



## 2007 VINTAGE

### **HUNTER VALLEY**

2007 was one of the earliest vintages in the Hunter for a long time. We started picking Semillon on the 15<sup>th</sup> January (some 2-3 weeks early). This early harvest was largely due to the ongoing drought conditions over the proceeding 15 months giving rise to very low cropping levels. Crops were down 20 to 40% and with less fruit to ripen, the vines were able to deliver their crop in a much shorter timeframe. This resulted in fruit of exceptional concentration and intensity. The reds in particular have incredible colour and structure and should age well into Hunter classics.

### **ORANGE**

Winter rainfall and the coolest summer on record leading to severe drought conditions throughout the growing season. Crop levels were down almost 70%. The bunches and berries were tiny producing small quantities of intensely flavoured wines. Moderate conditions during ripening led to acid balance, so the small amounts of wines made were of very high quality.

### **WRATTONBULLY**

Low rainfall and the coolest summer on record provided both low cropping levels and great varietal intensity. The heat degree days for 2007 were 1185 compared to the long term average of 1507 and cropping levels were down 60-70% from 2006. These cool conditions allowed good retention of natural acid and fruit intensity in the wines. Cabernet and Shiraz are the stars in Wratttonbully this year with great colour and depth whilst maintaining length and balance. These wines should age very well rewarding careful cellaring.

### **COONAWARRA**

Dry winter conditions carrying through the ripening season lead to a low cropping year in Coonawarra. Many vineyards across Coonawarra suffered severe frost damage and resultant loss of crop. 60% of Coonawarra was affected by these frosts. Luckily our vineyard site in Coonawarra was very carefully selected and spared the peril of the frost. Both the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Merlot show classic Coonawarra character of red and black fruits, they are elegant structured with good varietal intensity and purity. A classic yet elegant year for mid term cellaring.