

2017

Vintage Report



DOMAINE CARNEROS.

2017 will be a year that no one forgets for a long time. The defining feature of the vintage was the tremendous rainfall we experienced. The drought ending storms started in October and continued until the end of April. The net result being over 40 inches of rain, nearly twice our yearly average. The effects of all that rainfall were abundantly clear in the vineyards which were literally revived after the repeated root flushing.

While December was quite cold, January and February were mild leading to an early bud break (starting on March 15th). Flowering was early as well, getting under way the first week in May, pointing us to an early harvest.

Generally, we begin to irrigate in May, however, the complete saturation of the soil delayed our first irrigation until Mid-July. In fact, we held off mowing our cover crops in the vine avenues to allow the grasses to utilize the excess water and help dry out the soils.

The summer growing was not without surprises as we had several heat spikes in June and July. August, however, was glorious with a beautiful cycle of cool marine air in the mornings to help modulate the temperature. We began on August 7th harvesting Pinot noir for our famous bubbly, and finished on August 29th with the special Le Reve blocks of Chardonnay. Though not the earliest start in recent years, it was certainly the fastest and most compressed harvest we have had in a decade. The must (fermenting juice) was very healthy and the overall quality of the vintage is superb. We could not be happier with the blending components we have at hand to craft exceptional wines from this memorable vintage.

Post-script. October 30, 2017

On the night of Sunday October 8, three days after I wrote this vintage report, some of the worst fires in California history broke out in Napa and Sonoma counties. We had just completed the harvest and none of our grapes were affected. Everyone's lives, however, were affected. Our hearts go out to our neighbors, friends, and colleagues who were not as fortunate. We are grateful for the brave work of all the first responders and those who came from near and far to battle the fires. The recovery will take years, and we will never forget this tragic event.



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