



WINGARA WINE GROUP

# Vintage 2017 Report



DEAKIN ESTATE  
WINES OF AUSTRALIA





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# Our Australian Vineyards



# Katnook Estate, Coonawarra – 2017 Vintage

## Chris Brodie, Viticulturist

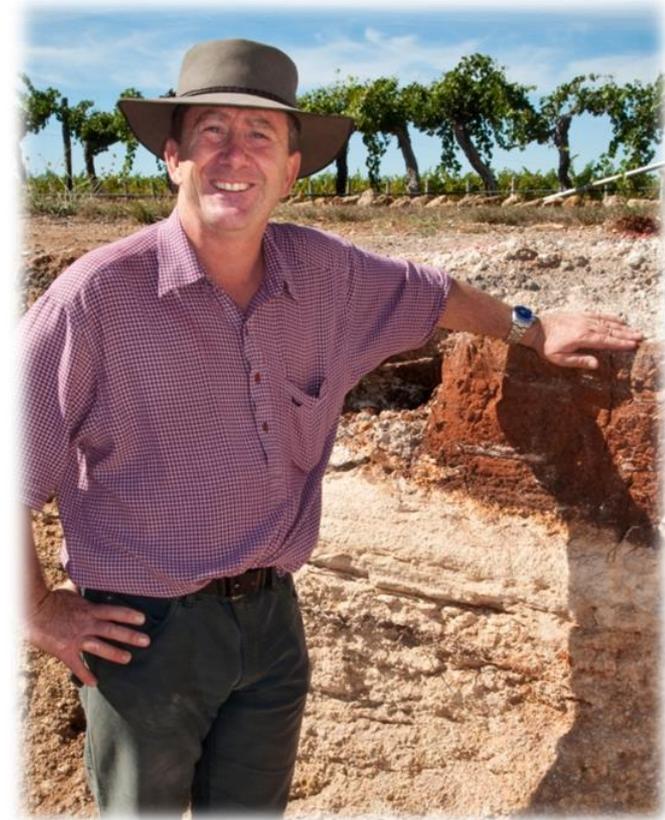
A cool growing season and above average rain leading into 2017 harvest saw a later start to vintage in early March, typical of ten years ago.

The cooler conditions resulted in budburst being delayed by up to three weeks, with flowering two weeks later. A warm summer followed, with a welcome spell of hot days in late January.

Red grape harvest started towards the end of March and continued to completion on 2nd May. Coonawarra has not had a vintage starting this late since the outstanding 2004 vintage.

The 2017 vintage saw white grapes with good varietal definition and the reds, even at lower sugar levels than recent vintages had excellent colour and concentrated fruit flavours.

April saw heavy rain towards the end of the month, and this, combined with above average yields, meant that not all fruit in Coonawarra was harvested. There are many parcels of high quality grapes for Katnook wines, with Shiraz a standout variety for 2017.



# Katnook Estate, Coonawarra – 2017 Vintage

## Wayne Stehbens, Senior Winemaker

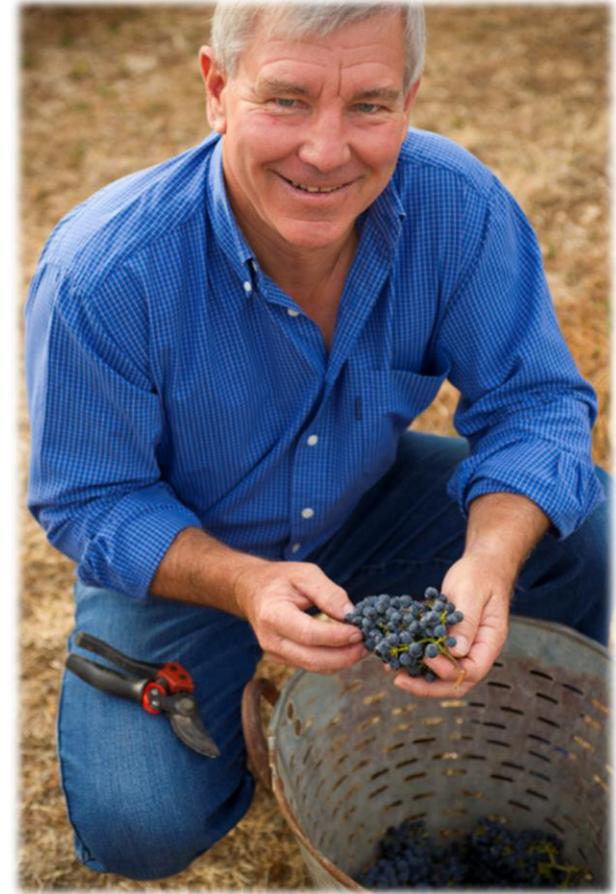
Overall 2017 was slightly warmer than average, as were yields. Despite some heavy mid-vintage rain, my expectations are for a very good vintage.

Harvest began with Pinot Meuniere, Pinot Noir (for sparkling base) and Sauvignon Blanc. The fruit was in excellent condition, with high natural acidity and great flavours at low sugar levels. Riesling and Chardonnay followed in mid-March. Overall, the whites are showing forward fruit and good acid balance.

Red grapes came in later than usual, starting in late March and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

We chose to leave some fruit on the vines due to the heavy rains in late April, meaning we did not compromise on quality.

Cabernet at this early stage is deep in colour with elegant fruit flavours and medium body. Shiraz is exceptional, intense, spicy flavours and good palate structure.



# Katnook Estate, Coonawarra - 2017 Vintage

## Wayne Stehbens - Quality by variety

### WHITES

Sauvignon Blanc – light, tropical flavours with passionfruit and citrus.

Chardonnay – a highlight for the whites. Early maturity gave good nectarine flavour at low sugar levels and pleasing palate structure.

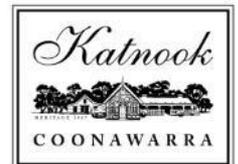
Riesling – attractive mid palate with citrus aromas and flavours.

### REDS

Merlot – supple, soft tannins framing pleasing plum flavours.

Shiraz – the stand out for our reds so far this vintage, with deep colour, raspberry flavours and fine, soft tannins.

Cabernet Sauvignon – due to rain at the end of harvest, some fruit was left on the vine however before the rain, we harvested some outstanding parcels for our Katnook Estate range and possibly Katnook Odyssey.



# Deakin Estate, Murray Darling – 2017 Vintage

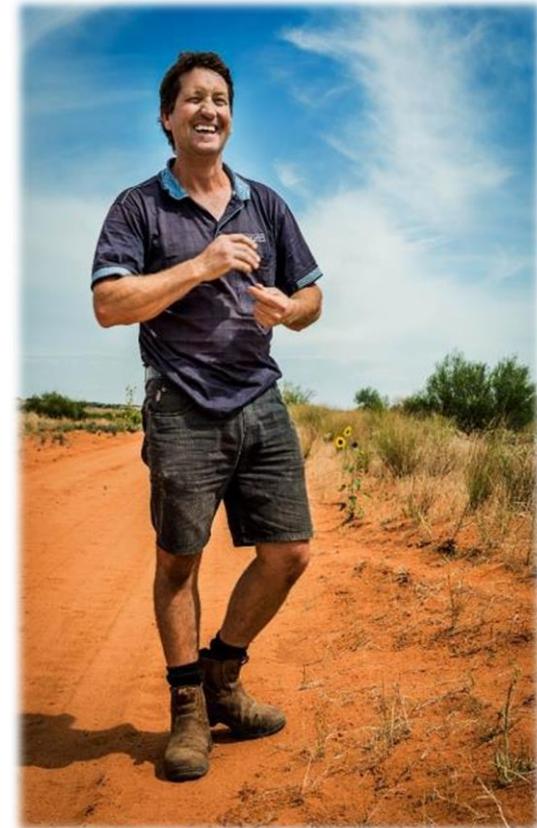
## Craig Thornton, Viticulturist

Our region experienced cold nights right up until Christmas 2016, when the temperatures rose to what we normally expect over summer, followed by cooler weather. Harvest therefore was slow to progress and at any stage was about four weeks behind normal. Usually we would have started harvest by late January, however this year, it was early February.

We had good healthy full bunch crops, with great fruit freshness considering the late pick date. We began harvest with base varieties required for Sparkling and some early ripening Pinot Gris.

We had a very hot week in mid-February with 5 days over 40 degrees Celsius. We had another hot week in the high 30 degrees Celsius during the first week in March which helped with fruit ripening. Weather then became cold at nights until we finished harvest in March.

I was particularly excited by the quality of Tempranillo, Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc in the vineyard. Overall, 2017 was a late but rewarding vintage.



# Deakin Estate, Murray Darling - 2017 Vintage

## Frank Newman, Winemaker

Harvest proceeded slowly this year. As of the second week of March we had crushed just 2000 tonne - five weeks behind last year. A cooler, wetter spring slowed ripening to a marked degree and, as with Coonawarra, this season seems more like those experienced 10-15 years ago.

Sparkling bases are showing refined flavours with a crisp palate. These bases will be spread over seven consecutive years of sparkling so that we maintain our “solera” integrity (our sparkling wines are always non-vintage because we want them to have youthful freshness but also depth of character from careful ageing of the base wines).

We harvested Pinot Gris at two different maturity levels to develop the styles that we sell - early picked for Pinot Grigio and the riper intake for Pinot Gris. Both began fermentation spontaneously with indigenous yeast while finishing with a selected yeast strain to improve mouthfeel.

Vermentino is looking exciting, with a touch of oak to balance the palate. Chardonnay has a hint of malolactic fermentation and an approachable mid weight palate. The reds are showing great colour and flavour intensity.

Overall we harvested around 17% less than 2016, due to harvest conditions. I am upbeat about the final, overall wine quality.



# Deakin Estate, Murray Darling - 2017 Vintage

## Frank Newman - Quality by variety

### WHITES

Viognier and Vermentino - pleasing flavours, distinctly varietal.

Chardonnay - good palate structure with a touch of malolactic fermentation and approachable mid weight palate.

Sauvignon Blanc - vibrant characters with fresh acidic balance.

Moscato - similar to last year with lively aromas at the fore.

Pinot Gris - excellent expression of the style with enticing fruit flavours.

### REDS

Shiraz - more elegance than previous vintages.

Cabernet Sauvignon - great colour and fruit expression, nicely balanced wines.

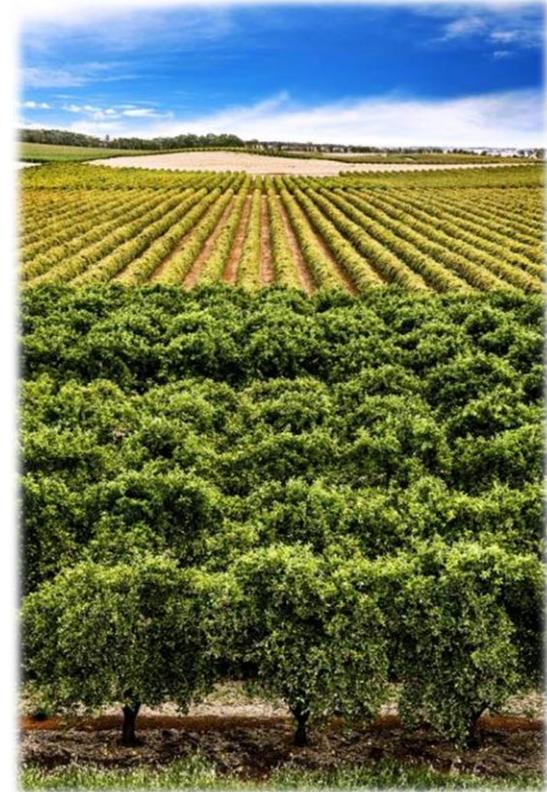
Merlot - pleasing palate weight, excellent flavours.

Malbec - extra long fermentation on skins achieved good colour and tannin balance.

Grenache - fleshy, fruity wine from relatively young vines.

Rose - made from Pinot Noir, the wine has a pale salmon appearance and fragrant aromas.

Tempranillo - dense brooding wine with plenty of fruit sweetness on the palate.





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