



May 2010 Newsletter.

These newsletters keep getting later and later, with the April one finally coming in May, 11 newsletters a year is enough anyway, and as April is harvest and there is very little time to spare it is the logical month to loose.

All the other 11 months work in the vineyard get distilled into April so even if it doesn't produce a newsletter it provides information for the most important one.

Entitled "2010 harvest summary".

Apart from the cool period after flowering which gave us the desired small berries it was a warm season, in fact growing degree days for the season were almost 10% above the average.

The weather was perfect leading up to harvest, there was a little flirting with early frost for a couple of days but they did not affect well protected vineyards.

Then we had rain and more rain and more rain, so much that Queenstown was on the verge of flooding, and where were Valli's grapes when this was happening? All safely picked and in tank, we actually finished picking the day before it started raining.

The quality was as good as anything I have seen, small bunches of very uniformly ripe Grapes. The last tank has been pressed and all 2010 Pinots are aging in barrel, so now our focus is on pruning with the best days reserved for skiing or snowboarding; depending on whether you are a winemaker or viticulturist. There is also a weekly visit to the winery for topping, (which is really an excuse for tasting the last years hard work and hoping the next years growing season will be as rewarding).

Must head to the annual ski sale,

Cheers

Grant

