



Donika Olive Oil - 2024

Harvest Notes

Head Grove Agronomist, Mendim Baçaj

- During December 2023 and January 2024, olive growers successfully completed all processes in olive cultivation, including pruning, and organic treatments, accompanied by comprehensive tilling of the parcels. In the first quarter of 2024, there was sufficient rainfall to support normal olive growth.
- As spring approached, the Kalinjot variety showed promising blossoming. While continuous rainfall in certain regions did affect fruit set in some areas more than others, this weather pattern was irregular, leaving several groves with balanced moisture levels, which helped ensure resilient olive development.
- The summer season brought higher temperatures and limited rainfall, which posed challenges, especially in hilly areas where irrigation was not feasible. To adapt, our farmers employed water-preserving methods, such as maintaining fallow land and mulching, which worked effectively across varied terrains. An interesting benefit of these conditions was the high temperatures, which naturally reduced olive fly activity, helping protect our olives organically. Rainfall returned in September, offering just the right amount of support as our olives reached their final stages.
- October brought steady rainfall, averaging 200 mm for the month, with the 4th of October being responsible for a major flood. With this rainfall, our teams closely monitored fruit quality, noting no signs of olive fly infection, which further preserved the crop's health.
- Harvest began on the morning of October 26, with careful attention to each step. The olives were delicately hand-harvested and transported in breathable crates, keeping them fresh and cool until processing just 3 hours later. Each batch is stored in specially labeled tanks, ready for export.
- On a numerical basis, consumers can expect an acidity level under 0.2%, sub-10 peroxides, and elevated counts of phenols. The result is a premium olive oil with a vibrant green color, and a delightful aroma.
- Harvest is expected to come to completion on the week of November 11th, 2024.
- 3,500 bottles of Premium Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil will be produced.

MB

Vlore, November 2, 2024