



THOMAS
VINEYARD
ESTATE

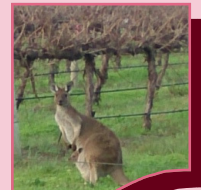
THOMAS VINEYARD ESTATE

McLaren Vale - Estate Grown

Newsletter - Winter 2016

Winter in the vineyard...

Winter brings an abundance of wildlife to the vineyard. Kangaroos and native birds like the majestic Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, feeding on the pine cones from the trees that border our vineyard. There are also plenty of mice which attract the birds of prey.



A pair of Kestrels are nesting in a nearby gum tree, and all the other birds are busy building their nests. Several of the crested pigeons are already sitting on eggs.



Winter jobs include maintenance checks on the irrigation, trellis maintenance and adjustments, soils tests, weed management, and developing a pest and disease strategy, ensuring that we follow the sustainable wine growing principles. Once all of these tasks are complete the vineyard will be ready for Budburst in September.

Pruning

We had a good start to winter with 77mm of rain falling in June, more than twice as much as June 2015. The winter jobs have started, but the ground is still so wet the Barrel Pruning had to be delayed until the soil dried out a little as the tractor would have compacted the midrows.

Hand Pruning started in the last week of July. We prune to two bud spurs leaving 20 spurs per vine, as we do every year. This gives consideration to the winery requirements, the production and quality parameters.



The feedback from our contract Winery for the 2015 Vintage was excellent, so look out for Thomas Shiraz on the shelves from September onwards!

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