

## Simonsig Wine Estate begins harvest

Despite the very cold weather, heavy rains and flooding during last winter, Simonsig Estate has begun its 2013 harvest with the Pinot Noir and cellar master Johan Malan is pleased with the quality and healthy condition of the vines.



First press - Pinot Noir for Kaapse Vonkel

"While the 2012 winter was very cold and wet, December was one of the warmest months in decades, which sped up the growth and ripening of the grapes tremendously. The average temperature in Stellenbosch was 2.5° C warmer than the 47-year long-term average. With these favourable dry weather conditions, the vineyards are beautiful and healthy," says Malan.

The early estimates for the total South African vintage is that it will be one of the biggest harvests ever. Simonsig expects an average or even slightly smaller harvest than the last two seasons.

"Quality is always our primary objective, but we are hoping that nature be kind to us, as there are still plenty of risks," he concludes.

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