



Whilst it was very cold from the beginning of winter to the end of January, the second part of winter was very mild. As a result bud break was both early and homogeneous.

The end of April was extremely cold. During the nights of the 27th and 28th April there were two episodes of frost which affected some of the parcels of vines to the extreme west of the property. In all about 20% of the surface area of the vineyard was affected, luckily none of the other parcels suffered any damage.

Afterwards Spring was particularly warm and dry, factors which accentuated the early nature of the vintage. Good conditions during flowering encouraged an even phenological development of the vines.

By the 20th of June moderate levels of hydric stress could be observed in several parcels, this encouraged the development of thicker skins rich in polyphenols. Rainfall towards the end of June meant that any risk due to a lack of water was mitigated.

The rest of the summer remained fairly dry until the end of August, and it was not excessively hot. Dry conditions prevalent during this period were extremely favourable to both the pips and the skins reaching optimum maturity.

At the beginning of September rain was instrumental in helping to speed up the development of the grapes. It was an early vintage with harvest of the ripest parcels of merlot starting on the 13th of September. Picking took place over three weeks and was completed by the 4th of October.

The yield of the parcels unaffected by the frost were very good.

The average yield over the Domaine was 39.6hl/hectare.

Branaire-Ducru 2017 has a lovely character. The nose is already expressive, harmonious and complex with good evidence of red fruits. With an immediate presence the palate has fine, silky tannins. There is a wonderful freshness, due in no small part to the combination of moderate levels of alcohol (13.2%) and good levels of acidity (pH 3.65), this freshness gives a lovely lift to the astonishingly long finish.

The 2017 vintage which started in difficult conditions, has, in the end allowed us to make a wine of character, true to the style of Branaire-Ducru and redolent of the great vintages.

Blending 2017

65% Cabernet Sauvignon

24% Merlot

4,5% Cabernet Franc

6,5% Petit Verdot

