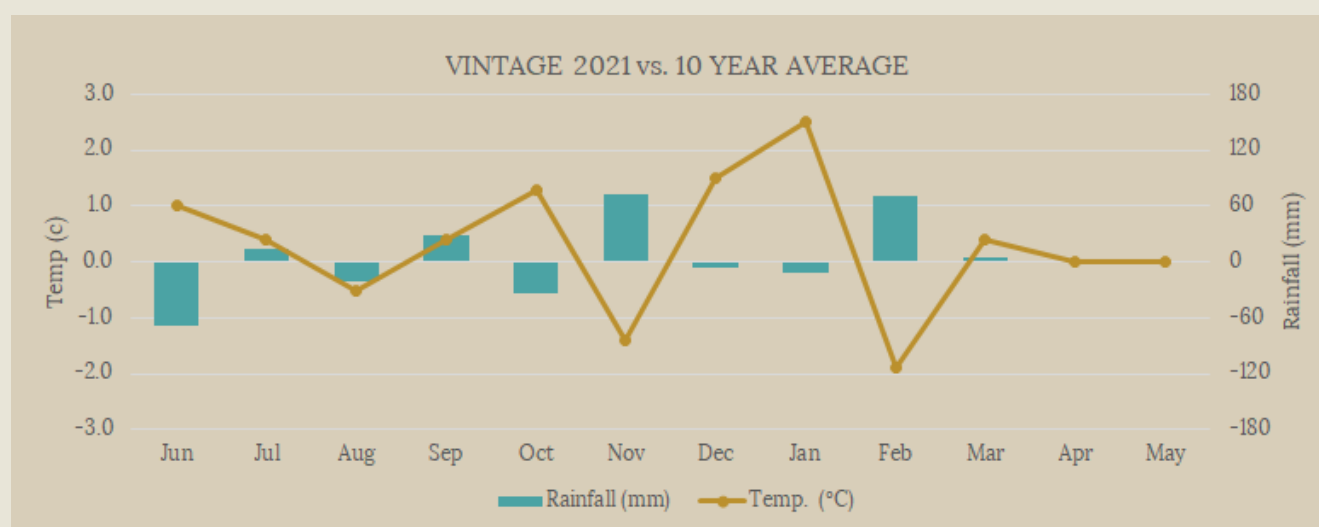


## Growing Season

Mild spring weather, reasonable but not extreme rainfall and excellent growing conditions started the season. Budburst and flowering was normal. Crops were good but not extreme and things looked promising. La Niña created a strong cyclone season in Western Australia's north, November rainfall double the long-term average and unusual conditions across the region. Fortunately, the region experienced virtually no rain, warmer than average mean maximum temperatures and cool nights as reprieve from the hot days in December and January. As harvest was commencing (early February) significant rainfall soaked deep into the soils and was great timing for the later ripening Cabernet Sauvignon. Warm weather and a period of high humidity (for Margaret River) followed, which increased disease pressure risk in some vineyards.

# MARGARET RIVER VINTAGE REPORT 2021



## Harvest Conditions

It was quite humid which made it a bit more challenging than what the region is accustomed to. Growers reacted with leaf plucking across the reds to improve airflow and some fruit dropping to ensure physiological ripeness was achievable. Those who put in the extra work will no doubt reap the rewards. As usual, the best vineyards will rise to the top. Labour shortages necessitated a lot of pre-planning and forecasting to ensure harvesting could be achieved when required. Many were affected and called on anyone available to help with the harvest.

## Fruit Profile

White varieties had incredible flavour at lower baume than usual and retained natural acidity. There is purity and varietal expression. Chardonnay is looking very elegant. Sauvignon Blanc is a standout this season. The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon has a purity and aromatic profile that should progress into a wine that will age gracefully. The tannins are super polished and fine.

### VINTAGE 2021 AT A GLANCE:

1,169 mm

ANNUAL RAINFALL  
JUNE - MAY

29.0C max.

MEAN TEMP  
JANUARY

14.6C min.

MEAN TEMP  
JANUARY

32,000 tonnes (est.)

HARVEST