



Charles Chevallier

Presenting Bordeaux vintage 2011

CLIMATE AND VITICULTURE

A very early vintage :

Considering the average of the past 60 years, we recorded, in Pauillac :

- 9 days advance for the bud-break
- 15 days advance for the flowering
- 18 days advance for the véraison

Great complexity in the vineyard !

Rainfall in January, February and March was relatively low. In April it was historically low.

The morning dew combined with low humidity and high temperatures favoured the growth of powdery mildew, which is usually quite rare in the Bordeaux region. Downy mildew, that is often a problem, remained very inactive.

It's the world upside down ! And it was necessary to remain extremely vigilant because this fungus has an extraordinary capacity to surprise even the best vine growers.

August and the beginning of September were unusually damp, with notable differences between Pomerol, Sauternes and Pauillac. Then on 1st September, the date the harvests started in Rieussec in beautiful sunshine, a telephone call from Lafite brought news of disaster: a big hail storm had struck on the northern edge of Pauillac and in Saint Estèphe. A quick decision was made, we would «bring in» the Cabernet Sauvignon in Caillava on 3 September (which had been scheduled for harvest on 5 September).

From that moment on, with a not negligible risk of lurking botrytis, we harvested the fruit that Mother Nature had been happy to help us bring to an excellent degree of ripeness at the various sites, in a rather surprising order, but without playing any dangerous waiting games!

Only the vineyard in Rieussec, after a very dense period towards the end of September, benefited from the Indian summer with some of the golden, nobly botrytized grapes remaining on the vines until 2 November.

This is how a difficult viticulture year came to an end...

Paradoxically, the first wines that we have tasted have been very promising... with beautiful expressions of fruit, supported by fine levels of acidity, and a lower alcohol content than in the previous vintages.

THE HARVESTS

- **Rieussec:** from 1st September to 2 November with 3 to 7 selective pickings per plot
- **Evangile:** Merlot was picked on 6th, 7th and then 13th to 21st September, Cabernet Franc from 19th to 21st September
- **Duhart-Milon:** Merlot was picked from 5th to 13th September, Cabernet Sauvignon from 13th to 21st September
- **Lafite:** Merlot was picked from 5th to 13th September, Cabernet Sauvignon on 3rd, then 13th to 21st September, Cabernet Franc from 17th and 19th September, Petit Verdot: 19 and 20 September.

VARIETALS

Pomerol & Pauillac :

- **Château L'Evangile :** Merlot 94% - Cabernet Franc 6%
- **Blason de l'Evangile :** Merlot 85% - Cabernet Franc 15%
- **Château Duhart-Milon:** Cabernet Sauvignon 75% - Merlot 25%
- **Moulin de Duhart :** Cabernet Sauvignon 31% - Merlot 69%
- **Château Lafite Rothschild :** Cabernet Sauvignon 80% - Merlot 20%
- **Carruades de Lafite :** Cabernet Sauvignon 55% - Merlot 39% - Cabernet Franc 3.5% - Petit Verdot 2.5%

Sauternes :

- **Château Rieussec :** Sémillon 95% - Sauvignon Blanc 2% - Muscadelle 3%
- **Carmes de Rieussec :** Sémillon 84% - Sauvignon Blanc 12% - Muscadelle 4%

March/April 2012 report