

Clare Valley Wine &
Grape Association

CLARE
VALLEY

Vintage Report 2022

Quality was consistently high across both red and white varieties in 2022, a vintage which also recorded strong yields. Cool, dry weather through summer and early autumn provided favourable ripening conditions, producing fruit with good natural acid levels and full varietal flavour.

Winemakers are excited that 2022 Riesling is looking exceptional as the Clare Valley celebrates the 21st birthday of the screw cap closure, an innovation pioneered by the region.

It is also an extraordinary year for red varieties which are showing a combination of quality and yield not seen for several years, with Cabernet Sauvignon looking like a real standout.

The season in 2021 began with a dry cool autumn which led into good winter rains and above average spring rainfall. The timing of this rain led to decent soil moisture during the growing season even though the annual rainfall was down on average.

The cool wet spring delayed budburst slightly and, combined with a cool summer, led to one of the latest starts to the vintage in more than a decade. Flavour ripeness developed before Baume specifications necessitated picking and wineries had time to process the fruit without the capacity issues that occur in a compressed vintage.

A couple of frosty nights in mid-October caused some isolated damage and wet conditions through flowering in November led to poor fruit set in some varieties and blocks. But overall, the region escaped damage from fire and hail and as a result reported a total yield of 10-15 percent up on last year. Early indications estimate a regional yield of 26,000 – 27,000 tonnes, just slightly above the long-term average.

Clare Valley Wine & Grape Association Chair Martin Ferguson says the vintage brings good news for wineries and grape growers after a hard year for business, shaped by increasing costs of production, labour constraints and market challenges.

“We look forward to celebrating vintage 2022 wines in future Clare Valley Wine Shows and the highly anticipated 2022 Riesling spring release.”

Anna Baum
Executive Officer