



2008 vintage

Winter 2008 was milder than usual, but cooler than 2007 with little rain at the end of the year. We had to wait until the first quarter of 2008 before the first significant rainfall, which still fell short of what was needed for the season.

The temperatures saw bud break occurring in the second half of March, in line with a typical year, yet April and May were cooler and slowed down plant growth.

A wet spring caused a few mildew attacks on the leaves, but far from the levels seen in 2007.

Powdery mildew appeared locally in late June following some rainy periods, but also due to technical problems encountered: persistent plant-health products; gaps in the treatment programme, and simply difficulty in getting onto the parcels due to the wet.

As the year progressed, weather conditions varied by area: while summer temperatures were consistent with other years, rainfall was irregular with storms in the Hérault, rather heavy ones in the area of Cazouls and Pézenas in late summer, but no rain at all for vine parcels in the Aude. In these areas, dry conditions and burning appeared in early August; merlots in Carcassonne were also affected.

Rainfall in early September in Le Biterrois fostered the growth of late rot on some parcels of white grapes.

The harvest started with Sauvignon Blanc on 27 August, three days later than in 2007, while the picking of red grapes began seven to ten days later than the previous year. Dry weather, apart from one rainy night, made for a smooth harvest. Cool temperatures in September limited the ripening of the Merlots and Cabernet Sauvignons, which were gathered in early October to close the 2008 harvest.

For the 2008 vintage, we harvested 2,018 tonnes of grapes (52% white and 48% red), 465 tonnes less than in 2007.

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