



## FROMM Vintage Report 2022

After a mild winter we saw some early budburst, which in the end finished as normal in late September. Spring was quite cold at times with some very wet periods contributing to strong growth.

An earlier start to flowering proved to be a blessing in disguise as it finished for most varieties just prior to a prolonged wet period that lasted for a good two weeks. This followed by a warm spell over Christmas/New Year with high humidity and not much wind, creating ideal conditions for massive vegetative growth in the vineyard combined with serious powdery mildew pressure.

During January we experienced some good, hot summer days, but the disease pressure remained high, and our vineyard team worked frantically to retain good airflow through the lush canopy and remove any mildew infected bunches. Adding to that, staff-shortages and some weather-related delays of spray applications did not help either.

While hoping for a typically great February, we had two major rain events in the first two weeks with hardly any sunshine. Then finally the weather improved. It was dry and sunny but quite cool and this pattern continued through to the end of vintage. However, there was some irreversible damage, particularly with the earlier ripening Pinot Noir clones from warmer sites, resulting in widespread shrivelling of bunches that could not be harvested, further reducing the already decreased crops. It has indeed been a difficult growing season.

Picking started off equally difficult but got significantly better in the second half of the vintage with Syrah and Malbec in very good shape. While there will not be a single vineyard Fromm Pinot Noir, there were also real Pinot highlights with one vineyard in particular producing fruit of extraordinary quality, emphasising the variability experienced in different sites, which was echoed by many other wineries.

What we now have in the winery is of very good quality, but the quantities are small. We are very happy with the whites; Riesling, Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc all show excellent structure, elegance and precision. Syrah and Malbec have nice cool climate density and varietal transparency. And last but not least, there will again be a refreshing Rosé of mainly Pinot Noir plus Syrah and Malbec.

In summary, it was a challenging year, harvest was small and attention to detail was key to maximising the full potential of each variety. Without attempting to hype up the vintage, we are genuinely pleased with the 2022 quality we now have in our cellar. It is easy to make good wines in a great vintage, but it is in years like this where only the most quality focussed producers retain their set high standards, and we are proud of having achieved this again.

Blenheim, 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2022