

2016

Vintage Report



The season began late after a cold but dry winter with budburst in some vineyards at least three weeks behind the long term average. Spring too was cool and all early key dates in the vines growing cycle were later than normal. This cycle continued until mid January when we were blessed with an amazing run of hot and dry weather that not only broke records but pushed the season back into line with historical averages. Frosts were never really an issue in the 2015 – 2016 season and crops were largely average in size with the exception of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah and a large amount of money needed to be spent dropping fruit to ensure ripeness and concentration in these varieties.

The lead up to harvest was very dry and irrigation was needed on our gravelly Gimblett Gravels blocks. Our harvest began slightly late on the 14th March when we harvested our Verdelho with Chardonnay and Pinot Gris following over the next two week period. Intermittent rainfall meant we often had an eye to the forecast, but the fruit condition was sound and excellent wines have been produced. They have a refreshing crispness and purity that is augers well.

The red wine harvest began on the 1st April with Merlot from our Gimblett Gravel blocks, and continued until the 22nd, when we harvested The Terraces, its latest harvest ever. Overall this has been a very good harvest which has produced elegant wines with lower than average alcohols and slightly elevated acidities. The wines are delicious with Chardonnay the highlight. The Bordeaux reds and Syrah's show great purity of fruit and excellent tannin structure as young wines and are now happily resting in oak.



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