

Near perfect pickings, with fingers crossed

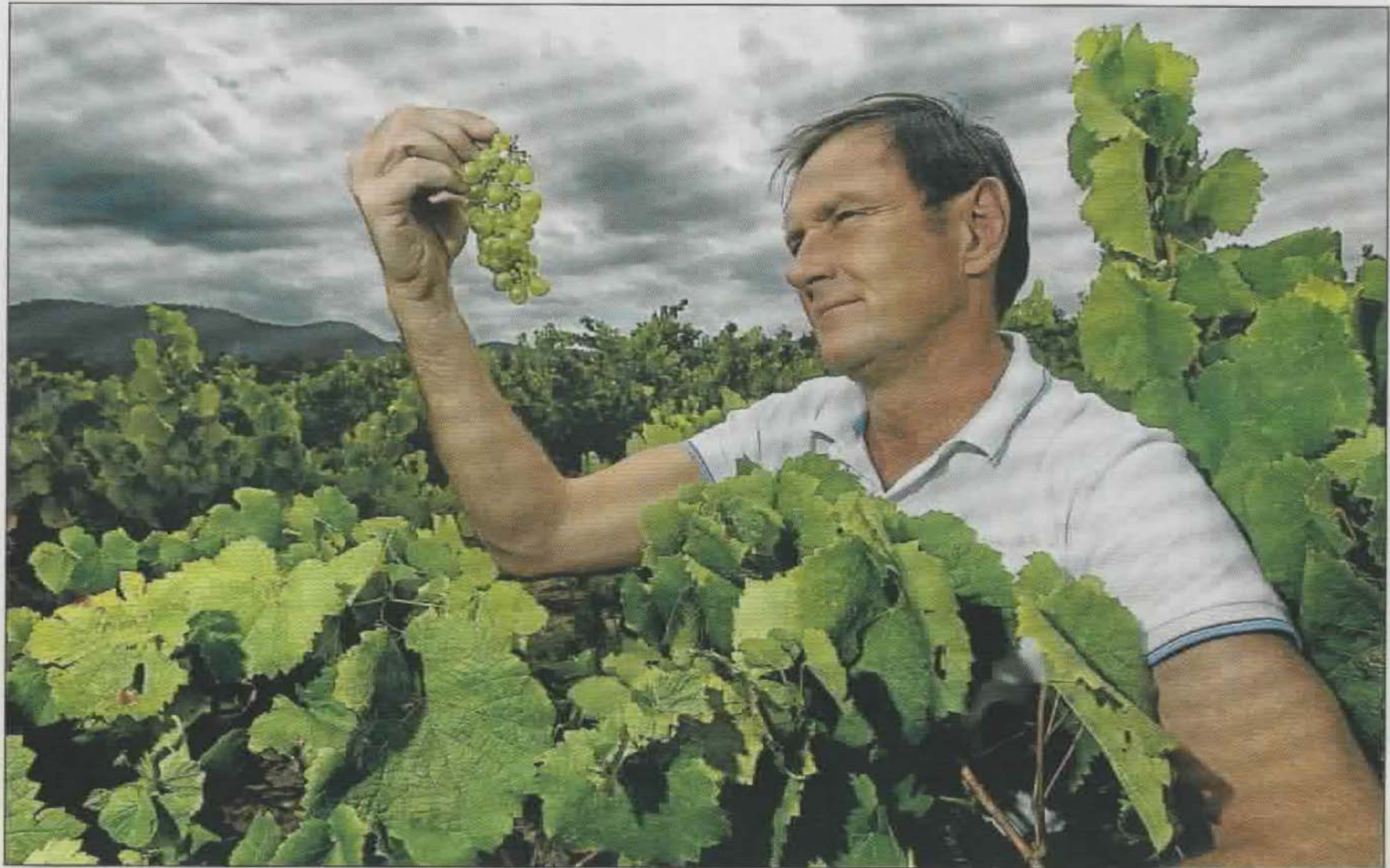
THE annual grape harvest will be in full swing tomorrow across most Hunter Valley vineyards, with growers focusing on quality rather than quantity.

Picking will get under way in the morning at Margan Family Wines with operator Andrew Margan expecting a good 2012 vintage as a result of near perfect growing conditions.

"The fruit looks fantastic," Mr Margan said.

"We had a lot of rain leading up to the new year which put a bit of disease pressure on us, but from January 1 we had dry weather and it was a little cooler, which led to ideal conditions helping the quality and flavour of the fruit."

White grapes will be picked first for chardonnay, sparkling wines, verdelho and semillon, with red grapes harvested in another two to three weeks.



Donna Sharpe QUALITY: Winemaker Andrew Margan prepares for tomorrow's harvest at Broke.

– Picture by Jonathan Carroll