

2020

Vintage Report



GAJA

GAJA - BARBARESCO AND BAROLO

2020 has been characterized by frequent rainfalls that for various reasons can be defined as atypical. Rains were overall above average (the total annual average has been of 1000 mm in the Barolo area and 900 mm in the Barbaresco area compared to the usual 800mm). The distribution instead of being in winter and spring, was concentrated in the summer months; and surprisingly, despite the very frequent summer thunderstorms, for the first time in many years none of our vineyards were damaged by hail. Most of the winter rains fell in November (there was also an early snowfall on the 15th) and helped counteract the drought from December to March. During the course of winter the temperatures were mild, in particular January 2020 will be remembered for being the warmest in the last 50 years. The actual cold, with temperatures below freezing, arrived in mid-March and last a month, however no frost damage occurred. With the sole exceptions of a heat peak in late May, one in August and one in mid-September, the period from May to early October was characterized by an alternation of warm days, thunderstorms and following cooler days. The heat picks in mid-August and in September from the 10th to the 18th helped the grape maturation and the reaching of final ripeness for Nebbiolo. Significant temperature variations characterized the rest of September and October, favouring colour, aromas and the overall health of the grapes. The harvest of the white grapes started on August 26th and was longer than usual due to some rainfall that prolonged the final ripeness of each vineyard. From September 18th, consequently to the spike in temperatures, also Nebbiolo's harvest started. The picking of the red grapes ended on October 8th with great satisfaction.

CA' MARCANDA – BOLGHERI

2020 winter months were warmer than average, with well distributed rainfalls from October 2019 to February 2020. In April temperatures dropped to -4°C at night. Due to that, two spring frosts caused some minor damage to the youngest vineyards and to those located at the lowest altitudes. Spring was featured by low temperatures reaching 22°C during the day and $12/13^{\circ}\text{C}$ at night. Significant temperature variations and frequent rains required meticulous work to tackle fungal diseases. Early summer was characterized by scarce winds (unusual for the Bolgheri area) and warm temperatures that remained steady throughout the summer, with no heat waves, until mid-September. The harvest was slowed down by several rainfalls, the picking of white varieties started on August 28 and the harvest of red varieties begun with Merlot on September 5. Bunches were healthy and fully ripe, with the particularity of being on average 15% larger than usual, with crisp, fine skins. The quality of Cabernet Franc and Merlot is excellent; also Shiraz and Sangiovese show good balance, for Cabernet Sauvignon there are peaks of high quality despite results are overall less consistent.

PIEVE SANTA RESTITUTA – MONTALCINO

The last months of 2019 were very rainy in Montalcino, November in particular, with 250 mm of rainfall approximately. 2020 winter until late March was dry with temperatures above the seasonal average. In the second half of March, exactly at the end of pruning, the temperatures dropped drastically for a month, reaching -5°C and causing some problems with frost. The following months were hot, but not excessively, and were characterized by significant temperature variations at night. Tramontana winds – cold air coming in from the norther Apennine Mountains – in conjunction with heat peaks that reached 31°C on September 12th, accompanied the Sangiovese until its full ripeness. The harvest began on September 15th at Pieve Santa Restituta. The grape clusters were sparse and small, the berries well ripened, rich in sugars and in polyphenolic compounds.

IDDA - SICILY

2020 winter and spring on Mount Etna were rainy and with overall mild temperatures. Abundant and prolonged rainfall occurred in early summer but apart from following 50 mm in June, 65 mm in July and 120 in September, overall 2020 summer was dry and not characterised by serious heat peaks. A bad hail storm, unfortunately, hit Baincavilla on September 12th causing a loss of 20% of the overall production. Significant temperature variations, with wind during the day and rather fresh nights, favored the maturation and complexity of the aromatic compounds of the grapes during fall. The harvest started with Carricante on October 1st and ended on October 6th. The picking of Nerello began on October 16th and lengthened until October 28th.



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