

Vintage Report 2016



Marlborough

Favourable spring conditions and the threat of 'El Nino' meant that viticulture staff were very focused on ensuring irrigation of vineyards and canopy health were optimised. However, several key rain events late in 2015 and then through the early part of 2016 ensured that water was no a limiting factor. In fact, the impact of rain was to positively influence berry weights particularly in Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir with other varieties affected but to a lesser amount. So fortunately, fruit condition generally excellent and flavours very good. Sauvignon Blanc will be a highlight but there will also be some excellent Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and to a lesser extent Chardonnay.

Gisborne

The highlight here again was Chardonnay with some very solid Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris and Albariño. Most varieties were picked at lower sugars than normal but with good flavours. Fruit condition for the most part was very sound.

Hawkes Bay

Exceptional Chardonnay vintage and there will plenty of options. The heat in February (one of the hottest on record) pushed physiological ripeness along although the lower sugars were a theme again. Humid and often moist conditions in the 2nd half of the season placed pressure on Hawkes Bay reds. However I'm happy to report that there will be no shortage of quality for the commercial and mid-tier wines and small volumes of Reserve wine may be possible. Most blocks picked at lower sugar levels but the resulting wines have excellent colours and display ripe fruit characteristics with lower alcohol levels which is positive.

Nelson

Had a significant rainfall event which interrupted harvest but pleasingly the Sauvignon Blanc looks very solid with good flavour. George took samples of the Sauvignon Blanc to the UK, where it received very favourable comments from journalists and consumers.

Waipara

Had an excellent harvest with clean fruit, good yields and flavours across most varieties.



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