



# VALLI

VINEYARDS LIMITED

## February Newsletter

Winemaking doesn't mean always being dressed in grubby old clothes with wine stained hands, or being alternately sun burnt and rained upon in a vineyard .

We also have our share of glamour, and that was at the end of January and early February; Pinot 2010 in Wellington. Both Duncan and I attended.

This event is held every three years and is four days of seminars, tastings, long lunches and gala dinners all focused on Pinot Noir. Over 450 people including a number of the worlds leading wine commentators were present.

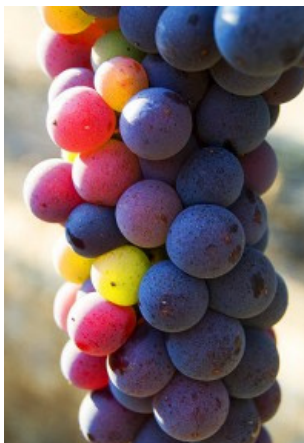
These events are well worth going to if you ever have the opportunity, very educational to say the least, and as a producer, it is impossible to find greater inspiration, to see all those people focusing so intently on your product and comparing it to the best in the world drives the desire to make it better than anything else in the world (we cant wait for harvest 2010 to begin).

Valli was very well represented, being selected to represent C.O. in the first formal blind tasting looking New Zealand's different Pinot Noir producing regions, and again C.O. showed why it is considered our premium region.



But a week in a big city was long enough to be away from the vines, in our absence there was a week of very hot weather, I believe we have easily caught up on the cool start we had to summer and at the moment are seeing the beginning of veraison.

Veraison is the stage where changes in the grapes are more physiological than physical, ie they soften, change colour, increase sugars and decrease acids.



As mentioned in the last newsletter the berries this year are very small so there will be little need to drop crop, (reducing tonnage to help ripening) as we are looking at a naturally low crop levels anyway. There will be some fruit removal though, that will be "green thinning" towards the end of veraison, when bunches and even individual grapes that have not changed colour will be cut out, this feels like detailed picky work, but is one of the most important steps towards making great wine: "rubbish in rubbish out" "not possible to make a silk purse from a sows ear" etc.etc. I think you know what I mean.

Birds like to help in crop reduction but unfortunately while we are green thinning they are doing the opposite, removing the ripest and best fruit, so this letter finishes here as I've just reminded myself to get the bird nets organized,

Cheers  
Grant