

# 2020

Vintage Report



After four consecutive dry winter seasons (2015-2018) the excellent rainfall in 2019 did manage to offer some relief. The effect of additional water could be seen immediately in the vineyards and we had a particularly good growing season. The crop returned to an almost normal level, and the good growing conditions and vine health set the scene and created expectations for an outstanding harvest.

The better rainfall over the winter period compared to the preceding seasons had a very positive influence on the harvest but on the downside we had rather moderate winter temperatures which did lead to some uneven bud-break in the early season, and a much earlier start to the growing season than normal. The moderate winter was fortunately followed by a relative cool spring which allowed the growing pattern to even out a bit even though the growing season remained earlier than normal. Due to the good growing conditions the vines grew a bit more vigorously which meant our viticulture team really had to pay careful attention to the canopy management practices making sure the fruit stays healthy and ensure good even ripening.

The harvest itself started early which was expected but it was also a quite compressed harvest that saw several red varieties, especially Cabernet Sauvignon, ripening much earlier than normal. The first part of the harvest was relatively cool and ideal for harvesting the white cultivars at optimal ripeness yet retaining fresh acidity, but the latter half of the growing season was reasonably warm with only a few heat spikes and no major heat waves. This coupled with a few light rainfall events allowed for good even ripening albeit a little earlier than anticipated. We are very happy with the natural balance and healthy acidities we saw in the grapes this year. Once again, our Chenin blanc looks very promising and the red wines show great fruit purity and concentration.

In addition to the above, the 2020 harvest was also exciting because we harvested the first fruit from vineyards planted as part of our vineyard redevelopment plan. These grapes were from Cabernet Sauvignon planted in 2016. For a first harvest the quality of the wine that we made from those grapes is exceptional and hence the new blocks are an extremely exciting prospect for the future. We also planted a further 12 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon in 2019 and the good winter rainfall ensured that the young vines are now well-established. Currently we are busy with more soil preparation for vineyards to be planted in August/September 2020 and will mostly comprise of Shiraz plantings. The final phase of this round of replanting will be in 2021 and will be the culmination of a 7-year redevelopment plan!

We are excited to monitor the development of the 2020 wines in the cellar and look forward to sharing them with you when they are ready, and the lockdown is over!

Cheers,

Alastair Rimmer and the Kleine Zalze team



Hatch Mansfield Agencies Limited | New Bank House | 1 Brockenhurst Road | Ascot | Berkshire SL5 9DJ

Telephone 01344 871800 | E-mail [info@hatch.co.uk](mailto:info@hatch.co.uk) | [www.hatchmansfield.com](http://www.hatchmansfield.com)

[@HatchMansfield](https://twitter.com/HatchMansfield) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hatchmansfield) [hatchmansfielduk](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) [Hatch Mansfield](https://www.facebook.com/HatchMansfield)