

# VINTAGE REPORT

Official Anderson Valley Vintage Report

## A Symphony Vintage

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Mother nature always provides a song and dance for our growers and vintners, and this year her playlist was rather eclectic. Ranging from classical to heavy metal and a little bit of everything in-between, 2022 in Anderson Valley started with a very classical feel and ended with an unexpected twist. It's a good thing it wasn't our first concert, and that we know how to dance to a variety of tunes. The resulting performances from our growers and vintners ranges from good to great!

## Highlights

- 2022 harvest began the last week of August (sparkling) & by Labor Day for still producers
- Water shortages remained a challenge, forcing farmers to be resourceful
- 2022 crop yields were larger than the past two years, but not a bumper crop
- The spring was cool, with timely rain. Flowering conditions were mostly favorable, but wind, rain, and hail impacted some sites fruit set
- A heat wave hit Sept. 5th-9th w/consecutive days 105°F-116°F
- Unusual rain fell Sept. 18th and accumulated between 2.5" - 3.5", but rot was avoided



Winter rains were sporadic, but highlighted with a few large storms that created run off helping recharge storage ponds and saturate the soil profile. Moving to spring the weather remained cool and brought timely rain that fueled the growth of the vines and berries. During the flowering, conditions were mostly favorable, but wind, rain, and even hail meant that some sites had scattered fruit set.

From there, moving into summer, it felt like we were on cruise control, very “classical” days. Harvest started the last week of August for sparkling producers, and by Labor Day still wines started to join the party as an impending heat wave was on the horizon. Heat is normal over Labor Day, but it got a little hotter than normal. Starting September 5th we had five straight days over 105F, with the peak being 116F!! By this point, we were no longer listing to classical, nor were we on cruise control, it was a little more like Miles Davis’s Bitches Brew. It was chaotic yet beautifully orchestrated as our growers responded with overhead sprinklers to provide evaporative cooling. The vineyard crews put the pedal to the metal working tirelessly around the clock to pick the grapes.

As the heatwave broke on September 9th, things found a sense of familiarity and the playlist shuffled to 1980’s pop. Knowing that sweet dreams are made of this, harvest kept on humming. With attention to detail, picking teams and winery sorters were able to sift through grapes that had been compromised by the heat, keeping only the best. Then 9 days later, what was originally forecast to be .25” of rain, enough to knock the dust down, turned into an intense 24 hours where we accumulated between 2.5” and 3.5” depending on location. Welcomed in the sense that fire danger had been alleviated and feared in the sense that grapes might begin to rot, the rain was met with mixed emotions. The rhythm of dance resembling more of a mosh pit at this point, the playlist definitely shifted to heavy metal.

Once again, our growers rose to the occasion with extra leafing to open up the canopy after the rain, and some even manicured bunches that had spots of rot. The interesting nature of this vintage led to a fairly condensed harvest period, and with few exceptions, harvest was a wrap by the end of September. As the sun set on vintage 2022, the tranquility of our little valley once again returned and the mood felt a bit more like Antonio Vivaldi’s Four Seasons.

Despite a playlist bouncing around the genres, the commitment to excellence was on full display from our growers and vintners. Additionally, while not a bumper crop, the yields were much better than the two previous vintages. Not only are we excited by the range of tasty wines in 2022, we will have plenty to share as they come to market in the coming years!

"Harvest was challenging yet rewarding and showcases great qualities along with a full spectrum of flavor."

JEFFREY JINDRA

