



CHÂTEAU LA CONSEILLANTE

VINTAGE 2019

Quando lo spirito non collabora con le mani, non c'è arte.

—

Where the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art.

Léonard de Vinci

I. Winter prelude



The prelude to the vintage is played out in the winter. This is the time when the vine enters into its post-harvest dormant period. And in general terms, this 2019 winter was a cold one. It wasn't a harsh winter, but it was cold with little rain. When milder weather returned in February, and then in March, the vines were given their reminder, a little earlier than usual, that it was time for them to wake up. It is at this stage of the season that wine growers dread the arrival of April frosts. And in 2019, as feared, those frosts occurred. Whenever frost is forecast, in order to protect the vineyard, the crew quickly swing into action. Two sleepless nights were endured this time but thankfully without any damage to the vines.

II. A pleasant spring



The month of May, which received normal amounts of rainfall, is the time of the year to work the soils in the vineyard while closely monitoring vine vegetation and tending the plants with careful precision. This year, in June, the flowering, which took place from the 3rd to the 13th, was disrupted by 50mm of rain on the 4th June. The vineyard crew, ready to intervene to cater for the vines' every need, carefully prepared each vine plant for the coming days and weeks, tending them with ever greater precision. With ongoing trials, comparison studies and observational work, vineyard experiments continued at pace in the constant search for an ever deeper awareness of the interactions between the soils and the vines.

III. A glorious summer



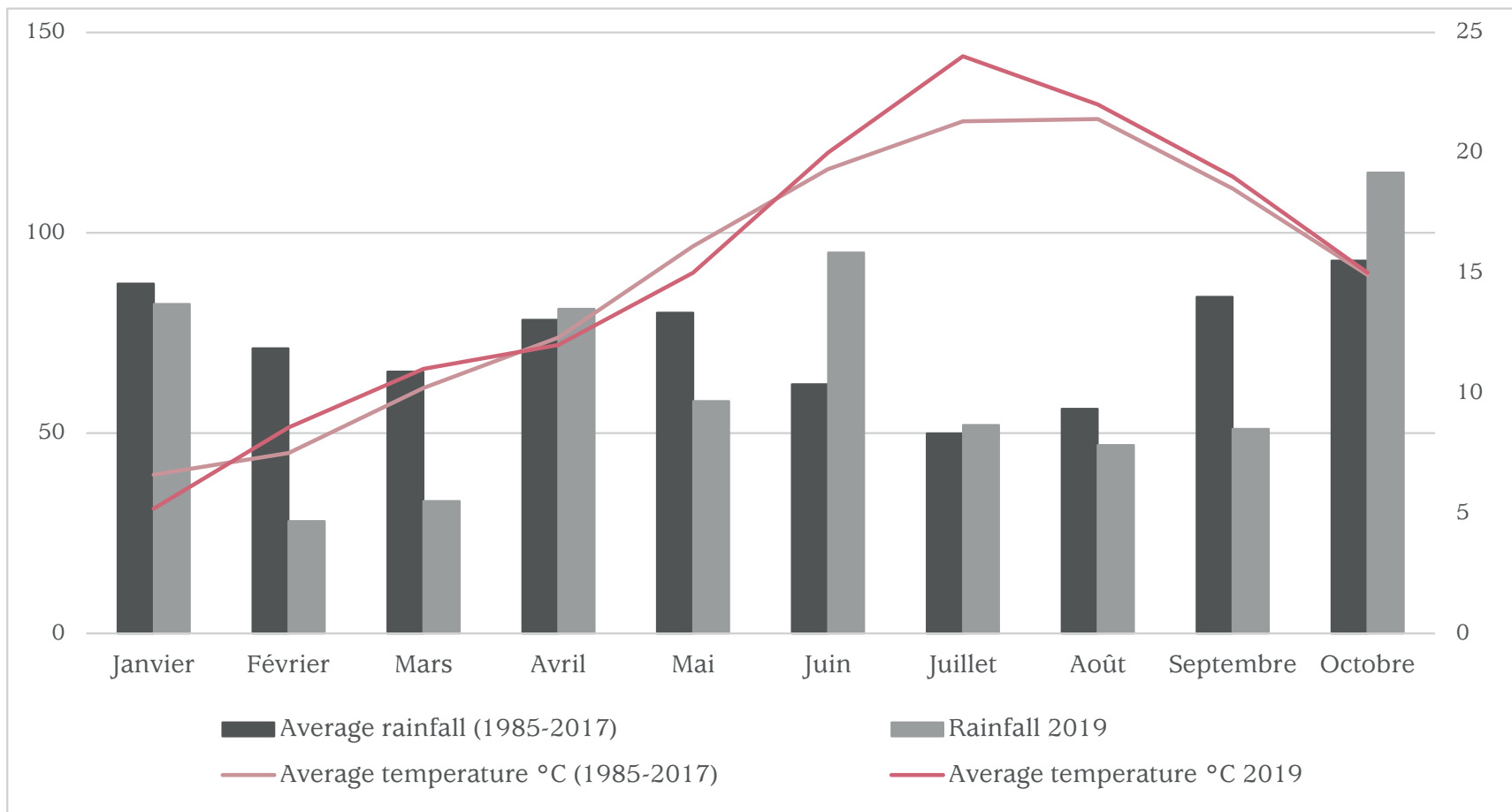
Between the months of June and September, the summer was marked by glorious sunshine and outstandingly warm days. Temperatures surpassed 30°C on average for 48 days and reached highs of over 35°C on nine days. This heat encouraged the vine growers to take carefully thought-out decisions across the mosaic of plots that make up the vineyard. Deleafing was very light in order to protect the grapes from the hot sun, while the vine canopy was trimmed shorter than usual, so as to avoid the grapes building up too much sugar. A cooler ground temperature was achieved for the old vines through maintaining inter-row cover crops. On the other hand, we reduced vegetation among the young vines so as to limit the competition and lessen water stress in the plants. This work done by the La Conseillante crew was performed on a customised, vine by vine, basis, with precision and respect for the terroir and its subtleties.

IV. A stress-free harvest



The veraison process in the Merlot went quickly (between 3rd and 5th August), and the pips ripened early. The phenolic ripeness was very good. The weather was kind to this vintage and allowed the La Conseillante crew to harvest in stress-free conditions, plot by plot, firstly picking the Merlot (from 17th to 20th September) and then the Cabernet Franc (on 30th September and 7th October). The grapes were initially cooled to 4°C in order to concentrate fruit aromatics. Then in the cellar, each plot was vinified separately to preserve each one's specific character. Four of the plots underwent integral vinification, which enabled more structured wines. The first 2019 tastings showed superb results, and the DNA of La Conseillante was clearly in evidence. Freshness and power are the signature of this 2019 vintage. It reveals intense aromas of redcurrants and raspberries. This is a vibrant wine bursting with flavour and with wonderful length on the palate.

Climate diagram comparing the 2019 vintage with the 32 year-averages from 1985 to 2017



Blend	The average yield produced at the estate	pH	Total acidity	Alcoholic degree
84% Merlot 16% Cabernet Franc	34 hl/ha	3,67	3,27	14,5



Harvesting dates Merlot	Harvesting dates Cabernet Franc	Aged in new oak barrels	Aged in second-fill barrels	Aged in amphora
17 to 20/09	30/09 & 07/10	70%	27%	3%

2019



Never has the blending of a vintage been so straightforward.
The association of the different lots of the 2019 La Conseillante has produced a wine with stunning freshness allied to gentle power.
Very Pomerol in its seductiveness, this vintage reveals black fruit aromas supported by floral and spicy notes.
La Conseillante 2019 is a vibrant wine with huge promise for the decades to come.

Property of the Nicolas Family
Directors: Dr Bertrand Nicolas & Jean-Valmy Nicolas
Winemaker : Marielle Cazaux
Consultant-oenologist : Michel Rolland



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Château La Conseillante



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