

2014

Vintage Report




ANNO. 1693
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The 2014 season will be remembered as one of the wettest in memory. After near record rainfalls during the winter months from May to August (510mm), the spring months continued along the same trend with a further 240mm of rain falling before January. The cool, wet conditions led to delayed bud-break and in some cases it was also fairly uneven, quite similar to the previous vintage. With the long wet season there was an excess of moisture in the soils around the berry development phase. This meant that we had larger bunches than normal and thus a higher crop level, about 15% higher than the 2013 harvest. The long rainy season also resulted in much more shoot growth and much higher disease pressure than normal, meaning we had to work twice as hard in the vineyards. As a result, we carried out a lot of canopy management such as multiple suckering, leaf breaking and shoot positioning to allow enough air movement and light penetration in and around the bunch zone. Owing to the slightly uneven bud-break we also were very careful and selective in our crop thinning to ensure uniform ripening. This meant healthy and ripe grapes could be harvested.

The harvest started a couple of weeks later than normal but a few hot days in February and relative warm weather during the harvest period moved things along a bit and we finished no later than normal. The early whites and reds looked really good; however a further few bouts of rain resulted in much higher pH levels than we would usually like to see and also meant the amount of botrytis started to climb. This resulted in a number of extra hours on the sorting table to make sure only the healthy fruit was processed.

The 2014 season was generally quite a challenging one, requiring a lot of careful management in the vineyard and winery. The whites are bright and elegant and show beautiful minerality. The reds show more variability. The parcels that ripened early in the season show wonderful fruit density, while the later ripening ones show more elegance and a fine tannin structure. With careful blending we will be able to produce some fantastically pure wines with good fruit definition and wonderful elegance



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