



RUST EN VREDE
STELLENBOSCH

- VINTAGE REPORT 2025 -

VINTAGE CYCLE: MAY 2024 – APRIL 2025



The 2025 vintage was shaped by cool, steady conditions and focussed vineyard management. Winter 2024 arrived later than usual but delivered ample rainfall, with July marking the highest monthly total on record (369mm) at Rust en Vrede. This replenished groundwater reserves following a dry autumn and supported uniform bud development, despite fewer cold units earlier in the season. Saturated soils led to vigorous early growth, necessitating intensive canopy management.

Bud break began in the third week of September, 7–10 days later than average. The cool winter delayed soil warming, allowing for steady early growth. Spring brought calm conditions with some wind, which helped moderate yields. Flowering was even, and fruit set successful, particularly for Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon.



The growing season was mild with a lot of moisture in the vineyards leading to vigorous vine growth and increased weed pressure, doubling vineyard work. High humidity in October and November brought disease pressure from powdery and downy mildew, requiring continued vine management well into the season. The season remained moderate, with only a few heat spikes in late November and December. Veraison began early, around 23 December, and ripening continued steadily, aided by irrigation where needed.

The heart of the ripening period, from February through March, delivered ideal conditions: warm days, cool nights, and clear skies. The absence of significant rainfall - just 8mm in January and 15mm on 21 March - allowed for optimal phenolic development and flavour concentration. Harvesting began with the young Cabernet Sauvignon vines for the Rust en Vrede Brandy on 20 February. From early March, the younger Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon blocks were brought in, followed by the older vineyards later in the month. These older blocks showed excellent anthocyanin levels and tannin maturity, promising wines of depth and longevity. The final picking date for the wine grapes was 28 March, concluding a focused 21-day harvest window.

The 2025 vintage is defined by precision and restraint, promising wines of longevity and character.

