



RUST EN VREDE

STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2020 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2019 – APRIL 2020



2020 had all the hallmarks of an excellent vintage. Sustained moderate day temperatures through the growing season, with timeous seasonal rainfall laid the foundation for a good season. The moderate ripening conditions allowed for slow ripening which encouraged colour and flavour development while retaining good acidity in the berries. The resulting bigger yield showed high quality, from which we expect first-class wines.

Post-harvest conditions were notably improved, with good rainfall replenishing soil moisture during this crucial time of reserve accumulation. Winter was sufficiently cold providing ample cold units. While winter rainfall was lower than in 2019, it remained significantly better than the drought period of 2016 to 2018.



Spring arrived with mostly favourable weather, encouraging an earlier but even bud break. October brought rain that replenished dry soil profiles without disrupting flowering, laying a solid foundation for stress-free berry set. The growing season was characterised by sustained, moderate to cool day temperatures. Very little rain and wind in November was ideal for berry set, and we saw an improvement in yields, as opposed to the relatively small harvest in 2019.

The ripening period was defined by dry conditions and steady, moderate temperatures that extended through late March. These conditions ensured efficient plant function and full maturity for late-ripening cultivars.

The harvest progressed smoothly, with the final days marked by a determined push to complete picking ahead of the lockdown. Red wines from the vintage exhibit exceptional promise, with concentrated flavour profiles, vivid colour, and refined tannin structures. Our late-ripening varieties, in particular, show excellent balance, concentration, and structure, underscoring the vintage's potential to deliver wines of depth and distinction.

