

Te MATA

ESTATE 1896

VINTAGE REPORT 2011

Spring was mild and generally dry apart from four days of rain mid October which delivered about twice the monthly average. November and December were dryer than average for this time of year. Many overcast days and cloudy nights gave the bonus of no frosts. Flowering began one to two weeks later than the recent norm but went extremely well and was mostly finished by the 10th of December.

The prevailing northerly and northeasterly weather kept the days and nights warm and there were many hotter (30-33 degree) days between Christmas and mid January.

Then we had five days of rain followed by another 45 mm a few days later. Rain at this stage of the season is beneficial for the vines if it follows a dry period but subsequent dry weather is important for a good vintage. This is exactly what we got, February produced 5mm of rain and a mix of warm and hot weather with some days reaching 35 degrees.

March was generally fine but unsettled with a total of four rain days through the month. The white grapes were showing lovely ripe flavours so when the bulk of the March rain fell on the 21st/22nd we had already harvested most of our Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay.

Most of April was warm and fairly dry with only 25mm of rain falling up to the 26th and crop condition was monitored daily. As with the white varieties ripe flavours came early in the reds relative to the sugars. 2011 was a year to pick on flavour rather than the usual pursuit of higher sugars and hang time. Acid levels in all of our crops were at normal or even lower levels, further proof that ripeness had been achieved.

We finished harvesting on the 23rd of April two days before the Hawkes Bay deluge.

We are very pleased with all of our wines from 2011. They are charming, ripe, fruity wines that will be great ambassadors for the labels over the years to come.

It has been a real roller coaster ride to coin a phrase but we have smiles on our faces. If you were to look back at the weather figures over the season it would be easy to get a false impression of the vintage conditions. As usual the effects varied greatly between individual vineyards and the different locations in Hawkes Bay, some producing truly great wines.

