



Newsletter August /September/October 2010

There has been a distinct absence of newsletters this winter.

Mainly because what happens in the vineyard this time of year is the same as what happens every winter and I think last years news letters covered it well.

Pruning is pretty much the sole winter activity in a vineyard, I look at it as the first step in the next vintage, but Duncan after doing it solidly for 3 months simply calls it cutting little sticks of big sticks.

However at last it's all finished, canes tied down, vineyard mown and looking better than it ever has.

The great growth we had last year means the fruiting wire is full of strong healthy canes for the coming crop; the earliest indications for 2011 are good.

The buds burst about a week ago so for the next couple of months we base our lives around potential frost events. (Please read last October's newsletter.)

While we wait for something that hopefully doesn't happen there is still plenty of work in the vineyard. Lots of maintenance: wires, posts, irrigation lines etc to repair.

And our least favourite job of all: bloody bud rubbing.

Unfortunately buds don't just burst along the fruiting wire where we want them, but also on the trunk of the vine, the full .8 metre of its length, from the ground up to the wire. These must be removed otherwise we end up with a jungle causing all sorts of problems.

You can imagine this job of bud removal, lots and lots and lots of bending.

We are both too old and too tall for this so are hoping like hell the hobbit movies do come here, we have a job for the extras.

Cheers

Grant

