

# 2019

Vintage Report



Having now made wine in Hawkes Bay for over 30 years, I can without hesitation put this 2019 harvest amongst the finest I have experienced. One has to go back to 1998 to find such a consistently fine red wine harvest. Quite why though is difficult to answer.

Spring was cool and wet and the weather over key flowering periods seemed unkind at the time. In fact it seemed a relief that we had any fruit at all. Crops were eventually down as much as 25%, but this alone does not explain the quality of the fruit at harvest. Summer was fine and warm with intermittent rain keeping a drought prone province green, the vines seemingly never under any stress. Veraison though had proceeded quickly over a fine spell of weather which would give consistency to the ripeness of berries.

Harvest arrived slightly early but no records were broken here. In fact it seemed very much a normal harvest until we approached our first pick. The berries though had developed abnormally thick skins blessed with an abundance of colour and flavour. This coupled with a spell of fine weather over harvest period, allowed us to pick when full ripeness had been achieved. Both whites and reds have excelled.

Highlights are numerous, but if I had to single out a variety it would have to be Merlot. Never the easiest variety to grow and make wine from, it has surpassed expectations. But that's splitting hairs as the cellar is filled with Chardonnay, Verdelho, Pinot Gris, Rose, Syrah, Malbec and Cabernets which we are very excited about.



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