

A few notes on the 2024 Harvest from a Jordan Estate point of view:

This was our 32<sup>nd</sup> vintage, and very different to all the others.

This past year we received 860mm of rain, 69% more than in 2022, but luckily this was mostly in winter and very early Spring.

We had 215mm during the growing season, but 95mm of this all fell on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Luckily we were spared much of the damage caused to lower-lying farms particularly SE of Jordan Estate, suffering some damage to vineyard roads.

In trying to avoid any soil compaction by limiting tractors from going into extremely wet vineyard blocks, we sprayed a large part of the estate with a drone, giving the soil a chance to dry out without damaging the structure. This was a game-changer and ensured that mildew was kept at bay at a crucial time so early after budding.

Fine vineyard roots (essential to stop the early onset of drought stress) would have died off due to the extremely wet early Spring conditions, so we ensured that irrigation pumps and pipes were all serviced and ready to drip irrigate in advance of the first signs of stress on the shoot tips.

Over 36 days of temperatures over 30 degrees C are not conditions we usually experience at Jordan, with Stellenbosch Kloof having a much cooler environment than most of Stellenbosch. The average growing season temperature was recorded at 19.2 degrees C, which is warmer than usual.

Strong wind during flowering was detrimental to fruit set in many Stellenbosch vineyards – at Jordan, only our highest, most exposed sites were affected this year (we're fairly sheltered from the SE wind), so crop levels on some blocks were slightly up on last year.

The order of ripening was unusual and different to most years though. Some Chardonnay came in before Sauvignon Blanc. Virtually all the white varieties were harvested before red, and this avoided the usual turmoil of Merlot clashing with late Chardonnay.

A big shout-out to Sjaak and our cellar team and to the international harvest interns who were an essential part of ensuring a smooth harvest with almost 700 tonnes of grapes being crushed before Easter when harvest ended.

This year we're planting/replanting almost 11 ha of new vineyards – Assyrtiko, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc all on different parts of the estate. Another 8 ha will be prepared and terraced this November for planting next year with some new varieties for the industry being added into the mix. Watch this space as we renew and rejuvenate to ensure healthy vineyards for the next 32 vintages.