

2025 VINTAGE REPORT

The 2025 vintage in Clare Valley was shaped by a warm, very dry season that brought both challenges and rewards for growers and winemakers.

Despite reduced yields across many sites, the quality of fruit harvested has been received with strong optimism across the region. Winter and early spring were marked by rainfall that was well below average, resulting in low soil moisture levels at the start of the growing season. Budburst occurred earlier than usual, setting the tone for an accelerated season, although calm and mild weather conditions that prevailed during fruitset contributed to even ripening. The absence of significant rain through summer and autumn required careful vineyard management, particularly in terms of irrigation and canopy maintenance. Harvest commenced very early, in fact the earliest start on record, with many blocks picked in rapid succession due to the quick accumulation of sugar and flavour. The very warm conditions at the end of harvest were challenging and contributed to reduced yields – particularly for dryland blocks and younger vines – but on the plus side, delivered fruit that showed excellent flavour concentration and varietal definition.

Riesling displays lifted aromatics, bright natural acidity, and fine structure, promising wines of elegance and longevity. Red varieties, including Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon, show deep colour, generous flavour, and balanced tannins, reflecting the benefits of a warm, dry ripening window with low disease pressure.

Overall, 2025 will be remembered as a vintage of quality over quantity. Early indicators suggest wines of depth, vibrancy, and regional typicity. Growers now look forward to winter rainfall to replenish the soils and support strong growth into the 2026 season.