



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - Preparation for the harvests

17 September 2015

CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY DUCASSE

Pauillac

We are expecting a very good quality harvest at Château Grand-Puy-Ducas. The vineyard is in superb condition. Yields seem appropriate and we are genuinely excited about the quality this year. It is the earliest that the red grapes have ever ripened. The harvests should start on 17 September.

The extremely hot, dry climate that followed the start of ripening has resulted in Cabernet Sauvignon that presents aromas of ripe fruit. The Merlot is already close to optimal ripeness, despite the recent rain.



8 CA Grands Crus properties



*Château de Rayne Vigneau
Château Grand-Puy-Ducas
Château Meyney
Château La Tour de Mons
Château
Blaignan Clos Saint-Vincent
Château de Santenay
Château Saint-Louis la Perdrix*

CHÂTEAU MEYNEY

Saint-Estèphe



The vineyard is in excellent health, and the grapes continue to peacefully ripen. We have deliberately let nature take its course between the rows of vines since early August. The ground is thus covered with a carpet of meadow grass, clover, purslane, and speedwell, which helped to absorb the recent rain.

As the harvests approach, the last cleaning and leaf removal operations have been completed. In parallel, the harvest equipment is being cleaned and prepared.

A beautiful harvest is on its way at Château Meyney. The number of bunches per vine is in line with our objectives. However, we fear that yields will be lower than last year.



CHATEAU LA TOUR DE MONS

Margaux



Due to its unusual terroir, La Tour de Mons is undoubtedly one of the vineyards that suffered the least from the very dry conditions in the Margaux appellation.

Unlike the grapes in the neighbouring vines, that grow on slightly more gravelly soil, ours have shown very little signs of withering. We are expecting a good quality harvest. Potential alcohol levels are already relatively high, even though phenolic maturity has yet to be reached.

The harvests should start around 21 September and the quality currently seems likely to be very similar to 2014.

CHATEAU DE RAYNE VIGNEAU

Sauternes



1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

CHÂTEAU DE RAYNE VIGNEAU

The Sauvignon harvest for Sec de Rayne Vigneau took place from 27 August to 1 September, and the Sémillon on 9 and 10 September. Conditions were excellent, with alternating cool nights and sunny days. We are very pleased with the quality. There is excellent acidity, freshness and minerality. The expression of thiols is pronounced, with flavours such as grapefruit and passion fruit. Note that the yields in terms of juice were lower than estimated for the weight of the harvest. The yield for the 7 ha of dry white grapes should be very close to that of 2014.

The first round of selective picking for the Sauternes plots took place on 11 September, just before the rain that was forecast for the weekend. The rain was in fact welcome, enabling a very rapid development of the botrytis, a sure sign of great Sauternes vintage.

The growth of the botrytis is uniform and steady, suggesting a very promising vintage. The potential harvest on the AOC Sauternes plots is currently quite abundant, but it is impossible to say what the final yield will be (as this will depend on the extent of the noble rot). After several vintages for which yields were already substantially reduced before the harvests, 2015 looks promising.



CLOS SAINT-VINCENT



Saint-Emilion

The harvest is plentiful, probably slightly below yields for 2014, but superior in quality. Production is looking particularly good this year at Clos Saint-Vincent.

The potential quality is significantly higher than the 2012, 2013 and 2014 vintages.

We do not currently expect to start the harvests before 21 September at the earliest. The vineyard was virtually untouched by the heavy rain over the weekend of 12 and 13 September, with only 5mm.



CHÂTEAU BLAIGNAN

Médoc



CHATEAU
BLAIGNAN

As elsewhere, conditions for the vintage at Château Blaignan have been favourable. However, there were traces of the two violent hailstorms that decimated the property in May and June 2014.

A significant number of buds simply did not open, and in other cases the bunches were much smaller than usual.

The result will be smaller yields, but there is a definite potential for high quality.



CHATEAU DE SANTENAY

Burgundy



CHÂTEAU DE SANTENAY

This vintage has been characterized by exceptional weather conditions in our part of Dijon, in Mercurey. A sunny spring brought an early flowering, which was followed by a hot, dry summer.

Fortunately there was a little rain to counter the almost drought-like conditions.

The harvests started slowly at the end of August, but didn't really get going until the 3-4 September.

Conditions for picking were perfect. The vines and the landscape looked magnificent under the generous sunshine.



CHATEAU SAINT-LOUIS LA PERDRIX

Costières-de-Nîmes

The white and rosé grapes have already been harvested, and the wines look likely to have very promising aromatic profiles.

However, the Cévennes rain has accelerated the pace of the red grape harvest. Although the Bellegarde plateau, with its high altitude and rounded pebbles, has demonstrated its ability to preserve the quality of the bunches.

The reds still need another ten days.



CHÂTEAU SAINT-LOUIS
LA PERDRIX

