

Napa Valley harvest report

Napa Valley harvest report: Cabernet harvest begins

Jesse Duarte Sep 13, 2022 Updated 22 hrs ago

The Cabernet Sauvignon harvest has begun in parts of the Napa Valley, as growers recover from last week's record-breaking heat wave.

"Whether in the east hills or west side of Oakville, the consensus is that little if any grapes will be left to harvest by month's end," said Jennifer Rue of Oakville Ranch Vineyards.

"Some blocks are showing signs of dehydration and are being picked this week, while others fared well and will hang for two to three more weeks, as normal," Cliff Family Winery's Laura Barrett said of growers on Howell Mountain, where temperatures as high as 118 were recorded.

Here's this week's harvest report, organized by American Viticultural Area:

Stags Leap District

Elizabeth Vianna, Chimney Rock Winery — "As predicted, the Labor Day heat spike accelerated the rhythms of harvest in the Stags Leap District. Elias Fernandez, winemaker at Shafer exclaimed, 'Crazy! Vintage half done. Hillside SLD cabs done!' Michael Baldacci, winemaker at Baldacci Family Vineyards, had harvested some hillside Cabernet and was surprised by how well everything did during the heat and was excited for some more hang time and cooler days. Carmel Greenberg, winemaker at Clos du Val, was getting started with Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc on their Estate. Robert Smith, winemaker at Quixote Winery, was also harvesting Malbec, Cabernet Franc and their top block of Petite Sirah. He was planning on harvesting the entire estate this week. 'That's the way the cookie crumbles sometimes,' said Robert, who always keeps his cool. Robbie Meyer, winemaker at Malk Family Vineyards, brought in their Cabernet Sauvignon at the end of last week. Josh Widaman, winemaker at Pine Ridge Vineyards, had harvested 14 of their 47 SLD acres with more Cabernet Sauvignon coming in this week. At Chimney Rock this week, we will bring in Fiano, Merlot, Malbec, our hillsides of Cabernet Sauvignon, possibly Petit Verdot and some Cabernet Franc. I don't recall ever harvesting all varieties in one week. We have a few weeks to go to complete our harvest and we are grateful that canopies look green, and weather has cooled down. Now it's time to get back to work!"