



Grand Cru Classé, AOC Pauillac

THE 2018 VINTAGE

Climatic conditions

The first half of 2018 was marked by heavy rainfall and severe hailstorms during the winter, followed by a much milder spring.

Cool temperatures in March were followed by a warm spell in April which favoured vegetation growth and brought the vines into flower slightly earlier than usual. This trend was confirmed from June onwards as hot and sunny weather resulted in the vine cycle being 5 days ahead of average.

In July, high humidity coupled with the summer heat made it difficult to keep the vines healthy, but constant care from our growers ensured that all the qualities of the vineyard were preserved. Fortunately, hot and dry weather then set in for three months, with temperatures sometimes reaching more than 30°C, ending the mildew attacks.

Although conditions in the first half of the year did not herald a great harvest, the record-breaking temperatures, low rainfall and relative drought that followed in the summer months rectified the situation. The grapes were small but outstandingly rich in sugar and tannins.

The advance in the vine cycle and the hot, dry summer meant that the harvest began in late August for the white grapes and early September for the red grapes.

At Château Clerc Milon, picking started with the Merlot on 17 September and ended with the Petit Verdot and Carmenère on 10 October.

The wines are intensely coloured and have excellent tannic structures. They are remarkably dense and smooth, with a rare concentration of aroma and flavour. Yields were smaller because of the drought, but the vintage can already be reckoned one of the great successes.

Harvest

From 17 September to 10 October.

Varietal mix

60% Cabernet Sauvignon
27% Merlot
9% Cabernet Franc
3% Petit Verdot
1% Carmenère

Tasting notes

The wine has a deep colour with a crimson hue.

The ample and succulent nose opens on aromas of fresh berries such as blackcurrant, together with notes of violet. Spice and liquorice notes appear with airing, recalling the ripeness of the grapes, offset by touches of mint.

The dense and opulent attack leads into a fresh and smooth mid-palate underpinned by generous, silky tannins, revealing pepper and dark chocolate notes that leave an overall impression of succulence and harmony.

The finish is beautifully balanced and remarkably long.