

2015

Vintage Report



After the twin successes of 2013 and 2014, was it too much to ask for another?

The first few days of September saw the emergence of leaves which is pretty much normal timing. Early summer was cool and dry and with flowering beginning late November and finishing around 20th December.

The ripening months of January and February were generally cooler than average but remained dry necessitating irrigation and encouraging small berries with thick skins.

When desired levels of ripeness had been achieved the season had become late. Once again our Verdelho was first into the winery, not in February as in 2014 but on 16th of March. Our early blocks of Chardonnay quickly followed before the remnants of Cyclone Pam temporarily halted harvest. Once our vineyards were dry again vintage began in earnest. White crops were generally light on tonnage but possessed excellent flavours at lower brix. These will make elegant and delicious wines.

Our red wine harvest began on the 24th March when we harvested Gimblett Gravels Merlot. The Terraces was harvested under clear skies on the 8th of April and the last of the Cabernet Sauvignon was brought in on 17th April. Smaller than average yields have resulted in wines with an excellent depth of colour and flavour coupled with elegance.

And the answer to the question posed above? No it was not too much to ask. This has been another excellent Hawkes Bay vintage. Never in my 23 vintages at Esk Valley have I seen three successive vintages of this quality. Each of course has its own personality but each will offer



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