

Article from Mistletoe Winery Vintage Autumn Newsletter 2014. Author: Ken Sloan

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

**Iconic Hunter Valley Vintage – 2014.**

Hunter Valley Vintage 2014 is being quietly discussed by the old hands as being perhaps the best vintage since 1965. It is definitely the vintage of this century so far, and maybe the best vintage in 100 years!

The start of the growing season (early September 2013 ) was quite warm but very dry, however, we then received quite a lot of rain during November.

The weather turned very dry again in late November and remained that way until February 16<sup>th</sup>.

This prolonged dry period has produced beautiful disease free, perfectly ripened grapes!

Verdelho and Chardonnay came in around mid January but Semillon and Shiraz were harvested at normal picking dates starting around Australia Day and finishing mid February.

Work on our winery extension was delayed until January due to the wet November we experienced.

With vintage commencing early we had tradesmen on site at the same time as we were processing grapes.

There was nothing we could do but just get on with it and work around each other.

We had many long days and late nights, and some fun along the way, but with all the wines safe in the shed it makes it all worthwhile.

We look forward to welcoming you to Mistletoe on your next Hunter visit,

**Kind regards, Ken and Gwen and all the Mistletoe Crew.**

**Vintage update - March 8<sup>th</sup> 2014.** We have today just received Shiraz grapes from Hilltops into the winery making this the biggest vintage we have ever done - we have run out of tanks and barrels!

A Great Year with absolutely fantastic wines right across the range!

We only have one more parcel of grapes to come – the Hilltops Noble Viognier which is due around mid-April. Looking great as well!

There will be some absolutely standout Hunter Semillon, Chardonnay and Shiraz produced from this vintage.

It has been the best year for Hunter reds for a long, long time.

It will be a real pleasure to see all the wines from this vintage as they develop and are bottled over the next year or so.