

## Harvest 2007

The 2007 Napa Valley growing season began with an early budbreak and low levels of winter rainfall. This predicated an overall small berry size and average-light yields. The temperate mild summer made for a steady ripening season. The fruit was able to slowly mature producing complex flavors.

The harvest began in late August after high temperatures and a lack of fog sent sugar levels skyrocketing. Most white varieties and some precocious red varieties were picked during this time period. As the warm weather continued, several early ripening Cabernet vineyards were harvested.

Then the weather changed. A cooling trend combined with late morning fog greatly slowed down sugar accumulation and increased hang time. It also began to intermittently rain. There were light showers on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> that did no more than wash the dust off the vines. There were some more substantial rains around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Overall in Napa, the rain did not have much of an effect on Cabernet but winemakers had to check on their vineyards more often than usual to make sure that rot did not develop. The cooler weather and rain made it the “longest harvest ever” according to some winemakers in Napa.

At Piña Napa Valley, we began harvesting our single vineyard designate Cabernets in mid-September with the Ames Vineyard in Oakville. We then had a small hiatus before we brought in the Napa Valley D'Adamo Vineyard, Rutherford Firehouse Vineyard and Yountville Wolff Vineyard in the first half of October. We finished the harvest at the end of October by picking our latest vineyard, the Howell Mountain Buckeye. We stood our ground this harvest, with constant rain showers and cool weather looming in the forecast, as we refused to bring in our grapes too early. We monitored the vineyards very frequently and waited for them to achieve optimum ripeness.

The 2007 wines are big and powerful yet they have balance and finesse. The Cabernets exhibit deep concentrated color. The wines are well structured but the tannins are not drying or overbearing. Overall, the 2007 vintage produced some phenomenal wines.

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Piña Napa Valley