



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.

2009 Vintage Report

2009 was the hottest growing season for the last ten years with the second lowest rainfall ever recorded since 1980, giving a superb vintage.

Mild spring weather led to budburst occurring 10 days earlier than usual. The rest of September continued mild and dry, with some days reaching 25 degrees. The warm to hot conditions carried on through October and November, with only one day of rain.

Flowering was completed earlier than usual in all varieties by the first week of December and December continued on with hot summer days. The lack of rain meant that by Christmas some of our vineyards were requiring irrigation. On the vines, shoot growth had stopped in all blocks which is a critical requirement for growing quality red wines.

The warm and dry weather continued throughout the rest of the summer, with the thermometer showing 30 degrees or above. Our decision in December not to remove the leaves from the white grapes to protect them from excessive temperatures, proved to be wise as the heat continued all summer.

We started harvest on 22 February. A week later, on the 28th February, we had 60mm rain followed by a week of cooler weather, but with no further rain to the end of picking. The rain day had the effect of steadying the vintage. The tremendously favourable growing season had made us apprehensive that the red grapes would ripen all at once, even before the whites were finished. After the rain day, ripening slowed for a while and we harvested the reds in a very orderly manner, with picking finishing on Saturday 18th April.

The 2009 vintage is showing wonderfully fruity white wines, ripe to very ripe dark red wines with pronounced floral fruity notes and elegant tannins.