



## **Vintage Report 2015**

The 2015 growing season in the Swartland will go down as the most unique vintages in recent memory. We had a good, cold winter in 2014 with above average rainfall - August had the highest volume of rain in decades. Budburst was very even and quite rapid due to a warm Spring. The large crop in 2014 caused the vines to set a lower than average crop, and the early budburst and flowering meant the whole season was earlier than normal. After flowering, the remainder of the growing and ripening season was relatively cool (February was the coolest February in 35 years), and also very dry (it was the driest summer since 1965!). This meant that the vines were very healthy in terms of disease pressure, and the low yields and super dry conditions caused the ripening period to be faster than normal.

Harvest started two to three weeks earlier than normal, with really healthy fruit. Early varieties (Chenin blanc and Viognier) had lovely ripeness levels and particularly high acidities, and the mid and later ripening varieties had average acidities with great concentration and flavour.

All in all it looks like the most promising vintage in years!!

Chris Mullineux  
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