

Vintage Report 2014



There was a discernible air of positivity at Te Awa leading into the 2014 Vintage.

The 2013 Chardonnays were in the bottle and delivered all of the quality and refinement that the vintage had promised us, whilst the cellars were full of our inimitable Single Estate Red Wines, still in the infancy of what will be a long and fulfilling life. The lead-up to the vintage also saw the genesis of something a little weird and wonderful take shape, but more on that later.

Spring of 2013 saw mild temperatures and an early start to summer. This brought about consistent flowering and fruit set, and a healthy crop of fruit. The summer was hot, but semi-frequent rain throughout the growing season kept everything fresh and prevented the drought conditions of the previous summer.

The vintage in Hawkes Bay kicked off in a rapid fashion with the looming threat of Cyclone Lusi in March meaning the Pinot Gris and Chardonnay grapes were all picked over an intense seven day period. Thankfully as so often happens when a tropical storm threatens, the cool ocean waters around New Zealand took the steam out of Lusi's sails and she delivered only 10mm of rain. This allowed the red grapes on the vine to survive and they continued to flourish and were harvested in an orderly fashion. In the early stages of their life in barrel, the Merlot and Syrah wines look to be the stand-out Reds, with good depth of flavour and a plush mouth-feel. The Chardonnays, meanwhile, have once again delivered wonderful richness and finesse.

2014 has also seen the start of something weird and wonderful for the team from the Te Awa Collection of wines. The Left Field range has had a complete makeover and has re-launched with a series of wines that depict whimsical creations on the labels and a sense of exploration inside the bottle. This sense of exploration has seen us go to the Gisborne region to source grapes for our first bottling of Albarino and for our Sauvignon Blanc we have headed over the hills from Marlborough, to the beautiful Nelson region in the north-west of the South Island. To add to this, 2014 saw the release of our first Hawkes Bay Malbec from the 2013 vintage. These wines are already proving to be hugely popular, with the trade mark Te Awa quality and drinkability, and herald an exciting future for the winery.



HATCH MANSFIELD 

Hatch Mansfield Agencies Ltd · New Bank House · 1 Brockenhurst Road · Ascot · Berkshire SL5 9DJ

Tel 01344 871800 · Fax 01344 871871 · e mail info@hatch.co.uk

www.hatchmansfield.com ·  [@HatchMansfield](https://twitter.com/HatchMansfield)