

2016

Vintage Report



DOMAINE CARNEROS.

Our growing season in 2016, in many ways, mirrored that of 2015. Bud break on March 10 saw the vineyards spring back into life. Flowering followed shortly thereafter on April 29th. It is quite uncommon to have flowering before the month of May so we knew we were in for another early harvest. And that turned out to be the case. We inaugurated the 2016 harvest with a load of Pinot Noir from our La Rocaille vineyard, just to the east of the winery, on August 1st.

We continued to harvest Pinot Noir for the sparkling wine through August 14th, and then transitioned over to the Chardonnay blocks. Our last load of grapes came in on September 1st which was a very symmetric end to the harvest – 1 month exactly.

The accumulation of growing degree days tracked quite consistently between 2016 and 2015. However, the one pleasant divergence was in the yields. This season we had a moderate size crop with both the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay coming in at just over 8% above projections. This was a welcome surprise as Mother Nature was not so generous in the previous two vintages, and we always like to have an abundance of cuvees from which to make our blend selections.

Casting a critical eye on the personality of the vintage there seems to be a theme of brightness and concentration running through the `16s. We look forward to capturing the energy and spirit of the vintage as we set to work on the blends during the coming winter months.




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