



**Grape Compass**

Enabling quality grapes

*Powered by HydroNET*

## **User Experience: Hamilton Russell Vineyards**

## Introduction

Grape Compass is a smartphone application that can be used as a decision support system for viticulturists/grape growers that makes reliable forecasts of fungal disease risks in vineyards. Not only does Grape Compass help avoid unnecessary sprays during periods of low risk, but the app also helps to ensure optimal crop protection during periods of high disease risk.



Hamilton Russell Vineyards is a Grape Compass user and the farm's vineyard manager, Johan Montgomery, provided some valuable insights on their experience in using the application in the 2022 season.

## About Hamilton Russell Vineyards

Hamilton Russell Vineyards is a world renowned wine estate in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Hermanus.

They follow the "feed the soil to feed the plant" philosophy. "Healthier plants to build resistance against pests and diseases. Making use of the most environmentally friendly products and management practices possible."

## How did you get started with Grape Compass?

Hamilton Russell Vineyards signed up to use Grape Compass in the 2022/2023 season. Johan explained that the farm regularly experiences downy mildew and powdery mildew pressure, primarily as a result of close proximity to the sea, with light southeast rain and cool wet mornings, followed by warm and humid days.

## How was your experience with Grape Compass?

Johan appraised the app's easy installation and said it serves as a good back-up service. "Grape Compass is like having an extra person monitoring the vineyards, working all day, seven days a week. It gives a full infection risk report daily and by providing a forecast for the next couple of days, the app is extremely helpful with decision-making and adjusting the spray program accordingly."

## What would you say is the biggest benefit of Grape Compass?

"Awareness. A spray program guide, which diseases to target and which not. Possible cost saving and a more enviro-friendly approach. A canopy management reminder."



### Downy mildew - Primary infection risk

	18-05	19-05	20-05	21-05	22-05
02:00 - 08:00	No risk	No risk	High	High	No risk
08:00 - 14:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	Medium	No risk
14:00 - 20:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk
20:00 - 02:00	No risk	No risk	High	No risk	No risk

No risk   Medium   High



### Botrytis - Infection risk

	18-05	19-05	20-05	21-05	22-05
02:00 - 08:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk
08:00 - 14:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk
14:00 - 20:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk
20:00 - 02:00	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk	No risk

No risk   Medium   High



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