

2018

Vintage Report



Following the challenging 2017 harvest hopes were high for a stellar 2018 season across New Zealand. Mother nature is of course influential in shaping New Zealand's harvest, keeping our Viticulture and Winemaking teams firmly on their toes, but this climatic 'edginess' is part of the magic that makes our wines unique and distinctive every year. Following a record summer for high temperatures, the harvest month of March experienced complex weather systems and rainfall through many key regions. The impact of this varied from region to region and variety to variety. The dust has well and truly settled from vintage 2018 and we are now in a great position to pass judgement on the quality of the wines.

Marlborough

We source Sauvignon Blanc fruit from vineyards that flourish throughout the Awatere, Wairau and Southern Valley's, providing a palette of flavour profiles and ripening windows, ultimately giving us the ability to craft world-class wines.

The record heat of summer was followed by an early and compressed vintage, but as the Sauvignon Blanc grapes began to arrive at the winery it quickly became evident that sugars and flavours were well ahead of 2017. This is true of the finished wines, with Sauvignon Blanc expressing energetic sub-regional characteristics with increased palate weight and concentration over the 2017 vintage. Our all-important flagship varietal filled our Marlborough winery with its incredible clean, ripe aromas over fermentation and we feel these qualities have been captured in bottle with some exceptional wines across the tiers which have already met great success with various accolades in New Zealand.

One of our earliest harvest dates of Chardonnay on record has resulted in great options for Reserve and Taylors Pass Single Vineyard. The wines will mature in barrel into the new year prior to blending and will continue to benefit in complexity and texture from time on yeast lees ('sur lie').

Pinot Gris across the Marlborough region was a particular highlight, reaching unprecedented levels of flavour and ripeness on the vine and producing numerous aromatic, concentrated and textural wines. The Seddon Single Vineyard label will be at its best in 2018.

Pinot Noir did face challenges as a result of the March rains. Here the emphasis was on pushing ripeness without sacrificing fruit quality. Highly anticipated assessments will take place in the coming weeks however, what is already evident is that there will be great options for producing the flagship Reserve and Single Vineyard wines from throughout the Valleys. The Taylor's Pass site in the Awatere Valley in particular has again provided some exceptional Pinot Noir



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