

Marlborough Vintage Review 2010

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Described by winemakers as a “dream” vintage, 2010 was almost a game of two halves. The region experienced a very cool spring, which led to a later than expected bud burst. Sauvignon Blanc was most heavily affected, with reports of the cool conditions affecting the uniformity of budburst throughout the region.

Cluster numbers were down and so was average berry size, but given the large crops of 2008 and 2009, this was deemed a positive by the industry. The cool spring was followed by an extremely dry summer with the rainfall between November 2009 and April 2010 being the 3rd lowest since records began in 1930. It ensured there was no disease pressure, with winemakers reporting some of the cleanest fruit ever arriving at wineries.

The summer and autumn provided conditions growers and winemakers dream about. Long, bright, warm days and cool nights, meant fruit was able to hang on the vines until winemakers were ready to harvest it. The near perfect weather resulted in some intense flavours with the Sauvignon Blanc in particular described as “pristine, precise, focused and expressive.”