

KLEIN CONSTANTIA

— 1685 —

CONSTANTIA, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA – KLEIN CONSTANTIA ESTATE

The 2013 harvest will be remembered as one of the coldest and wettest in a long time. This cooler weather is ideal for the Constantia white wines as they require these conditions to achieve optimal ripeness. This resulted in a larger crop of white grapes than that of previous years, signalling that the vines are even more in harmony and balance with the terrior than ever before.

We were faced with challenging weather during harvest season with at least 1 day of rain per week for 6 weeks during the crucial sauvignon blanc harvest times. This posed a threat of rot and created an unpredictable ripening season, not to mention the loss of valuable days that we couldn't harvest owing to rain.

Harvesting began in January and only finished mid-march resulting in varying ripening results this year. We are very excited about this harvest as the resultant wine is presenting as an extremely complex, slightly riper and richer sauvignon blanc: a big wine. The crowning factor with this wine is that it still maintains the same level of freshness and acidity previous years and is reminiscent of the older more classic Klein Constantia Sauvignon from the 1990's.

With such a great white wine year it seemed very unlikely that it would be a good red year but somehow this was not the case. The cabernet sauvignon is still fermenting but it seems that this batch has a very good promise with minimal green flavours and great, rich, ripe fruit.

Vin de Constance

The aim this year was to harvest at least 20 different times starting in January and continuing until the end of April. So far this has resulted in great acidities with super ripe fruit being harvested. Only the best berries are hand-selected from the best bunches at optimal ripeness. It has also been a great year for raisin formation so we have placed a lot of focus on harvesting as many raisins as possible. It is still too early to say anything about the Vin de Constance but so far the wine is looking great and has all the signs of this being a great year for this special sweet wine.

