



COOL CLIMATE | HIGH ELEVATION | HAND CRAFTED

2013 Vintage Report

What a great season to be a grape grower! Only a few little curve balls to worry about rather than the bouncers we've had to face over the last few seasons, such as a deluge of rain during harvest, heatwaves during flowering or non stop rain and wind that we had to deal with in 2011. This season has been a cracker and we reckon we have grown some our best fruit in in the last five years.

The 2012/13 growing season started quite off quite cool and dry, with vine growth was steady early on.

We had a mild frost in early October that touched up some Cabernet and Merlot vines at the bottom of a few gullies but these vines soon caught up. The season soon warmed up with a return to average temperatures from November to January. The average temperatures combined with lower than average rainfall resulted in really well balanced canopies and minimal disease pressure.

Vine foliage growth pulled up naturally reducing the need for green trimming in all varieties except the perennially vigorous Shiraz. Bunches were of an average size this season and spread out well in the bunch zone.

We had quite a comprehensive canopy management plan this season including for our Climbing and Cumulus blocks with wire lifting, shoot thinning and leaf plucking. We even trialled a mechanical leaf plucking machine on our reds, and we are now seeing great results in the wines with softer tannins.

Vine balance was the best I have seen since 2008/09 and the fruit picked very cleanly during harvest.

White wines are showing great elegance and fine flavours, with Chardonnay and our Sparkling base proving to be particularly good this year. Merlot is the standout red varietal.

Key Seasonal Data

Rainfall - 246mm for the growing season (Sept to Apr) vs. 464mm average on vineyard and 584mm last year. Quite a dry growing period.

Temperature - Average minimum temperature was 10.4 and average maximum was 26.6 over the September to April period. These temperatures are very close to the long term averages.

Adding to the story, there were 2056.1 growing degree days (Measurement of heat units that represent ideal growing conditions) for the 2013 season compared to 1691 grown degree days in 2012 indicating a return to a "normal" season.

Budburst - 18 September 2012 (Chardonnay)

Flowering and veraison - Occurred 7 to 10 days earlier than the long term average

Harvest – Commenced 5 February with Chardonnay for sparkling base and concluded on 26 March with Mouvedre.

Yield – A total of 3437 tonnes from 503 yielding hectares at an average 6.8 tonnes per hectare.