



Est. 1896

ESTABLISHED IN 1896, TE MATA ESTATE IS NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST WINERY  
AND REMAINS FAMILY OWNED, PRODUCING INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED WINES  
EXCLUSIVELY FROM ITS HAWKES BAY VINEYARDS.

## 2006 Vintage Report

2006 was a third very high quality vintage in a row for Te Mata Estate, following the excellent pattern established with 2004 and 2005.

Bud burst was about a week early, following a dry end to winter 2005 and warm spring conditions. As we went into December, the soils were retaining good spring moisture and this, with the warm weather, led to even and healthy shoot growth. December was very dry with warm nights leading to high average temperatures and good drying out of the soils. January continued with warm to hot weather and dry conditions.

This mid-summer drying out of the soils, combined with warm to hot weather is critical for a good red vintage. The vine shoot growth is stopped and the plant's energies are put into ripening the fruit, leading to small berries and good colour and tannin development.

February and March featured many warm to hot days, with the odd bit of rain and soils again drying out quickly in between.

We started picking very ripe chardonnay about a week early on the 7th March and had finished picking whites by the 21st of March. In a similar situation to 2005 some rain then caused us to pause for about a week. We then had almost four weeks of dry weather during which we picked the reds, beginning with the merlot and cabernet franc and finishing with the syrah and cabernet sauvignon just before the heavens opened on the 25th April.

We used our experience to manage the harvest period well, without pushing our luck, and were able to take full advantage of the quality presented by the growing season. We ended up getting the maximum on-vine time possible for most picks and received the fruit at the winery in top condition, which is especially important for red wine.

So, in summary, the optimum growing conditions early in the season have given us lovely ripe white wines with good fruitiness and rich mid-palates, and the dry and warm mid-vintage weather set the scene for dark coloured, well structured reds that are up with some of the best we have seen.

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