



REX HILL

VINTAGE HISTORY

2018

Budbreak was early to normal, followed by unusually dry conditions in the early growing season for Northern Oregon and storms in Southern Oregon until flowering. The result was a fairly compressed bloom period. The peak of the season brought the longest rainless period on record (90+ days), but moderate daytime temperatures and nighttime lows took much of the pressure off of the vines. The harvest period saw some intermittent showers, but not enough to effect fruit quality. Fruit chemistry was well balanced, making 2018 one of the best vintages of the decade.

2017

A cool, wet spring led to the latest budbreak we've seen for the past several years, and hence later flowering. This means a greater chance of favorable weather and the development of a large crop both in terms of berry quantity and size. This calls for discipline in fruit-thinning. The summer was warm and sunny, accumulating growing degree days and 'catching up' the projected harvest to about two weeks behind 2015 and 2016. Underlying the challenges of the 2017 vintage, was a very sound growing season and harvest.

2016

The 2016 vintage was one of contrasts. Spring started with a bang as we saw record warm temperatures push budbreak and flower earlier than ever across Oregon. This heat interspaced with rain led to very fast growth and heightened mildew pressure. We believed we were in for another 2015 vintage as we moved into the summer, but 100 degree days gave way to mild temperatures across Oregon through the summer months. This modulation of temperature slowed the growth of the vines and ripening of the fruit and we moved through veraison and into harvest. Versaison was extended in some vineyards with almost three weeks from the start to the end. This additional time for the fruit to change color and move into its final ripening phase led to a long and stretched out harvest. Before we started picking, we experienced a heat wave with temperatures in excess of 100 degrees over several days. This heat pushed some of the earlier vineyards to ripen quickly and we had to work quickly to bring the fruit in before it became overripe. All in all, we saw beautiful (if hot at times) weather, a little lower yields than projected and tremendous fruit that was clean, concentrated and ripe. In some ways we have had an embarrassment of riches with a tremendous run over the past few vintages that has continued with 2016.

2015

2015 started warmer and drier than average due to the strengthening El Nino leading to the earliest budbreak on record. Spring was typical for Oregon with alternating rain and sunshine, topping up soil moisture and slowing development. Warmer conditions at the start of summer made for rapid bloom with excellent set and the weather remained warm and dry up until harvest. 2015 was the earliest harvest in decades, but all in all, the quality for the 2015 vintage in Oregon was exceptional with fantastic phenolic development, balanced sugars and acids.