



Te MATA E S T A T E

Est. 1896

ESTABLISHED IN 1896, TE MATA ESTATE IS NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST WINERY
AND REMAINS FAMILY OWNED, PRODUCING INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED WINES
EXCLUSIVELY FROM ITS HAWKES BAY VINEYARDS.

2004 Vintage Report

Winter 2003 finished very wet with about half our annual rainfall occurring in August and September. The timing of bud burst was normal however, and a warm spring ensured a very good and even flowering. Conditions through to December were mild and very dry with no rain in spring and early summer until we had an inch or so around Christmas. December and January were hot with the thermometer above 30 degrees Celcius on many occasions and typically above 25 degrees Celcius.

Soils were getting very dry by mid January. This is a critical time for red grapes as dry conditions give small berry size leading to good concentration, and hot weather encourages the tannins and colours in reds. We had a storm on the 20th January which gave us about two inches of rain, but the soils dried out quickly, as they also did from the odd fall in February. March and April were virtually rainless and, coupled with settled, warm weather, gave us a tremendously favourable ripening and harvest season.

The white wines are rich and full flavoured with that unique Hawkes Bay combination of good ripeness, along with elegance and fragrance.

The reds exhibit strong colour and great red and dark berry fruit, again with that typical Hawkes Bay fragrance. These will be terrific wines in a similar style to the 2000's, but probably richer and rounder, due to the dry conditions.