

KANONKOP

WINE ESTATE



VINTAGE REPORT 2018

"Drought stress produced concentrated wines with sound structure" – Abrie Beeslaar

The extreme warm and dry climatic conditions of this vintage led to the size of the crop being considerably lower than that of 2017. It will be remembered as one of the driest seasons in Kanonkop's history. Fortunately, the temperatures were slightly lower which helped to reduce the stress on the vines.

WINTER SEASON

May - Aug. 2017

Winter started later than usual, with only 80% of the expected rainfall. Cold unit accumulation was insufficient. The deficit left soil moisture and dam levels low as the growing season began.

GROWING SEASON

Sep. - Dec. 2017

Above-average rainfall during flowering and berry set had a negative impact on Cabernet Sauvignon. High temperatures and thunder mid-season caused rapid shoot growth, prompting more intensive canopy management. Night temperatures during ripening were cooler than normal, aiding colour and flavour development. Pests, like snails and katydids, were also a problem.

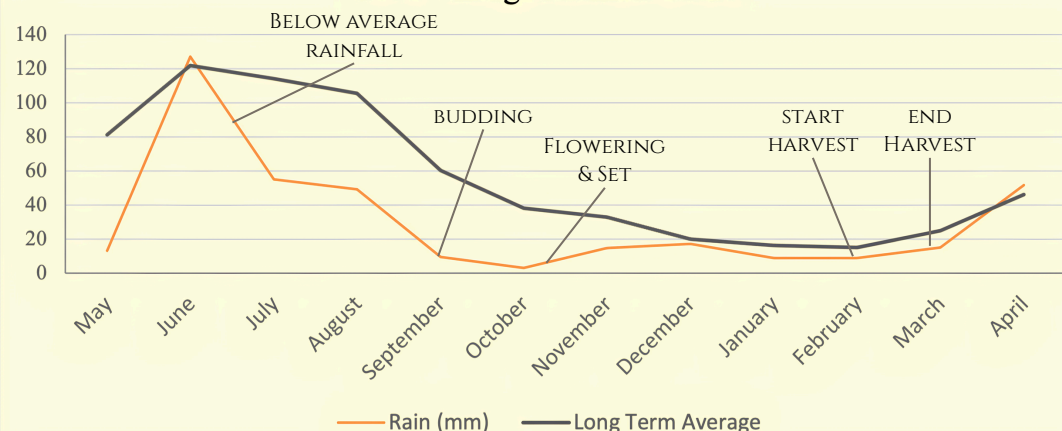
HARVEST SEASON

Jan. - Apr. 2018

The harvest started later than usual. Early pickings were frenetic due to above-average temperatures, then moderated following light rain and cooler nights. A hailstorm on 13 February caused some damage. Uneven budding earlier in the season led to uneven ripening, requiring careful management of picking decisions. Despite dry conditions, bunches remained fresh with soft skin texture, but the grape bunches weighed lighter than normal, with less and smaller berries per bunch. The dry soils hampered the preparation for planting of cover crops after the harvest.

This challenging vintage, with its lingering drought that required particular focus on optimal picking times, produced sound, concentrated wines that should peak earlier.

2018 Vintage Rainfall Chart



2018 Vintage Temperature Chart

