



Keimoes-Upington N14, 2km, Keimoes, Northern Cape, South Africa  
PO Box 767, Keimoes, 8860, South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0)54 337 8660  
Email: info@redsun.co.za © www.redsun.co.za



## REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #5 – 2019 SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP APRIL – MAY 2019

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS REPORT

**The SA Raisin crop is now complete**

**Crop Quality**

**Chemical Free Thompson mediums and Organic**

**Crop Size**

**Growth in the volume of SA Raisins**

### **The SA Raisin crop is now complete**

The South African raisin crop of 2019 is finally complete. Due to the late start of the crop, we have seen deliveries stretching into end of April. This morning (May 1<sup>st</sup>), Redsun received our last delivery from Vredendal.

These late deliveries are mainly jumbo Thompsons that have been kept on the vines for as long as possible in order that the sugar can build up. The extra sugar gives the raisin better quality. However, the temperature is also cooling down, which makes the drying slower.

The other late deliveries are a few of our farmers that have “dry on vine” Thompsons. This product is very nice condition and come from a few farms in the near vicinity of our factory. (some fotos are inserted).





Dry on vine takes about 6 weeks to dry and are always the last raisins to be delivered.

### **Crop Quality**

Generally, we are happy with the quality of the crop. Our Thompson mediums had an average grading of 83% choice on intake, and the goldens had an average grading of 72% choice. There was very little rain during the drying period, and therefore the overall yeast and mould levels are very low or almost non-existent.

The SO<sub>2</sub> levels on the goldens was also lower than usual with very few deliveries going over 1500ppm.

### **Chemical Free Thompson mediums and Organic**

Our “chemical free” Thompson raisin project was a success. We have received 432mt of Thompson mediums that have been certified “chemical free”. This is not an organic certification, but is tested by an independent laboratory and has been found to be chemical free. This product is now available for sale.

For the first time in our history, Redsun can now offer “organic” certified raisins. Our supplying farmer has the necessary certification and so does Redsun. Redsun is currently running our own tests and we will be able to offer this product shortly. We only have about 80 mt of organic certified raisins available, but it is a start. Redsun is encouraging farmers to move in this direction of chemical free / organic.

### **Crop Size**

Usually the goldens are the big money earners for farmers. However, the 2019 crop had very few goldens. We are very happy with the general quality, but disappointed in the quantity. It was the very high price paid by the processors for the Thompson mediums, and the late

development of the crop (slower build up of sugar) that caused farmers to change to Thompson mediums. Our farmers have all expressed their satisfaction at the income they have achieved from the crop, despite making only Thompsons.

Redsun has bought 10,880mt of farmer's stock raisins from the 2019 crop. We have received this product from 233 different farmers. 80% of our volume came from 63 farmers (27 %). The cut off between these larger farmers and the suppliers of the 20% in volume is 41mt production.

Finally, we will be able to report on the actual size of the South Africa raisin crop within the next few weeks, when the official report is issued by "Raisins South Africa". (This is the new name adopted by the Dried Fruit Technical Services).



The Redsun 2019 crop size assessment is about 70,000mt. That is almost the same as the 2018 crop.

#### **Growth in the volume of SA Raisins**

We are looking forward to the next areas of growth in South Africa.

There are considerable plantings of "drying grapes" being made by table grape farmers. Within the knowledge of Redsun, there are 6 table grape farmers near to Augrabies Falls that are planting 820 ha of drying grape varieties. That will be 5700mt of raisins available in the next three years.

Redsun is assisting many farmers in securing the young vine plants from nurseries. The order book that we have at present is 370 hectares of new plantings. These are mainly replacing wine grapes, but also replacing vines that are older (25 years) and no longer productive. These plants will be in the ground by the end of the year, and in 3 years will be producing another 2,500 mt of raisins.

Obviously, Redsun is not the only processor in South Africa involved in these activities. There are 6 processors. Therefore, we are looking forward to substantial growth in our raisin production.

We are now in full production mode, with our factory working 24 hours per day. That is 152 people in our factory split into three shifts. We will be kept busy until November in order to process our 2019 crop of almost 10,880mt. Our factory has a production capacity of 13,000mt of farmer's stock each year. Therefore, we continue to process well within our designed capacity. We are watching the growth of raisin production, and Redsun will grow with the volume that is produced.

Peter Kuilman

[peter@redsun.co.za](mailto:peter@redsun.co.za)

[www.redsun.co.za](http://www.redsun.co.za)

1<sup>st</sup> May 2019