Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

HARVEST REPORT 2019

It had been a while since we had a cool vintage, and 2019 was a welcome relief. With the vines still recovering from the effects of the drought, the higher winter rainfall replenished the soils well. The winter started out warmer, causing uneven budding in the early cultivars like Chardonnay, but a cold August helped the Cabernet Sauvignon vines to remain dormant and bud more evenly in late Spring.

A cool November/December with strong winds hindered the flowering and lowered yields in the Cabernets. Careful vineyard management was necessary to maintain balance in the vines. A high level of fungal disease pressure was also observed and demanded close monitoring.

January and February warmed up well, and with regular rainfall throughout the summer. The vines maintained a good, healthy condition well into autumn and produced fruit with lower sugars, good ripeness and very elegant tannin. Our more coastal vineyards ripened early with harvest starting on the 18th of February, and continued up until the 27th of March with our last blocks off the Simonsberg. All in all the wines have great elegance and ageing potential.

Christo le Riche

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Cellarmaster