

CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

FEDERATION DES SYNDICATS DE PRODUCTEURS. Février 2014

2013 is an eighties' vintage!

The vineyards of Chateauneuf-du-Pape gave birth to a 2013 vintage marked by late maturities, and very similar to the ones of the 80's in many respects. Though safe from the worst effects of the weather conditions that affected many regions -notably hail- it is characterized by low yields and an atypical balance in which fruit prevails over strength.

Spring 2013 was undeniably the coldest of the last few years, -1° on average compared to 2012, and -4.4° for the lowest temperature in the months of April, May, and June. It was also one of the most humid (217 mm rainfall in April against 165 mm in the previous year, 17 mm in 2011 and 107 mm in 2010).

This combination of cold and wet weather resulted in a delay in the vegetative cycle of the vines. A heavy loss in harvest occurred, due to 'flower abortion' mainly with Grenache, a variety which is sensitive to this phenomenon and which covers 75% of the Chateauneuf Terroir.

After an opportune storm at the end of a particularly hot July, the weather conditions of summer 2013 were good, but not sufficient enough to catch up with the delays in spring. The 2013 vintage shall be remembered as one among the latest vintages, consequently one very unlike its precocious predecessors. It was also the lowest in terms of quantity, with an average yield in the 'appellation' barely reaching 26hl per hectare, while the specifications allow a maximum yield of 35hl per hectare.

The harvest started during the second half of September and progressed in excellent conditions. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentations evolved quickly, giving way to well-balanced red wines reminding those of the mid-eighties, with nice acidities, fair alcoholic percentages and fruity Grenache. Syrah and Mourvèdre gave birth to full-bodied, coloured and concentrated wines. They were both not affected by 'flower abortion' and are consequently more present in the 2013 vintage than in the other vintages.

White wines show a great aromatic freshness (citrus, white flowers, exotic fruit). Thanks to their physical and chemical balance they have a very good aging potential. White Grenache, like the red one, will be less present in blendings giving more space to 'Clairette' and 'Roussanne', which particularly express their aromatic potential this year.

Some numbers regarding the 2013 vintage:

335 harvests declared

82,000 hl total wine amongst which 5.300 hl is white

230 private wine cellars producing 94% of the overall production

Fédération des syndicats de producteurs de Châteauneuf-du-Pape

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