



RUST EN VREDE

STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2014 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2013 – APRIL 2014



The 2014 vintage was shaped by a combination of favourable conditions and strategic vineyard management, resulting in a harvest with increased volume and elegant, fruit-driven wines. The groundwork was laid as far back as Spring 2012, when sunny October weather promoted excellent flower bunch primordia development, setting the stage for abundant fruit in 2014.



October 2013 brought dry, ideal conditions for flowering and set, leading to large bunches with many berries. A wet November during cell division further contributed to increased berry size, while December's calm summer weather, free of the damaging South-Easter, ensured healthy development. By January, 50mm of perfectly timed rain at veraison enhanced fruit and colour development. Though downy mildew became a concern, Rust en Vrede's meticulous management preserved the canopy's integrity, keeping the vines in optimal condition.

February brought a brief heatwave with temperatures exceeding 40°C for three days, but the rest of the month was temperate, promoting a long, steady ripening period. Harvest began at the end of February, with Merlot showing particularly well and crop levels increasing by up to 50%. Cool, rainy weather in March delayed ripening for Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, with additional rain intensifying the challenge. Despite the risks of botrytis and slipskin, Rust en Vrede's open canopy management and precise viticulture minimized damage.

The result is a vintage that, when harvested at phenolic ripeness, showcases juicy, elegant wines with great fruit expression and moderate alcohol levels. Careful winemaking will be key to preserving the vintage's character, offering approachable, vibrant wines that highlight the season's challenges and triumphs.

