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VINTAGE REPORT

Official Anderson Valley Vintage Report

A Great Vintage for Anderson Valley

BY AVWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After the challenging vintage of 2020 where most people were just looking to survive, 2021 was met with welcomed relief and almost felt “normal”. That does not mean we did not face challenges along the way.

The 2021 vintage was about resourcefulness and just making do with what you’ve got. Water, labor, and raw materials were all in short supply. However, when it was said and done the one thing we had an abundance of was quality!



With historically low amounts of winter rain, our aquifers and soil profile were not fully recharged, leaving the vineyards in a water deficit before the season even began. Our growers were forced to be conservative and creative with what little water was available.

Highlights

- 2021 has been one of the earlier harvests on record
- Harvest began the second week of August
- 2021 crop yields were smaller than average, by as much as 35%
- Water, labor & raw materials were all in short supply
- The spring was unsettled, with wind, a touch of rain, and a few frost events
- Below-freezing winter temperatures shocked some vines that had yet to go into dormancy
- The vintage is perceived as being one of high quality



Emerging from winter, the spring was unsettled, with wind, a touch of rain, and a few frost events. The unsettled weather pattern occurred during the heart of our flowering period leading to a variable fruit set. This coupled with the lingering drought set the stage for a smaller than average harvest.

Moving into summer, temperatures in Anderson Valley remained warm, but never too hot. Our saving grace was the cool nights influenced by our proximity to the coast. We also have the ocean breeze to thank for keeping the valley clear of smoke from inland fires during the critical periods of cluster development and harvest.



While vineyard and winery workers felt like an endangered species, a crop that was roughly 35% smaller than historical averages seemed manageable despite the labor short far. The light crop, warm temperatures, and lack of water pushed the vintage forward fast with harvest starting in the second week of August.

Despite these challenges, our vintners of sparkling and still wines are jazzed about quality. This year's crop shows immense concentration of flavor, color, and acidity. The wines are certain to make a statement of high character that reflect the effects of a lingering drought, resourcefulness, and commitment of quality by our growers & vintners.

Simply put, this vintage is small but mighty and we look forward to sharing these wines with you in the years to come.

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JEFFREY JINDRA

