



## Donika Olive Oil - 2023

### Harvest Notes

Head Grove Agronomist, Mendim Baçaj

- In the first trimester of 2023, farmers successfully performed all seasonal services in olive cultivation, such as pruning, treatments with copper-based preparations, and the distribution of organic fertilizer.
- Blossoming was satisfactory, but the continuous rainfall in the months of April and May left areas for improvement on the fruit-setting process. Amidst these uncontrollable challenges, a positive shift became apparent after the spring.
- High temperatures up to 42 degrees Celsius in the months of June, July, and August created significant stress in the normal development of the olive tree [*Olea europaea*]. The heat was perfect to create enough of a secondary metabolic response to produce significant amounts of polyphenols.
- This situation also prevented the olive fly [*Bactrocera oleae*] from depositing eggs on the olive fruits, resulting in a harvest free from infection.
- On the dates 09.05.2023 and 09.06.2023, the first rains arrived with a contribution of 20 mm of rain, which had a positive impact on improving the condition of the olive trees.
- During October 2023, on the dates of 10.21.2023 and 10.27.2023, approximately 45 mm of rain fell, stabilizing the growth trajectory of the olives.
- Harvest began in the early morning hours of 10.30.2023
- In the month of November 2023, the harvesting month for the [Kalinjot] cultivar, there were continuous rains with a contribution of 95 mm of rain.
- In this situation, the production of [Kalinjot] olives is expected to be of very high quality, dominated by essential elements such as acidity below 0.2%, peroxides below 10, and elevated high phenols.
- Harvest was completed on 11.15.2023, and 3000 bottles will be produced.

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Vlore, November 15, 2023