

2016

Vintage Report



▶ ROBERT OATLEY

Western Australia

A very pleasing vintage across the board with good winter rains in Margaret River followed by dry weather until a good fall in January and then continuing above average rainfall through to March. Chardonnay and Cabernet, in particular, were superb.

The Great Southern (Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker & Porongurup) experienced erratic rainfall and a generally cool, cloudy and humid growing season giving moderate yields of good to high quality fruit: Riesling, Shiraz and Cabernet being the highlights.

New South Wales

We enjoyed a solid vintage in the high altitude Central Ranges (Mudgee). A very dry winter was followed by excellent spring rainfall post budburst leading into flowering. Budburst was strong with fast flowering and a little rain relief in December then into a very hot summer, with unwelcomed rainfall at the start of harvest. A very early start to vintage leading to an extremely early finish. The faster ripening of the Pinot Grigio resulted in lovely acids, a little higher than the normal. Beautiful and intense, crisp & citrusy.

Some early summer rain really rejuvenated the Cabernet and to some degree the Merlot, keeping the vines and fruit fresh and vibrant. The Shiraz shows more vegetal characters however the Mudgee spice is still very much prominent. Highlights were Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Cabernet and Merlot.

South Australia

Our South Australian vintage was one of our best yet, with above average yields of above average quality. McLaren Vale was outstanding, well-balanced vines, good crop levels of fantastic colour and flavour. We harvested Shiraz, Cabernet, Grenache and for the first time, Fiano all of which were in great condition, the Shiraz a particular highlight.

Reds from the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley) enjoyed ideal ripening conditions and generous yields – our focus was on Shiraz which was excellent.



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