Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

HARVEST REPORT 2014

Following on a very good and wet winter, budburst started a couple of weeks later than usual. The vineyards growth started off slowly, but like a good diesel engine picked up speed toward flowering and fruit set. Good warm weather during and after set resulted in outstanding berry formation with big and healthy bunches and good yields.

The rains continued into a warm December and we had the highest annual rainfall in 48 years. It was very important for our farmers to work meticulously and fast, as the high water table resulted in very vigorous growth during an important phase of the berry development.

January was warm, but with cool nights. Perfect for acid preservation and delayed ripening. For Cabernet this is a good thing, as it gives the tannin, acid, colour and flavour time to catch up with each other and produce perfectly ripe, delicious berries.

February was hot to very hot. The impact of the heat waves were however not too great as the vines had sufficient water to recover during the evenings. March was wet once again, and it was important to harvest the grapes before the bunches started to rot.

All in all it was a good year with great fruit flavours and elegant wines. The tannins are soft and supple allowing for earlier drinking, appetising food friendly wines.

Christo le Riche
Cellarmaster