



TOIT WESSELS

# RIDGEBACK *Wines*

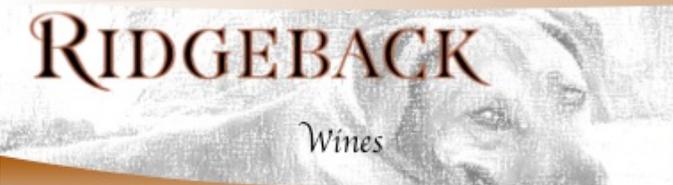
## Newsletter – Harvest 2013

Following the superb winter conditions with the highest rainfall and cold units in 8 years it was no surprise that the vines were well rested and rearing to go from the onset of budburst in September. The growing season has shown possibly the best set that I've experienced since arriving at Ridgeback in 2000, with a great selection and volume of bunches to choose from. With the exception of a number of hot days during early December the conditions have generally been more forgiving than the past 2 vintages which were exceptionally hot and dry. Possibly the only really alarming aspect of the season thus far has been the very destructive South Easter which tore through the Winelands at the end of November. Some regions suffered vast amounts of wind damage, but we were fortunate to escape fairly unscathed.

The culmination of all the above factors is fantastic potential for the 2013 vintage as we have a great number of quality bunches from which to select only the best to bring into the cellar. If these fairly cool conditions prevail towards the end of January we will be able to preserve all the very delicate Sauvignon Blanc flavours and possibly even improve on the award winning quality produced in 2012. The cooler ripening conditions also benefit our red wines as the grapes ripen more slowly and evenly and they can be harvested only once optimally ripe. The 2011 and 2012 vintages have been very special and by the look of it they might not be a patch on 2013.

The Ridgeback team, fresh from their Christmas break, reminds me a little of our well rested vines as their energy and enthusiasm during the final stages of harvest preparation is inspiring. We are all looking forward to the upcoming harvest and the butterflies of excitement are difficult to contain as we head towards the start in the third week in January. Here's wishing all of you a fantastic personal 2013 vintage too.

Regards,  
Toit and the team.



### Events to put in your diary:

- ◆ Drinks on the Deck – Every last Friday of the month 6:30 – 9:30pm. Tapas menu available.  
**Bookings:** Wine Tasting Centre - Tel: 021-869-8068
- ◆ **Ommiberg 2013 Round the Rock Festival:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Tasting of new 2013 unfiltered wines.