

The 2012 vintage at CANTEMERLE

The growing season

Budding:	from March 27 th to March 29 th
Flowering:	from May 25 th to May 28 th
Start fruit set - Pre-veraison:	from June 10 th to July 12 th
Mid-véraison:	from August 8 th to August 14 th
Harvest:	from October 1 st to October 16 th

Technical details

Harvest: manual with selective sorting

Destemming: total

Berry sorting after destemming: manual on sorting table

Vat types: oak-truncated conical; stainless steel-cylindrical; cement-cubic

Aging: 16 months, of which 12 months are in barrel and 4 months in vat after the final assemblage. French-oak barrels with a soft, medium toast; 40% new barrels, 40% one-fill barrels, 20% two-fill barrels.

Fining: very light; no filtration before bottling.

Total production : 545 000 bottles

Assemblage Château Cantemerle 2012

56% Cabernet Sauvignon
36% Merlot
6% Petit Verdot
2% Cabernet Franc

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The vine's growth cycle and phenolic stages:

Bud break occurred in late March–early April with mild and dry weather. Then conditions changed with the arrival of a cold wet spell which disrupted and slowed the growth of shoots through early May. Flowering in June and the start of véraison in July occurred with lower-than-normal temperatures which affected the volume of grapes produced. The delayed state of the growth cycle promised a late harvest, but dry and sunny weather in August and September allowed this vintage to get back on track.

The harvest:

This occurred from October 1 through 16, after several showers during late September. The Merlot was harvested in sunshine but the rain returned on October 7 which led to an acceleration in picking.

The keys to success in 2012:

Generally, this was a rather complicated year, one which could be termed a “winemaker’s vintage”. Treatment for seasonal diseases in the vineyard was a determining factor in bringing ripe grapes to the vats. The choice of dates for picking and the ability to react to changing conditions (picking, sorting after destemming, and control of vinification) were also necessary conditions for success in 2012.

The wine's style:

An impression of balance and harmony was evident from the earliest tastings. The color is deep and primary aromas are intense; in the mouth, the wine is well-knit and smooth. Rather than the exceptional power of the last several years this vintage will probably highlight finesse, and the wines will be delightful when tasted in several years-as we see now with the 2001 and 2004 vintages.