



THE WEATHER

Like all winegrowers, we love to talk about the weather. And although the world around us seems to have fallen apart this year, talking about the weather remains a tradition...

We had barely entered lockdown when our vines started their growth cycle at top speed, more than 15 days in advance. The reason was a rainy and unusually mild winter, without a single morning with frost on our windscreens.

A warm spring then beat all the records for temperature. (In the vineyard, we were working the soil and thinning the shoots in short sleeves.) But also rain! Downpours like we had rarely seen. In Pauillac, around 10 May, 111 millimetres fell in one weekend. In June, we shuddered at the idea of harvesting the reds at the end of August. Our vines had been abundantly watered... before suddenly seeing the tap cut off from 20 June. Because a hot and arid summer then set in, with 55 days without a drop of water. The vintage continued to gallop ahead, still in advance. On 30 July, in Pauillac, Éric bit into some Cabernet Sauvignon berries on the Carruades plateau. "They're already tasteable," he observed with astonishment.

The temperatures then calmed down. By mid-véraison, the vintage had lost its big lead. The young vines were suffering from the lack of water. But that ended thanks to the summer thunderstorms that struck from 12 to 15 August. We railed against the heavens, not knowing that we would later bless those extra millimetres. These turned out to be a great help and accompanied us until the harvest, allowing the degrees to remain reasonable and our precious balance to be respected. In the cellar, the fermentation began quickly: the harvest was healthy, the musts well balanced.

In the end, 2020 will be remembered as one of those good winegrowers' vintages, where you had to observe, change your mind ten times and where you could never be right on your own. It promised to be an extremely early vintage. It ended up just being "early", with magnificent densities but without the spike we had feared. A vintage of contrasts... and of teamwork!