

# ANWILKA

## STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA - ANWILKA

In the lead up to the 2014 vintage, we experienced a cold, wet and long winter. This was very good for the vines and gave them ample time to recharge their batteries. Spring was later, wetter and colder than usual. This led to a later budding period but a very even bud burst. Favourable conditions with little wind led to a very good fruit set. Veraison was ten days later than usual. It was very quick to occur but even throughout all the cultivars.

The early summer was mild with relatively cool evenings. Later in February, it became warmer however we had no major heat spikes. The evenings remained cool, perfect for slow even ripening that is necessary for Anwilka fruit. Unseasonal rain posed a challenge for fungal disease; therefore perfect timing of canopy management to control vigour would prove to be crucial later in the season. There was a slight hot spell in early March, but thereafter it was mild with cold evenings, assisting in further slowing down the ripening of the grapes, especially the Cabernet Sauvignon. Changes in the weather kept everyone on their toes with regards to the decision on when to pick the grapes. Harvest started later but finished sooner, as a result space in the cellar for fermentation proved to be challenging for the whole duration of harvest.

Chief Winemaker at Châteaux La Fleur de Bouard, Philippe Nunes, came to support at both Klein Constantia and Anwilka for a few days during the harvest. This gave us a fresh palate to help decide on the pre-blends. Since we focus only on red wines, it is still early days for the wines of 2014. What is evident thus far is that we have very elegant, fine and classic tannins with delicate perfume and fruit. The Cabernet Sauvignon that has been brought-in, looks to be promising and will add another dimension to the final Anwilka blend.

