



2003 VINTAGE REPORT

The journey to vintage this year began with near perfect spring conditions during 2002. Moist soils – courtesy of a wet September – got the vines off to an early start following the warmer than average August we experienced in southern Tasmania. Occasional showers throughout October then resulted in the development of some healthy, balanced vine canopies across the property.

Fine weather during late spring and the beginning of summer saw good fruit set being achieved among all varieties, with the exception of sauvignon blanc. However, carry over effects from last year's very cool and cloudy summer saw our vineyard's total crop load for 2003 being slightly reduced. The number of bunches per vine were around normal this year, but their smaller bunch weights set us on course for a crush of approximately only 90% of our usual vintage projections.

A heatwave during January led to the highest temperatures ever recorded for the month in many parts of Tasmania. Average daily maximum temperatures in nearby Hobart were 3.5 degrees Celsius above normal. Along with our vineyard neighbours in the Derwent Valley, we sweltered our way through mid-summer this year and soon began anticipating an early start to vintage.

The dry soil conditions and plenty of long warm February days certainly ensured a perfect path to ripening. But then came the downpours of early autumn. Luckily, all our sparkling wine fruit – together with our sauvignon blanc, pinot grigio and most of the chardonnay and pinot noir – were picked just ahead of the worst of the rain.

Even more fortunately – due to our well-drained, gravelly vineyard soils – only a short delay of seven days was needed to dry things out and vintage was soon on again in earnest.

With milder weather then being present, the remaining 20% of our harvest came into the winery in excellent condition, showing little or no botrytis. As it turned out, the cool and damp finish to the season caused us very few real concerns this year. Much of our picking was over and done with by the middle of autumn, with just a small harvest of cabernet franc marking the last day of vintage on April 29th.

Overall, 2003 looks a pretty good vintage with good colours and flavours, and some very elegant structures being evident across all our wine varieties.

Annual rainfall on our vineyard during the past year was barely 400mm. Let's hope for something much better than that in coming seasons.

September 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Lubiana', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stefano Lubiana Wines Pty Ltd

60 Rowbottoms Road • Granton • Tasmania • 7030 • AUSTRALIA • Tel: 03 6263 7457 • Fax: 03 6263 7430

www.slw.com.au wine@slw.com.au