

ENGLISH



CHATEAU LATOUR

VINTAGE 2017

2017

PHENOLOGICAL STAGES

Budding: April 3rd

Mid- flowering: May 28th

Mid-veraison: July 30th

HARVEST DATES

Merlot: September 11th to 15th

Cabernet Sauvignon: September 21th
to October 4th

Petit Verdot: September 19th, October 2nd & 4th

Cabernet Franc: September 19th

WEATHER CONDITIONS

There are three points of note for the 2017 vintage: it was a dry year with only 620mm of rain from the 1st October 2016 to 1st October 2017, the vegetative growth cycle was early and there was an intense episode of frost which struck the whole of the Gironde region at the end of April.

Winter 2016-2017 was a dry period with only 286mm of rain from October until March (compared to an average of 487mm). The 2017 vintage thus started with a significant water deficit.

Winter temperatures were cooler than previous years and well-below averages which is beneficial for the growth cycle and vine health as well as the aeration and decompaction of the soil.

In spite of a relatively mild March, the coolness of the soils contained vegetative regrowth and bud break occurred near to the normal time, on the 29th March for the Merlot and on the 3rd April for the Cabernet Sauvignon.





CHATEAU LATOUR

April was noticeable for big differences in day- and night-time temperatures but also for a lack of rainfall which encouraged an even and regular development of the vines. The low humidity also helped stave off the first mildew attacks.

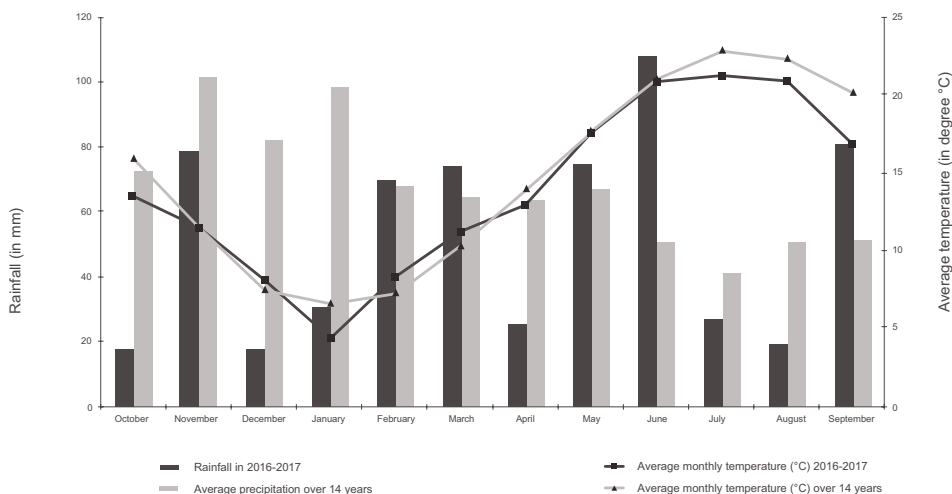
Nonetheless, the two nights of Spring frost at the end of April (27th and 28th) had a significant impact and caused widespread damage in the vineyards of Bordeaux. At Château Latour around 2.6 hectares were affected, mainly on plots used to make the Pauillac, which, according to our estimates, led to average losses upon harvesting of 40%.

Moderately higher rainfall than average was experienced in May but it was concentrated over only 9 days. This gave us a great deal of flexibility in managing the application of the phytosanitary treatments we use for organic agriculture.

The heat and rain at the end of May made for an explosive cocktail in the vineyard and encouraged very active vegetative growth. It also led to an early flowering which took place quickly and evenly in sunny conditions. The mid-flowering was noted on the 26th May for the Merlot and the 28th May for the Cabernet Sauvignon.

The first three weeks of June were dry, contributing to the early nature of this vintage which was about a week to ten days ahead of recent years. On the contrary, the weather was much more variable during the last week of June with some 80mm of rain in only 5 days. This rainfall rejuvenated the vineyard which was lacking in water and helped the suffering younger vines.

WEATHER REPORT 2016 - 2017



July was relatively dry and moderately hot with only a few days above 30°C. These weather conditions did not lead to any significant hydric stress in the vineyard. The mid-ripening was observed on the 28th July for the Merlot and on the 30th July for the Cabernet Sauvignon.

August was also dry but well below seasonal norms as far as temperatures were concerned. Cool early mornings and rare daytime heat spikes provided good ripening conditions. The grapes ripened evenly without any excesses of any kind or maturity blockages despite a slightly increased water deficit.

With the harvest on the horizon, the vineyard was healthy despite the appearance of mildew peppered on leaves in the upper canopy and some sectors which demonstrated odium symptoms. However, the 75mm of rain which fell in the first couple of weeks of September cast a shadow over the harvest which had been relatively trouble-free at the start. This rainfall caused the berries to swell in size and increased the pressure of botrytis across the whole of the vineyard but more specifically on the plots harvested last at the beginning of October.

BLEND OF THE 2017 VINTAGE

	<i>Cabernet Sauvignon</i>	<i>Merlot</i>	<i>Cabernet Franc</i>	<i>Petit Verdot</i>	<i>% alcool</i>	<i>IPT</i>	<i>% presses</i>	<i>% prod.</i>
<i>Grand Vin</i>	92.1 %	7.8 %	0 %	0.1 %	13.3	66	6.4	30.3
<i>Forts de Latour</i>	65.2 %	33 %	0.8 %	1 %	13.3	64	6.7	45.4
<i>Pauillac</i>	52.9 %	39.9 %	0 %	7.2 %	13.4	63	7.3	24.3

**Based on the analytical statistics of February 2018*

