



## 2013 FROMM VINTAGE REPORT

### **The Growing Season**

Marlborough is blessed with a climate that is, put simply, right for growing grapes. The 2012/2013 season was no exception. Bud burst occurred at the normal time (25th September), there was no real frost pressure, and there was the usual welcome spike in temperature over summer. Measured against the long term Growing Degree Days (GDD) 2013 is on par with a normal growing season. Hätsch, though, assesses a good summer by how many nights he can sit out on his veranda smoking Cuban cigars... there were many of these instances! Importantly we were able to pick what we wanted when we wanted it. Yes there was some rain at the end of harvesting, but thankfully we were 95% in already. So the grapes came into the winery in great condition with physiological ripeness, giving us the best platform to begin the winemaking process.

### **The Wines**

Marlborough was technically in a drought for summer, which sounds perfect for growing grapes. But there is always an element of uncertainty in a sunny, dry season, as the grapes may become stressed, or over-ripe causing the wines to lose their finesse and become 'jammy'. To our relief, there were enough cool nights for the grapes to keep their acidity and crispness. We are especially excited about the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, as they have great balance. 2013 will be the first official release of our Fromm La Strada Pinot Gris. We have been playing with this variety in the Winery for three years now using a blend of whole-bunch pressing, fermenting part in stainless steel, and working with large 600 litre barrels. We are quietly excited about this wine. The way the season unfolded, early on in the vintage we made the decision not to make a Dry Riesling this year. This is great news for all the lovers of Fromm Riesling Spätlese though, as it means there will be even more of this wine available. We picked the Syrah and Malbec immediately before the mid-April rain. These wines are also looking good in the tanks. At Fromm, we think 2013 is going to be a very good vintage. After a small but excellent harvest last year, there will once more be enough wine to go around.

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