

**2007**

**7 /10**

The earliest vintage on record. Harvesting took place four weeks earlier than normal.

Drought conditions prevailed over winter and spring. Water levels fell dramatically, resulting in dried out bores and insufficient moisture levels. Some vineyards suffered stress at flowering which resulted in nature reducing crop levels. Fastidious producers including

Grosset "manually re-balanced" vines to achieve better sugar and acid accumulation. A relentlessly warm to hot and dry summer accelerated ripening, but coolish nights amazingly kept optimum acid levels. Despite the 75-100ml rain in late January, there was no disease pressure. Despite the bizarre season, the condition of the fruit was excellent. The wines will be generously flavoured with fresh acidities. "A get out of jail year."

**2006**

**9 /10**

A brilliant follow up vintage bringing wines of generosity and terrific balance. Good winter and spring rains were followed by initially mild weather. A very hot January caused some concern but cooler temperatures arrived throughout February. Rain caused some berry splitting, but this was not experienced by all vineyards. March was warm allowing even ripening. Once again the natural acidities in Riesling were really good.

**2005**

**10 /10**

A remarkably good vintage with near perfect growing conditions. A warm spring followed by a mild summer with intermittent and beneficial rainfall resulted in healthy canopies. A frost on November 3 damaged some vineyards and a hail storm in February caused some minor difficulties. Harvest started a little early and yields were slightly above average. The acidities in the Riesling were truly excellent. A very fine year

**2004**

**7 /10**

A difficult year. Vintage arrived early but cool weather over the picking period extended harvest. Near drought conditions prevailed with half the long term average rainfall. A warm November and December accelerated the growing season but cooler weather arrived in January. 16 days of relentless energy sapping heat averaging 37.9 (days of 34.1 - 43.1!) wilted vines and winemaker's expectations. Riesling from top vineyards showed extraordinary resilience.

**2003**

**7 /10**

A year of extremes but some excellent wines were made. A heavy downpour occurred in February after a very dry, hot period. This caused widespread berry splitting and spelled disaster for some growers. Some vineyards - with strict management regimes - fared better. The Grosset Rieslings are truly excellent with superb fruit definition and long mineral acidities

**2002**

**10 /10**

Good winter rainfalls replenished soil moistures, but a wet, windy spring resulted in poor fruit set. This was followed by a unusually cool summer. Warm, dry conditions over autumn allowed the fruit to ripen perfectly. This is a very great Clare Riesling vintage.

**2001**

**8 /10**

Spring rains during winter and early spring preceded a very hot dry summer. This was a very difficult vintage yet paradoxically made wines of very high quality.

**2000**

**6 /10**

Awkward year in which vineyard site was a critical factor. Sunburned grapes were quite prevalent in Watervale. Handpicking around damaged fruit (triaging) ensured good varietal definition and flavour. Rieslings vary from powerful, fine and limey to leaner styles. A stronger line-up than expected

**1999**

**9 /10**

Miracle year. A dry summer punctuated by much-needed rainfall produced wines with

excellent varietal definition and flavour. While the Clare Valley did not suffer the problematic March rains, quality of vineyard site was an important factor; and those with an intimate knowledge of their vineyards produced the best wines. A leaner year

**1998**

**8 /10**

One of the driest winters in 20 years followed by spring rains that brought soil moistures and dams back to normal levels. A warm, even growing season saw an excellent Riesling vintage with some outstanding wines and only the occasional disappointment

**1997**

**10 /10**

Exceptional vintage, considered the best in memory. Essentially dry conditions prevailed except for a brief spell of rain during early February. A burst of hot weather during late February caused vines to stall for a few weeks. This resulted in delayed ripening during cooler conditions. The wines are beautifully structured and have great fruit purity