

Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

HARVEST REPORT 2023

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2023 was been a season with two faces. We started off with a dry winter and Spring, which help to ensure an even budburst with moderate growth leading up to flowering and early fruit development. This helped the formation for good colour and tannin in the berries, which is essential to ensure a high-quality vintage.

A series of thunderstorms with high rainfall created some problems for the viticulturists over December, but it soaked the dry soils and assisted an early veraison. A second rainstorm in early Feb, followed by warm conditions accelerated an already early vintage and we kicked off the vintage with a bang at the end of February, 10 days earlier than the norm. These first blocks were powerful, ripe and full of flavour. But then the rains came. Following the full moon in the first week of March, the season changed to autumn uncharacteristically early, and a series of storms slowed the harvesting to a crawl.

Making the call to pick has been difficult, but with a good team, regular sampling and a direct line to the weatherman, we have been able to ensure that the quality of the vintage was retained, and early indications are positive.



Christo le Riche
Cellarmaster

