

2015

Vintage Report



▶ ROBERT OATLEY

Whilst Western Australia experienced a somewhat challenging vintage due to unwanted rainfall, bird pressure and low yields, the rest of Australia recorded a great to outstanding vintage.

Western Australia

It is a testimony to our growers that we enjoyed very high quality levels for this challenging vintage. Yields were lower than normal in Margaret River due to poor flowering and fruit set and netting was required to control any bird damage. That said, the abundant winter and spring rainfall and little to no rain from November through to mid-March set the vineyards up for high quality levels. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc from the south (Karridale) and Cabernet Sauvignon from the northerly Wilyabrup districts were the highlights, our multi-vineyard model allowing for clever blending to maintain style and quality. Low yields in the Great Southern (Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker & Porongurup) delivered great colour and flavour intensity, with Riesling, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon the highlights.

New South Wales

Whilst our neighbouring Hunter Valley suffered a terribly wet harvest that led some to abandon vintage completely, the higher altitude Central Ranges fared much better. A generally hot lead up to vintage with both winter and spring very dry for the Central Ranges (Mudgee), with above average temps for November. A welcome spell of rain in December gave a new lease on life for the vineyards. Chardonnay was really strong, sugar accumulation solid, acids high and sweet and resultant wines creamy and juicy, really delicious, one of the stand outs for the last few years. Shiraz has great depth of colour and generous fruit, spice flavours. Shiraz and Chardonnay were the stand outs, overall quality good.

South Australia

Ideal January ripening conditions and the heat that followed through in February led to high levels of acid retention in the top quality fruit. The dry soils of McLaren Vale enjoyed some January rain that rolled into a quick, busy harvest period that delivered Shiraz, Grenache and Cabernet with good acidity, bright fruit flavours and expressive varietal characters.

The reds of the Barossa and Eden Valleys (collectively the Barossa) experienced a late harvest due to a cool January followed by a fast-ripening warm February that placed pressure on our pickers as the fruit came in quick. The wines are strongly coloured and richly flavoured – very pleasing indeed.



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