



RUST EN VREDE

STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2024 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2023 – APRIL 2024



The autumn of 2023 brought cool, wet conditions that aided vine recovery. A cold winter ensured proper dormancy, with above-average rainfall replenishing soils and dams, though heavy June rains caused minor flooding without harming vineyards. Spring remained cool, delaying budding. Rain and strong winds hindered early variety flowering, but Rust en Vrede's late-budding vines set an average crop. Late spring warmth promoted vigorous growth.



A dry summer followed, with no rain from September to mid-February, necessitating early irrigation. January was particularly hot, with 10 days above 35°C and frequent heat spikes. Cooler, less windy conditions in early February brought relief, accompanied by light showers. Late February warmed up again, but with fewer extreme heat events. Effective canopy management and strategic row direction minimized sunburn risks.

March brought moderate weather with cool nights, encouraging slow ripening and vibrant colour development. Harvest proceeded with minimal rain, save for one day that benefited the Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2024 vintage promises exceptional quality, with deep color, rich extracts, and excellent potential.

Post-harvest, a severe windstorm on April 7 damaged many trees on the property but spared the vineyards. Overall, the season's challenges were met with careful management, resulting in a vintage that reflects the Estate's commitment to excellence.

