

Round Pond

E S T A T E

Growing olives is always a challenge. Their tendency to have alternate bearing years keeps us on our toes trying to even the production out between one year and the next. When you add to the equation growing eight different varieties, it makes it all the more interesting. Each variety seems to have its own idiosyncrasies. We are fortunate at Round Pond in that we have our own mill & press. As each variety ripens on its own particular schedule, we can monitor for optimal flavor and pick the varieties when they are at their best in terms of flavor & yield. Often, producers have to rely on cooperative mills which can severely limit the choice of when the olives can be picked and how they are to be processed.

We were pleased to see that the 2008 – 2009 production year was very good for our Italian varieties. Despite the severe swings in weather patterns during early spring, the Italian varieties set a healthy crop. Fortunately, the rest of the season showed us ideal conditions for ripening. The weather at times was very warm, but not too hot by any means. The marine influences kept highs in the upper 70's and 80's to low 90's at times. Nighttime temperatures stayed in the low 50's. The Spanish varieties, however, were in a low bearing year and as a result, we picked a light crop. I would expect that next year, given good weather conditions, we will have significantly more Spanish olives to press.

Although we picked a little of the crop just before Thanksgiving, we did not start picking in earnest until just after the holiday. Olives can tolerate fairly cold weather and even some short term light frost. The years that show us a nice Indian summer are always welcome. This year, the cool conditions kept our attention and we picked seven days a week until all of the olives were processed. It was a challenge for a while, but tenacity paid off and we got all of the fruit into the mill in excellent condition. We are pleased with the resulting olive oil and hope you enjoy this freshest of foods.

Chris Pedemonte, Colinas Farming Company