



2015 HARVEST FIRST REPORT

This season began with a very rainy winter in the Apalta zone (487mm –19 inches– in 2014 vs.175mm –6.6 inches– in 2013), although that was not the case in Marchigüe, where the precipitation was similar to that of the previous season (315mm –12 inches–).

Temperatures were warmer this past winter and fluctuated between a minimum of 4.5°C (40°F) and a maximum of 14.7°C (58.5°F) in Apalta, which was 0.5°C (32.9°F) higher than the previous season. Spring presented moderate average temperatures of approximately 19.5°C (67.1°F), which is very similar to the previous season and enabled a considerably even bud break and flowering in the vineyards. What began as a rather normal season changed with the onset of summer with a number of heat waves lasting more than 5 consecutive days of temperatures above 30°C (86°F) and even reaching as high as 34.7°C (94.5°F) in January, which is unusual in the zone, where the average is normally 29°C (84.2°F). The higher temperatures observed in January and February affected the levels of ripening and stress in the vineyards, many of which are stressed due to water shortages. As a result, at the time of this report, the harvest is 10 –15 days ahead of schedule with respect to 2014.

Yields have not changed significantly from the previous season. The grapes are very healthy and the sugar levels we are tasting in the vineyards leads us to predict that the harvest of red grapes will be even earlier, which will make this a particularly compact harvest.

Harvested to date

The harvest began on February 18, which is approximately 10 days earlier than usual. We began by picking the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that will be used as the base for our sparkling wine. We continued on February 26 with our first Sauvignon Blancs from Curicó. Right now we are finishing up the Chardonnay for our Classic Series line and are now with some grapes for our Montes Alpha from the Casablanca Valley. The grapes received in the cellar so far have been of very high quality, although we will need to be very attentive to how maturation advances in a year with a hot March.

Apparently this harvest will require extra care in caring for the land, paying attention, anticipating, and reacting opportunely to ensure the quality of our great wines.

See you soon,

Aurelio Montes Sr.
President and Winemaker
Montes Wines

