Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

HARVEST REPORT 2015

The season started early in August following a wet and cold winter. Good winter rain meant that the water reserves were in good condition and the vines budded even and early (2 weeks) after a warm August.

November had some rain during the flowering period, resulting in reduced crops, but the temperatures remained warm. December had low wind speeds, warm days and cool nights. The perfect combination for developing colour and flavour in the green berries.

Veraison started in late December on the Cabernets, cutting our fishing time short to start preparations for harvest. The temperatures remained warm and dry for January with no significant heatwaves. A cool February preceded the Cabernet picking. This protected the acidity and ensured great phenolic ripeness. In the end it can only be described as a perfect season.

We started picking Cabernet on the 18th of February. This is the earlies pick that Etienne has experienced in is 40+ years of making wine! The grapes ripened fast and evenly with our winery team sweating to get all the grapes in the cellar on time. By March 5 we were done with harvest. Very early indeed.

The quality is outstanding with deep colour, firm tannins and great length and power on the wines. This is a vintage to age.

Christo le Riche

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Cellarmaster