

FAMILLE SUMEIRE - 2022, HARVEST REPORT

All the vineyards of the Sumeire family are cultivated sustainably, without the use of herbicides. One row out of three is left grassed, to facilitate the passage of tractors and preserve soil biodiversity.

Existing hedges are preserved, new hedges have been created. Riparian forests (from the Latin *ripa* "shore" and *sylva* "forest") are developed along small streams. These wooded areas promote biodiversity, lower water warming by providing shade, stabilize banks, limit erosion. They mitigate the damage of possible floods by slowing the flow of water and improve water quality through self-purification.

A portion of our vineyard is conducted organically in order to experiment and measure the consequences of this type of agriculture.



Climate

This winter was marked by an absence of rain which did not allow the restoration of the groundwater supply. These low water reserves, added to relatively low temperatures, led to late bud break. Our vines were spared the early spring frosts that have occurred in the region. Followed by high temperatures in May led to a fast-developing vegetation with the first blooms taking place around May 15, approximately 10 days ahead of 2021. The year was marked by an absence of rain, and early and intense heat waves.

Our vines tolerated the severe drought of this year by an irrigation contribution – authorized by exceptional derogation on June 15th which limited the hydric stress of our vineyards.

The vines have adapted perfectly to this context, and have not shown visible signs of drought; The old vines have weathered this situation particularly well due to deep root system. A beneficial mid-August rain relieved the water deficit after the *véraison* participating in both physiological and phenolic maturity.



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VIGNERONS EN PROVENCE

Harvest

The sanitary state of the grapes was perfect: the drought mentioned above having preserved all the grape varieties from possible diseases. Nevertheless, the organization of the harvest was complicated, because even if no sign of suffering of the vine was visible, and there were no yellow leaves, but the heat caused stress on the vines. Fortunately, 58 mm of rain in Cuers and 30 mm in Trets and Puyloubier, the maturities were able to evolve properly, although much earlier than normal. Harvest began on August 20 in Cuers making 2022 the earliest ever seen, in the last 10 years. More remarkably in Trets and Puyloubier, harvest was two weeks early.

The harvest schedule was challenging to set up because of great heterogeneity in the plots, and discrepancies between the samples taken in the field and the measurements of the actual degree. The adjustment had to be constant, day by day, in order to harvest at optimal maturity. Picking started at 2 am in order to take advantage of cooler temperatures.

Despite pre the harvest samples announcing a lower acidity, it proved to be well balanced in the cellar. Due to the drought, the acids naturally present in the grapes, especially malic acid, were "stored" by a process called "saltification" and revealed themselves after the harvest: a nice example of the vines capacity to adapt to water shortage.

The freshness of the juices is characteristic of the 2022 vintage, and augurs balanced and promising wines.

