

KLEIN CONSTANTIA

— 1685 —

CONSTANTIA, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA – KLEIN CONSTANTIA ESTATE

Across the board the 2014 wines are looking great; from the Sauvignon blanc to the reds but particularly the Vin de Constance which is looking excellent. The build-up to harvest this year was good. There was more than enough moisture in the soil thanks to regular and often persistent rain in winter through to spring. At budding the temperatures remained cool and as a result the budding dates indicated a later harvest season.

Once the summer heat came through, the budding was even and growth was vigorous. Veraison was marginally later than usual but by harvest, the season was only five days later than 2013. We found that we were getting physiological ripeness at a much lower sugar level so all the emphasis on harvest date was decided by taste and not analysis this year. Picking lasted from the 5th of February to the 10th of April with a total of 442 tons of grapes and harvesting started at 4 o'clock in the morning.

For the first time ever, Klein Constantia have registered 6 different single vineyards and have taken steps forward in making the first certified organic Sauvignon blanc from Constantia. The Sauvignon Blancs are showing terrific pallet weight, great acid to pH balance as well as that amazing minerality that we are trying to express in our wines. The focus of the Estate Red 2014 will be on Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Finally, the Vin de Constance has really exceeded expectation this year and hopefully, will be one of our best vintages ever. We harvested in bigger batches than last year and were able to harvest the bunches at up to 15 different ripening stages starting from 'high in acidity' to 'sweet raisins'.

In closing, this great vintage would not have been possible without an amazing team. Craig Harris, our new Farm Manager, had a fantastic maiden vintage with Klein Constantia and we look forward to seeing more of his magic touch in the vineyards. In the cellar we had an incredible team this year with vast experience; Valentina Buoso the winemaker from Pascal Jolivet in Sancerre assisted with our Metis project and brought along her vast knowledge and experience in making terroir driven Sauvignon blanc.

