



2005 VINTAGE REPORT

Tasmania's cool climate wine industry is buzzing with excitement. The recent 2005 vintage has been an outstanding success for all varieties and regions in the State, and in the longer term will prove to be a classic year for Tasmanian wine.

Even now – as this report is being written – the new wines of 2005 are showing strong varietal characters with excellent structures and balance. Pinot noir and merlot in particular are already demonstrating great intensity and length – the hallmarks of an excellent vintage.

The season started with a colder than usual winter that really helped the vines experience their proper seasonal dormancy, a point which is sometimes overlooked in its importance by viticulturists. Late winter rains – delivering higher than average rainfall – then filled the property's subsoil with moisture, enabling our vineyard to enjoy a healthy, stress-free start to the growing season.

Slightly warmer than usual temperatures during September and October encouraged the vines to continue their development, with strong even growth becoming evident. The fine warm weather continued throughout flowering and set.

January started cool but warmed towards the end of the month. In fact, summer only really got going during mid-February, resulting in good-sized, healthy canopies requiring minimal irrigation. The autumn that followed was cool and dry with little disease pressure. Our vines maintained their strong healthy canopies well into autumn this year. The onset of vintage saw grapes being picked in excellent condition with yields as planned, around about average.

The annual rainfall in our vineyard this season was about 750mm, well above the long-term norms we experience on our site.

March 10th saw harvesting commence with chardonnay for sparkling wine bases. Carefully scheduled hand picking then rolled on smoothly throughout the month, allowing us to finish close to our anticipated mid-April target date. With the harvesting of our 2005 merlot and cabernet sauvignon on April 19th, vintage was all over for another year. Our pickers were very happy to have contributed to such a wonderful year in the vineyard.

In the winery, the new wines of 2005 show great promise, and look set to establish new benchmarks for our small family property in the Derwent Valley. After the challenging year of 2004, we are relieved to have our winery once again filled with all the aromas and flavours of a great vintage in Tasmania.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Lubiana', is written over a light-colored background.

September 2005