



## FROMM Vintage Report 2019

The 2018/2019 season got off to a good start with no serious frost issues. We had some reasonable spring rains, promoting fast canopy growth and a disciplined organic spray program was essential to maintain a healthy vineyard. Some cool weather during flowering affected the bunch size of some varieties, particularly Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, resulting in naturally lower than average crop levels in many sites. This was followed by an extremely dry summer with warm temperatures and virtually no rainfall for two months. Still, over 80% of our own vineyard at FROMM did not require any irrigation.

We were bracing ourselves for an early harvest and indeed started on the 6th of March with Pinot Noir, which is the second earliest ever. On March 27th all Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Riesling was safely in the winery with the later varieties finished on April 10th. In contrast to the challenging vintages of 2017 and 2018, practically all the grapes were in perfect condition, grape picking was fast and easy and the final sorting at the winery was more of a “make you feel good exercise”. Instead of trying to rescue vulnerable fruit, we could choose when to pick, a luxury we all appreciated.

As to the wines, needless to say that clean, healthy, ripe grapes should produce good wines. We are across the board very happy with the quality. The whites show positive ripe fruit with a little more richness yet firm structure. Pinot Noir could be described as generous with good tannin support and immediate appeal, which should make this year’s Pinot Naturel a particularly attractive summer wine to look forward to. Syrah and Malbec both benefitted from the continuation of the dry, warm autumn. In many ways we see similarities to vintage 2015, which is both, promising and exciting.

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