

KANONKOP

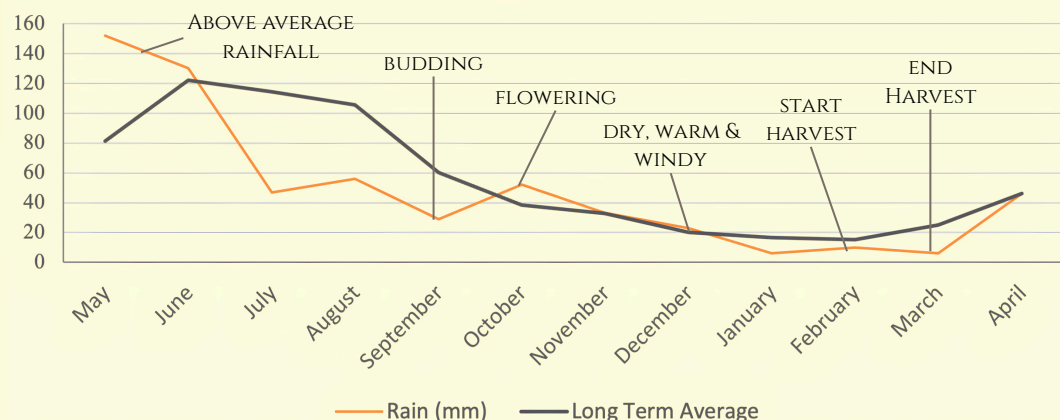
WINE ESTATE



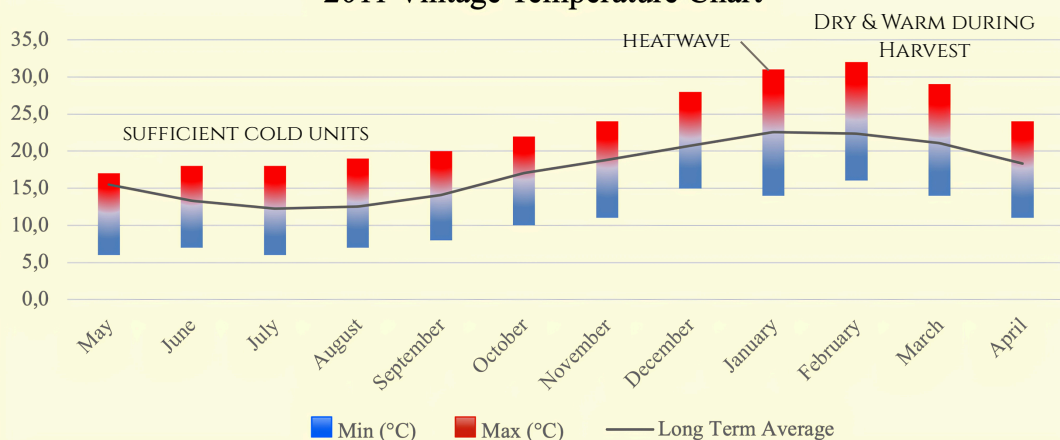
VINTAGE REPORT 2011

"A good vintage in terms of crop size and quality, especially for Pinotage and Merlot." – Abrie Beeslaar

2011 Vintage Rainfall Chart



2011 Vintage Temperature Chart



The 2011 harvest was about 10% larger in crop size compared to the 2010 vintage. This was mainly due to larger bunches with good “shoulder” development. Berry size were smaller though, which had a positive effect on the quality.

WINTER SEASON

May - Aug. 2010

A relatively good winter, but approximately 50mm drier than usual. Cold units were sufficient for full dormancy break. Budding was earlier than 2010 and fairly even.

GROWING SEASON

Sep. - Dec. 2010

Cooler and wetter conditions during the last half of October and early November had a negative impact on berry set. Hail and thunderstorms in early December caused some damage to our bush vines. December was characterised by dry, warm and very windy conditions, the windiest in 42 years, resulting in low soil moisture and sunburn damage on some bunches.

HARVEST SEASON

Jan. - Apr. 2011

A January heatwave necessitated earlier and more frequent irrigation in the vineyard. The dry, warm growing and ripening conditions led to earlier ripening for late cultivars like Cabernet Sauvignon. Harvest finished approximately two weeks earlier than normal. The harvest was approximately 10% larger than 2010, mainly due to larger bunches with good shoulder development. Smaller berries had a positive effect on quality.

The analysis of grapes harvested at the beginning of the season looked good, especially with regard to their pH, and good quality wines were expected, especially from the Pinotage. During the last half of the season, high temperatures led to a rapid increase in sugar levels with pH levels that stayed low. This meant the Cabernet Sauvignon reached physiological ripeness at higher sugar levels. It was a good vintage in terms of crop size and quality, especially for early to mid-season varieties like Pinotage and Merlot. As in 2010, the producer's track record should guide consumers, as this was a very variable vintage.