



RUST EN VREDE

STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2023 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2022 – APRIL 2023



The season was notably dry, with winter and spring rainfall falling 100mm below the previous year. Early winter saw fewer cold units, but a late cold snap balanced conditions. Warmer spring temperatures led to slightly earlier and even budding. The dry winter necessitated irrigation during flowering, but consistent weather supported good flowering overall. November's rainfall increased humidity and disease pressure, requiring careful spray programs.



December brought an unprecedented 80mm of rain in one week, boosting vine growth and reducing irrigation needs. Vineyard teams managed the canopy meticulously through suckering, tipping, and shoot removal. However, hot and humid conditions after the rain raised disease pressure, managed effectively with ongoing sprays and canopy adjustments. January's hot weather spurred ripening, with cool nights and 10mm of rain at the month's end maintaining acidity and encouraging phenolic ripeness.

Loadshedding posed a significant challenge, particularly for water and cooling in the cellar, but a new solar plant now supplies 40% of the cellar's energy, reducing reliance on generators. In the vineyards, minimal irrigation reliance mitigated the impact of power outages.

March presented the most challenging conditions, with 55mm of rain at the start delaying harvest. Daily showers increased disease pressure and further delayed picking. Despite these hurdles, the vineyards performed admirably, producing high-quality grapes. The wines from this vintage are elegant and lighter in style, reminiscent of the 2016 vintage, showcasing resilience in the face of extreme conditions.

