



RUST EN VREDE
STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2022 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2021 – APRIL 2022



The 2022 vintage at Rust en Vrede yielded an average crop of exceptional quality, with wines showing deep colour, intensity, and aging potential.

A typical winter in 2021 provided ample rainfall (150mm monthly from May to August), replenishing water reserves and ensuring excellent cold units. Budbreak was slightly delayed due to the cold winter, but September had low rainfall with even budding for all our varieties. The stage was set for healthy flowering and berry set, aided by high rainfall in October and November, and no damaging South-Easterly wind.



Although increased rainfall heightened disease pressure, careful spraying and canopy management ensured vigorous, balanced growth across young and old vines. December's high soil moisture contributed to robust berry set, while January's warm, dry conditions with few heat spikes, benefited Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. February and March saw minimal rain, requiring only light supplementary irrigation.

Harvest proceeded at a steady pace, with Merlot picked on 4 March, Syrah from 11–22 March, and Cabernet Sauvignon from 22 March–1 April. Moderate temperatures throughout ensured even ripening and excellent tannin structure in the Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. The resulting wines show good tannin structure, complexity, and layered flavours with a good balance of alcohol, acids and extraction. A promising vintage for wines that should age well.

