



## 2021 Vintage Overview

2021 was a warm growing season in Washington marked by a record shattering heat event in late June and, in some cases, historically low yields at harvest.

Bud break began in the Columbia Valley at the very beginning of April, ahead of historical averages. The weather at bloom, which began in the third week of May, was somewhat unsettled, with hot, dry winds.

The true hallmark of the year, however, came at the end of June, when a heat dome descended upon the west coast. It shattered all previous temperature records in every location. Areas of the Columbia Valley saw four straight days with temperatures as high as 118 degrees Fahrenheit.

While most growers felt that their vineyards fared the extreme heat well, the heat did occur during cell division. This, combined with other factors, led to a significant reduction in berry size and cluster size. Most varieties were impacted, but Cabernet Sauvignon was in particular, down in some cases 30+% from expected tonnages.

The rest of the growing season continued to be warm, and 2021 is considered to be either the second warmest vintage on record behind 2015 or the warmest. However, those two years accumulated their heat very differently.

Veraison began in mid-July, aligned with recent years though early by historical standards. Harvest for sparkling wine began August 12th, five to seven days ahead of recent years. Temperatures cooled down in September and October, allowing for extended hang time for those who sought it.

While the crop was much smaller than growers and winemakers would have liked, all were pleased with quality. Brix were somewhat elevated, and many reported that acids held on surprisingly well considering the warmth of the year.



# WA

46°N

# WINE

Indicator	Overview	Detail
<b>Vintage hallmark</b>	--	--
<b>Growing season summary</b>	Above average overall temperatures with a record heat event at the end of June leading to significantly smaller berries and clusters and a light crop.	2021 was either the second warmest or warmest year on record compared to 2015 depending on location. A heat dome that occurred at the end of June sent temperatures into triple digits. This along with other factors led to a historically low yield in many locations.
<b>Bud break</b>	Slightly ahead of historical averages.	Slightly ahead of historical averages.
<b>Bloom</b>	Slightly ahead of historical averages.	Slightly ahead of historical averages.
<b>Veraison</b>	Slightly ahead of historical averages.	Slightly ahead of historical averages.
<b>Harvest</b>	About five to seven days ahead of recent years.	Harvest began the second week of August for sparkling wine. This was ahead of the long-term average and about five to seven days ahead of many recent years. Cooler temperatures in September and October extended the season.
<b>Berry size/Cluster size</b>	Significantly smaller	Berry sizes, cluster sizes, and the number of clusters were all significantly reduced in most varieties and locations.
<b>Yields</b>	Significantly below average	Smaller berry sizes, cluster weights, and number of clusters contributed to yields that were in many cases historically low.
<b>Brix</b>	Above average	Brix were above historical averages.
<b>Acids</b>	Slightly above average for a warm year.	Acids were generally above expected given the warmth of the year, but they were by no means high.
<b>Disease, Pest, and Environmental pressures</b>	Minimal	Little pest and disease pressure was experienced