



2013

CLIMATE

After a very mild beginning to winter, the month of February turned cold with unusually low temperatures which continued through March and into spring.

The vines started to flower on June 7. On June 17th and 18th there were two days of heavy rain which precipitated serious coulure (shatter) and millerandage (uneven grape set). Nothing could be done to prevent low yields.

Fortunately, excellent weather conditions returned in summer, with a wonderfully warm and sunny July and August. In fact, it was one of the sunniest summers in the last 30 years. We can say with certainty that the summer saved the 2013 vintage.

Veraison was half-way through by August 17, predicting harvest at the end of September or beginning of October.

HARVEST

Dates:

Merlot: October 1 - 6

Cabernet Sauvignon: October 7 - 12

Our grapes are harvested 100% by hand by our devoted teams of pickers who work exclusively for Chateau d'Issan.

This year, we benefitted from new vibrating tables with pneumatic suspension, allowing us to sort with more precision with only the finest and ripest berries coming through.

In short, the harvest, though of low yields, was of fine quality at Issan, thanks to our dedicated staff and harvesters directed by Technical Manager Eric Pellon. Our diligence has paid off!

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VINIFICATION

Throughout the year, the watchwords for our work in the vineyards and winery have been "watching and waiting." Our patience and expertise have produced a masterful vintage. In 2013, the pumping-over was gentle as usual, and fermentation presented no problems. After three weeks of maceration, the wines were put into barrel in mid-December.

Analysis	Issan	Blason d'Issan
Alcohol content (%vol.)	12,83	12,7
Total acidity (g/l H2SO4)	3,26	3,24
pH	3,69	3,64
Polyphenols	60	54

Blend	Issan	Blason d'Issan
Merlot	26%	57%
Cabernet Sauvignon	74%	43%
Yield (hl/Ha)	28	
New barrels	50%	35%
Proportion of production	55%	45%



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

How disappointing to see such low yields for a second year in a row! On the other hand, the low yields meant earlier ripening, and complete maturity of the Cabernet Sauvignon. The casks of Cabernet are wonderfully aromatic and complex, and of uniformly high caliber.

Considering the difficulties imposed by the weather, the 2013 vintage at Chateau d'Issan is a resounding success! In 20 years we have never achieved such exceptional quality under such extreme circumstances.

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