HtoZ Oregon Vintage Overview

- A challenging 2019 vintage began warm and wet into early June. Proper canopy management and sound crop protection practices were crucial for success before summer arrived with average heat accumulation. Overcast conditions led to the coolest September and October since 2007 helping the fruit maintain acidity and freshness going into harvest. Interspersed showers during the harvest period slowed fruit development, and ripeness was achieved at lower sugars. Vintage 2019 was a true 'cool climate' year, and a reminder that good work and proper timing can achieve great things in Oregon wine.
- 2018 was a supremely kind one. The weather was incredible from start to finish, with moderate temperatures and a nice diurnal temperature swing between days and nights. The fruit and resulting wines have wonderful freshness and intensity while being balanced, succulent and generous. The steady and prolonged window of cooperative weather allowed us to harvest fruit when it was optimal, and when we were ready to receive it. Across all varieties, quality was high, with disease pressure almost non-existent coming from the vineyard allowing us to make the wines exactly how we wanted to.
- 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, it was a very sound growing season and harvest.
- 2016 started with a bang as we saw record warm temperatures push budbreak and flower earlier than ever across Oregon. The 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. All in all, we saw beautiful (if hot at times) weather, a little lower yields than projected and 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.

