



2012 Chablis Vintage

“Chablis did well against all odds”

Harvest date – Monday 24th September 2012

Many winemakers say that, despite the odds, the 2012 vintage in Chablis is «a very good surprise».

Indeed, the producers have been severely tested by the weather conditions that have drastically complicated the work in the vineyards. In April, spring frosts threatened the buds just after budding and the humidity increased the threat of diseases. Flowering occurred under difficult conditions and, because it was spread over time, the resulting grape clusters were loose with rather small berries. Followed were episodes of hail that mainly touched the right bank of Chablis. This vintage was set to be one of the most difficult in the history of Burgundy.

But nature is unpredictable and, starting mid-July, the summer was dry, so dry that grapes matured very slowly and water stress led to sugar but also acid concentration in the berries.

Finally, at the end of September, the weather favoured the vine growers with rain at the very beginning of harvest that swelled the grapes and boosted the spirits of the growers. Perfectly healthy vines restarted under the September sun. They visibly benefited from the rain, thus ensuring the quantity and quality of the harvest.

The first harvest bins reassured the grape pickers: the must was naturally rich in sugar with a nice acidity.

The only downside is the volume of grapes harvested, which is below the average particularly on the right bank of the Serein; i.e. a decrease of 10 to 15%. However, there is no comparison between the losses expected in other parts of Burgundy.

The musts are pure, net, straightforward, a reflection of the classic style of Chablis. The wines are intense; the maturity is well-balanced, while showing a nice acidity. The flavours are harmonious and the wines, powerful, express beautifully the terroir with mineral, chalky characters as well as fresh fruit and citrus notes.

Some wines display a nice complexity and wonderful structure and can be aged several years to fully express their potential.

Finally, the winemakers of Chablis compare this vintage with the 2010, and even the 2005 vintages.