

**Clare Valley Wine &
Grape Association**

**CLARE
VALLEY**

2026 VINTAGE REPORT

The 2026 vintage in the Clare Valley was shaped by a variable growing season that required careful vineyard management and considered decision-making throughout. A cool start, supported by spring rainfall, promoted good canopy development. There was a late frost event in the lead-up to harvest which impacted yields in some vineyards. January was warm and dry for veraison.

Rainfall during harvest in late February introduced some challenges, including minor berry splitting in susceptible varieties; although thankfully, disease pressure remained low overall.

In response to the conditions, growers made selective picking decisions, with some fruit not harvested to maintain quality. As a result, yields are generally below long-term averages, though the fruit that was harvested is of high quality.

Early indications suggest wines of purity and balance, with Riesling showing vibrant aromatics, strong natural acidity, and fine structure. Cabernet Sauvignon is a highlight among the reds, benefiting from favourable ripening conditions and extended hang time, while Shiraz and Grenache also show good depth of flavour and structure.

Overall, 2026 is expected to be a vintage of quality over quantity, with wines reflecting regional character and careful vineyard and winery management.