



2020

napa valley vintage overview

a vintage that stayed committed to quality.

profoundly impacted by wildfires.

The 2020 vintage in Napa Valley was profoundly impacted by unprecedented wildfire activity, leading to significant challenges for winemakers throughout the region. According to Winemaker Jean Hoefliger, the season began with a warm, dry winter, followed by a mild spring that facilitated early vine development. Summer brought cool mornings and warm days, creating conditions that initially promised a favorable harvest.

The white wine harvest commenced in early August, prior to the onset of the major wildfires. This timely harvest allowed for the production of white wines that exhibit excellent development, reflecting the fine quality of the vintage year. Unfortunately, the red wine harvest faced severe disruptions due to the LNU Lightning Complex fires that ignited on August 17, followed by the Glass Fire on September 27. These fires occurred during critical ripening and harvesting periods for red varietals, exposing the grapes to prolonged smoke. Smoke exposure can lead to "smoke taint," imparting undesirable flavors and aromas to the wine. Given these conditions, the decision was made to forgo red wine production for the 2020 vintage to maintain the winery's commitment to quality.

The 2020 vintage underscores the resilience and adaptability required in viticulture, highlighting the profound influence of environmental factors on wine production.