

KANONKOP

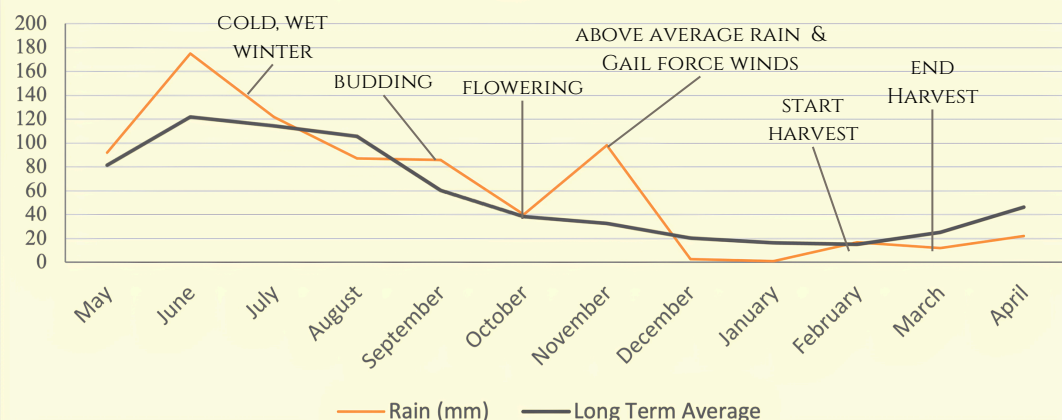
WINE ESTATE



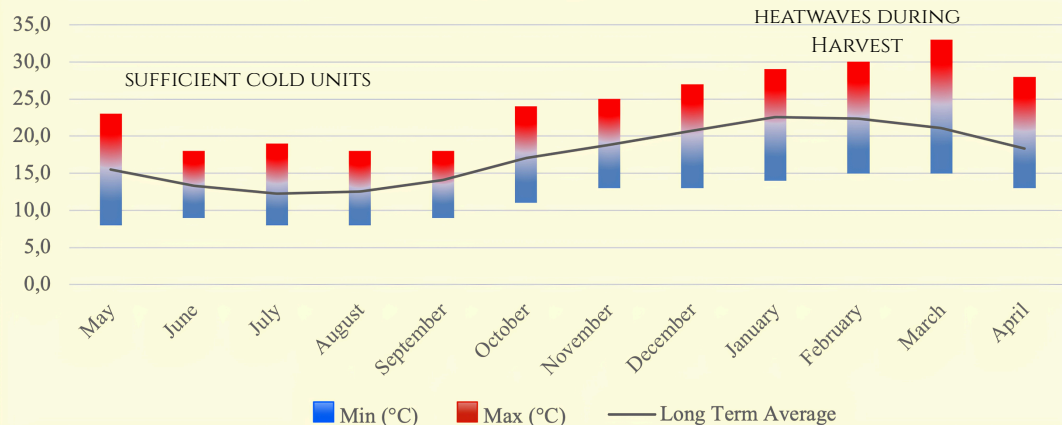
VINTAGE REPORT 2010

"A tough vintage to call, but one of exceptional grape quality." – Abrie Beeslaar

2010 Vintage Rainfall Chart



2010 Vintage Temperature Chart



In general, the crop size of the 2010 vintage in the Stellenbosch region was almost 20% lower than the 2009 vintage. Reasons for this decline include the following: Smaller bunches without any side bunches / weather conditions / pests and disease / gale force winds during late October and early November.

WINTER SEASON

May - Aug. 2009

A cold, wet winter provided adequate cold units and good soil moisture. All vineyard work was completed in good time following the clean break of dormancy.

GROWING SEASON

Sep. - Dec. 2009

On 9 November, easterly winds reached up to 150 km/h, causing significant damage to vineyards. Trellised vineyards planted in an east-west row direction had broken shoots on the first horizontal wire, resulting in a "brush-cut" look on the cordons of the vine. November's rainfall was almost four times the long-term average, with 98mm of rain recorded. December was contrastingly very dry. The total crop was approximately 20% lower than 2009, with smaller bunches and no side bunches.

HARVEST SEASON

Jan. - Apr. 2010

Pinotage veraison was approximately 10 days late in January. During the first week of February, Pinotage sugars escalated rapidly. A heatwave from late February into March caused rapid sugar accumulation, though ripening was delayed. The colour of red varieties was exceptionally intense.

From a viticultural point of view it was a very difficult year, but wine-wise the quality was excellent. Despite negative influences, the grape quality was exceptional. The exception being Pinotage which still had hard, chewy skins at ripening, but this was corrected in the cellar. Grape must analysis was exceptional, with high sugars and acids with low pH values. Malic acids were high, especially on the Pinotage and Merlot. A vintage that was one of the toughest in recent history to call, and a real test of the winemaker's savvy. Consumers should be guided by the producer's track record.