

Louis Latour Agencies

WINES WITH PERSONALITY

2006 South African Vintage Report

The season began with favourable conditions which resulted in good even growth of the vines. Between September and November temperature fluctuations and wind caused damage to vines and uneven budding. Summer saw strong south-easterly winds and a prolonged heat wave that reduced soil moisture and reduced yields at harvest. This vintage produced some excellent wines, the quality and health of the reds is very good and the whites have superb balance.

Paarl

Good rainfall during winter 2005 ensured sufficient water levels at the start of the season. Vines had more bunches and more berries per bunch and initially people believed that 2006 would be an abundant year. However lower than average rainfall during the season reduced the berry size and therefore the yield.

Stellenbosch

A cold winter and plenty of rain prepared vines for a strong start to the growing season. The spring and early summer were cooler and drier than average. Budding took place at a similar time to 2005 and although this was very even there was some unevenness in bunch development. From January onwards the weather was warm and dry. Overall the grape health was very good in 2006, the harvest took place in dry conditions allowing grapes to be brought in safely and in peak condition.