

Vintage Report 2014

Autumn and winter were particularly mild, with good levels of rainfall. Splendid weather conditions in March led to early, vigorous vine growth.

During this early part of the vegetative cycle, it looked as if we were in for an early harvest. The weather stayed dry and the few late frosts that arrived in March and April caused little damage.

As spring turned into early summer the climatic conditions allowed us plenty of time in which to conduct our preliminary work on the vineyard soils and the vines with great precision.

Intensely sunny weather during early June brought on the flowering, which came as early as budbreak had taken place a few weeks before. Flowering came on fast, right across Burgundy, from north to south. Chardonnay, which is very sensitive to dry, hot conditions, suffered a little, and we saw evidence of poor fruit set in many of the bunches.

As the seasons turned towards summer, the weather was such that fungal diseases were easily kept under control.

At the end of June (on the afternoon of the 28th), a violent hailstorm hit several communes, particularly in the Mâconnais (Lugny, Plottes, Vergisson) and in the Côte d'Or (Beaune, Pommard, Volnay, Chambolle-Musigny, Vosne). Our vineyards in Beaune and in Pommard were particularly badly affected.

Summer remained unsettled, with heavy periods of rainfall during August. Veraison began at the end of July, and the growth cycle slowed, pointing towards a harvest starting in early September.

The dry weather returned at the beginning of September, bringing with it a welcome north wind that blew for a few days, helping return the grapes to a state of health. Good amounts of sunshine helped to speed the ripening of the grapes.

We began our harvest of the white grapes on the 11th of September as they had benefitted immensely from the weather during the first fortnight of the month.

Nearly all the vineyards, from Chablis down to Beaujolais, were picked at the same time. Harvest was fast-paced, thanks to the good weather, which continued throughout the month.

The harvest of the Hautes Côtes, which began around a fortnight later, was magnificent, providing both generous yields and very healthy grapes.

The balance of the whites is very promising. At this stage the wines are showing precise, vivid acidity and a promising concentration. Fermentation has been rapid and the aromas very pure.

The reds are deeply coloured. Tannins appear to be supple at this early stage of the maturation process, although we need to wait for the completion of the malolactic fermentation before we can confirm that these wines have achieved the high quality we foresee. The wines of the Côte des Nuits are superb, with deep colours and generous fruit.