

The Grafted Grapevine Standard (What it means to you)

In recent months I have been involved with the Technical Reference Group which has been responsible for advising NZ Winegrowers on the detail and implementation of the new Grafted Grapevine Standard.

The Standard will underpin the quality of the future New Zealand vineyard and the wine industry as a whole.

The Standard has 3 worthwhile and ambitious goals;

- To eradicate Leaf Roll III Virus from our vineyards
- To ensure trueness to type of variety.
- To ensure that growers will be able to purchase vines of a consistent physical standard.

What is important for you to know, is that this Standard is a natural progression of what has been happening in our wine industry for at least the last 15 years.

It was in the early and mid '90's that the spread of Leaf Roll Virus and its implications for the national vineyard became of heightened importance to our industry. It was during this time that responsible nurserymen became conscious of the issues and started their own programmes of virus detection and elimination. Part and parcel of this awareness was the development of management and quality programmes to

ensure that our customers receive vines of known varietal status and the best possible physical standards.

At Misty Valley Nursery, we support and endorse the implementation of the Standard. We have always maintained management systems that include the highest level of virus testing, and protocols to ensure trueness to type of the vines you are buying.

To a significant degree our vines have exceeded the Standard for many years. So, in future you will only see subtle changes in the way we do things

At Misty Valley we have been working hard for the last couple of years to ensure that our major lines will pass the independent audits that we are now going through.

In the spring of 2007, you will see changes in the way we label vines, and will have the opportunity to purchase 'certified vines'

From all the debate around the implementation and contents of the Standard, some other really good things have emerged. There now appears to be a consensus to preserve the historic, valuable and much overlooked material in the archive block at Rakaia. There is also discussion of forming an advisory group to assist New Zealand Winegrowers in the areas of gene pool management and biosecurity issues.

Here's our list of varieties available for 2007 delivery. Sauvignon blanc and Pinot noir remain in high demand so if you think you will need these varieties do reserve your requirements now.

Cabernet franc
Cabernet sauvignon
Chardonnay
Flora
Gamay noir
Gewurztraminer
Malbec
Merlot
Montepulciano
Petit verdot
Pinot gris
Pinot noir
Riesling
Sangiovese
Sauvignon blanc
Syrah
Tannat
Uzbekistan Muscat
Viognier

What a shame none of this is as 'newsworthy' as some of the ugly press we saw at the end of 2006. At least all of us who work in the industry know that there is good news out there if you choose to see it.



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