



2004 FROMM VINTAGE REPORT

The Growing Season

Marlborough experienced another cool spring with several frosts. However, with many more wind machines operating and the use of helicopters, damage was not widespread in the region.

Flowering was perfect with a full fruit-set across all varieties. The challenge then was to reduce the crop at the right time to a sensible level while all the other vineyard work required attention too. As the season progressed it became increasingly obvious how important early crop reduction were. January was not very summery followed by the coldest February on record, the bunch-weights were high and the temptation to compensate for last year's low crops proved too hard to resist for some growers.

At Fromm Winery we harvested a normal crop, averaging about 5 to 6 tonnes per hectare. The weather was kind and the fruit clean and healthy.

The Wines

The 2004 wines look across the board very promising. The Pinot Noirs might develop into a hypothetical blend of the 2001 and 2002 vintage with the density, concentration and generosity of the 2001 and the medium weight elegance of the 2002. They all show excellent tannin structure. Syrah and Malbec were very successful too despite the cool February. However most of the Merlot did not quite reach our Reserve criteria for this variety and has all been incorporated in the intensely flavoured, vibrant Merlot/Malbec blend.

Both Chardonnay's (La Strada and Clayvin Vineyard) have great structure and balance and should develop into the typical minerally scented Fromm style. And then there is Riesling, from Dry to "Spätlese" style, Auslese and a rare Beerenauslese, they are all very exciting. Also we made a Rosé from predominantly Pinot Noir free-run in order to correct the juice/skin ratio of our red ferments. This is a pedigree Rosé from top quality grapes.

In short, the 2004 vintage favoured the typical cool climate varieties and promises a range of very expressive wines. The pH's were slightly higher but good acid and tannin support should ensure the wines aging potential.

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