

vintage2010

DrinksBiz Editor **Joelle Thomson** followed vintage 2010 around the country, concluding that less is definitely more in a year when the local wine industry is struggling with over-supply. At the time *DrinksBiz* went to press, final figures had yet to come in but New Zealand Winegrowers CEO Phillip Gregan forecast a small reduction in New Zealand's total grape harvest this year; from 285,000 last year to about 265,000 this year. Read our next issue for a full vintage report.



Misha's Vineyard, Central Otago, New Zealand – looking down the spectacular "ski slope" towards Lake Dunstan.

▼ Puriri Hills Merlot, late picked in April 2010. *DrinksBiz* Editor Joelle Thomson picked these grapes for a day in late April, remarking: "I never really believed merlot in Auckland was a viable option till I saw, touched and tasted these grapes. They were in impeccable condition. The vineyard is the sorting table. We hand selected and deselected the grapes we'd use and of three rows, I only removed three grapes with botrytis from numerous beautiful bunches."



▲ Judy Fowler and Phil Nunweek who own and operate their tiny Puriri Hills Vineyard (and winery) in Clevedon.



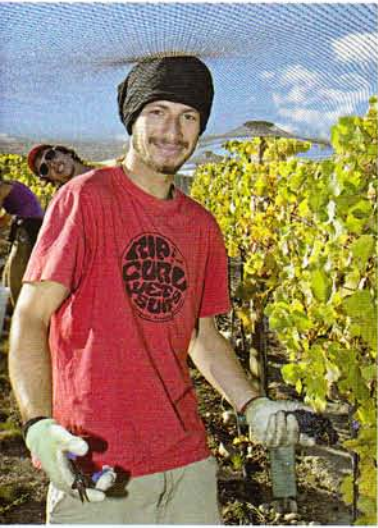
▲ Puriri Hills vineyard in Clevedon, Auckland.



▲ After a shaky start to the growing season due to cool spring temperatures, it seemed like another challenging year in the vineyard for Gus and Melanie Lawson of Cypress Wines in Hawke's Bay. Flowering was longer than typically expected, and fruit set resulted in pitiful, small bunches. Then January was constantly wet. Fortunately, the weather did a U-turn with late summer and autumn providing hot, dry, cloudless days. The result is lower than normal yields and a vintage the Lawsons are excited about.

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Misha's Vineyard, Central Otago. Photos: Tim Hawkins



▲ Benoit Mao, from France – part of 2010 harvest team – he and Camille and two others are travelling around New Zealand in a combi-van but stopped to join us for three weeks over harvest



▲ Daniel Tipene, from New Zealand – part of 2010 harvest team – Daniel is from 'down south' and was working on crayfish boats prior to coming up to Cromwell to work over harvest



▲ Pinot noir grapes at Misha's Vineyard ready for harvesting. There are eight clones of pinot noir on Misha's Vineyard in order to create complexity in the wines.



▲ Julie Adams, from New Zealand - part of 2010 harvest team



▲ Flora Merienne, from France - part of 2010 harvest team. All grapes on Misha's Vineyard were hand picked – across all 22 producing hectares. Next year, this vineyard will have four more hectares that come online. This year's harvest crew came from New Zealand, Germany and France. Harvest commenced on 13 April with gewurztraminer.



▲ Camille Gaia-Checa from France – part of 2010 harvest team



▲ Marillac Maxime from France – part of 2010 harvest team



▲ Ernst Jonker, fulltime staff on Misha's Vineyard.