



2017: a complicated year.....giving a wonderful surprise

Partial frosts shape yield forecasts

The year began with a period of **intense dry cold**. The mercury began to rise in **February, far surpassing seasonal averages** and triggering an **early growing season**. Alas, a **steep drop in temperature during the nights of April 26 and 27** led to a **spring frost** of varying severity throughout the region. In **Kirwan, the vineyard is well protected thanks to its proximity to the Gironde Estuary**, so only a **few outlying plots suffered**, though somewhat severely at times. Fortunately, these plots are usually intended for the second wine, and the finest terroirs around the château were spared. We very nearly experienced the disaster that devastated many Bordeaux vineyards.

The vines that escaped the frost maintained their head start despite an extremely wet and rainy month of June, foretelling an early harvest around mid-September. **A dry summer ensued, made up of hot days interspersed with cooler periods**. Everything seemed to fall into place, and we expected the vines to yield an **early bounty of gorgeous grapes.....**at least wherever the frost had not hit.

Cool temperatures and an early end to summer

The **first days of September were cool** with scattered showers. **Squalls and the occasional hailstorm battered the region**. We dodged the bullet, but it became clear that **summer was over and there was no point in delaying the harvest**.

We picked the grapes between September 14 and 28 in excellent conditions. The Merlots are **juicy, crisp and delicate**, the Cabernets **rich and complex**, with **magnificent tannins**. The Petit Verdot exhibits a **spectacular fruity character**.

We spent all of October transferring the wine to casks, batch by batch, and blending took place in early February 2018. **The Grand Vin is a stunning illustration of the wonderful potential of great terroirs capable of withstanding the vagaries of Mother Nature, such as the frost, the drought and the storms that punctuated 2017.**

Figures...

Harvest: September 14 to 28

Sorting: manual

Yield: 38 Hl/Ha (2.7 tons/acre)

Blend:

■ 55% Cabernet Sauvignon ■ 30 % Merlot ■ 10 % Cabernet-franc ■ 5 % Petit Verdot

Maturing: 19 months in casks, 50% new

Alcohol content: 13.5%

Date of bottling: 6/6/2019

TASTING NOTES

The color is an intense garnet red. A bouquet of particularly delicate aromas immediately comes forth in the nose, strawberry, redcurrant and other red fruits mingling with notes of fresh pink peppercorns. The wine offers a fresh attack, the aromas continuing to develop, at once smooth, fresh and juicy. Fine tannins prolong the palate to a finale suffused with graceful notes of vanilla and toasted almonds. Subtly enchanting, this wine is an invitation to elegance. A true Margaux.

Ph. Delfaut, General Manager. August 2019