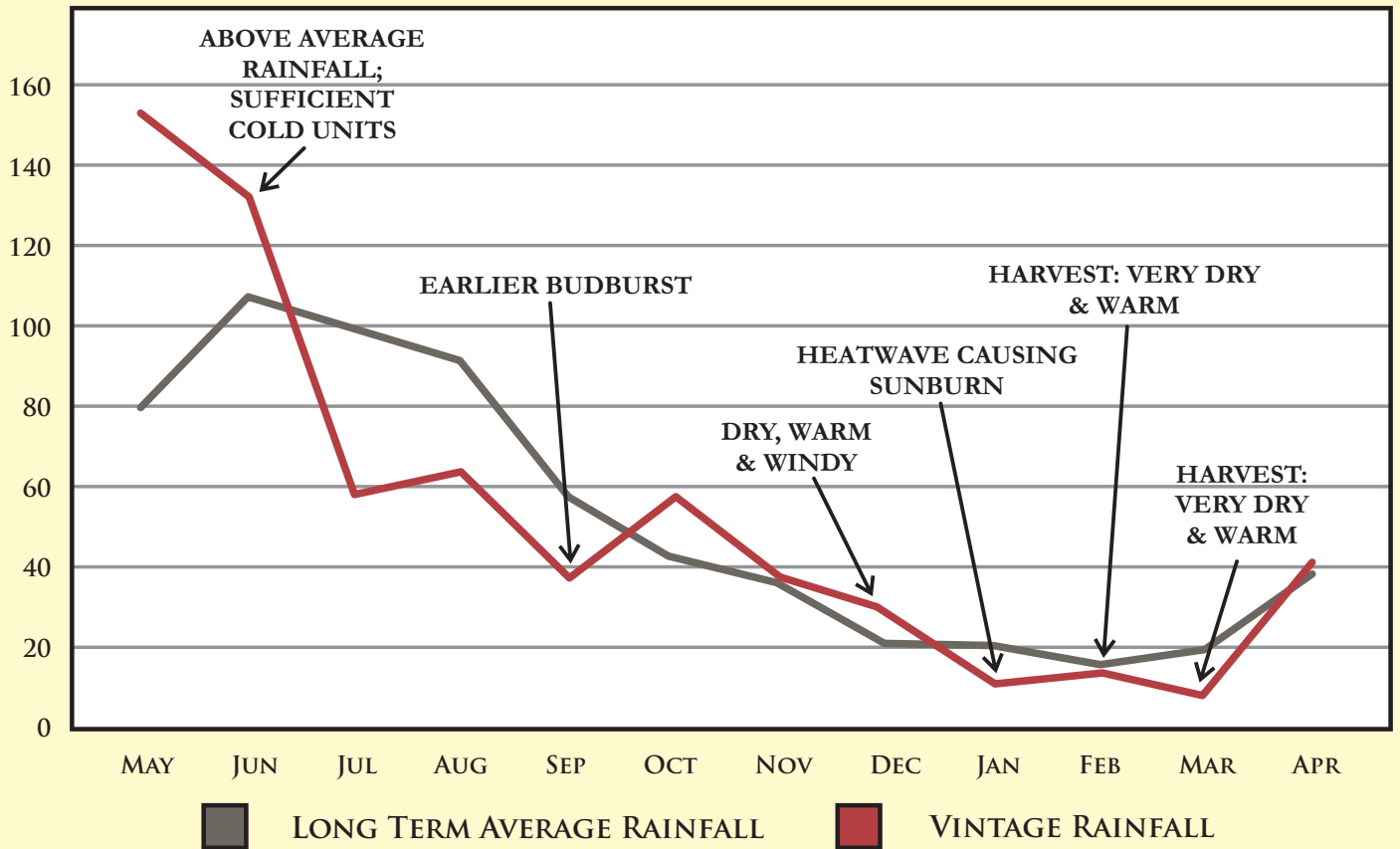
The analysis of grapes harvested in the beginning of the season looked good, especially with regards to their pH, and good quality wines were expected from especially the Pinotage. During the last half of the season, high temperatures led to rapid increase in sugar levels with pH levels that stayed low. This meant the Cabernet Sauvignon reached physiological ripeness at higher sugar levels. It was a good vintage in terms of crop size (+/- 10% up from 2010) and quality, especially for early to mid-season varieties like Pinotage and Merlot.

As in 2010, the producer's track record should guide consumers as this was a very variable vintage.

KANONKOP VINTAGE RATING:
4 STARS



KANONKOP WINE ESTATE RAINFALL (MM): 2011 VINTAGE
CYCLE: MAY 2010 - APRIL 2011



KANONKOP WINE ESTATE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (°C): 2011 VINTAGE
CYCLE: MAY 2010 - APRIL 2011

