



The year 2023, from the vines to harvest

The particularly mild winter left us fearful of an early budbreak, putting us at risk of a spring frost. Thankfully, the cool February nights slowed down the evolution and brought us a relatively tardif start of the vintage.

Despite the dry fall and winter months, budburst was homogeneous at the beginning of spring. The exceptional rainfall during the months of May and June (300 mm of rain in 3 weeks, totaling the entire level of precipitation in 2022) made it possible to raise the level of soil moisture, allowing a good assimilation of the mineral elements necessary for the proper development of the vine and flowering. As a result, the rather recurrent coulure phenomena on certain grape varieties such as Grenache were very limited.

This year, the weather conditions were very favorable to the development of mildew and we had to be very reactive to protect the harvest. As part of our phytosanitary protection, we mainly used products of natural origin (sulphur and copper) to combat the main fungal diseases (downy mildew and powdery mildew). In accordance with our commitment to the HVE "High Environmental Value" label, the maintenance of the soil is carried out exclusively mechanically, with precise and efficient equipment.

After a spring marked by heavy rainfall and moderate temperatures, the summer was exceptionally hot and dry, requiring the use of reasoned irrigation, authorized by derogation, in order to maintain an optimal leaf area guaranteeing grape ripening. This year's maturation was quite heterogeneous depending on the grape variety.

40 mm of rain on Sunday 27 August, just before the start of the harvest, was beneficial, removing the dust of the summer and plumped up the grapes.

In short:

- A vintage, comparable to 2022,
- A satisfactory yield of grapes,
- An excellent state of health of the harvest due, in part, to a strong mistral, often up to 100 km/h.
- A sawtooth maturation: slow at the beginning, then very fast (+1.5° on average per week). It should be noted that some Cinsaults were ripe before the Grenache which is unusual.
- Overall promising acidity (+50% malic acid at equivalent degree compared to 2022), one of the important markers on the Sainte Victoire terroir.



Characteristics of the vintage

A very promising start for the 2023 vintage. The wines present elegant aromas and finesse on the palate. Particularly aromatic and balanced whites and rosés. The reds, especially the Syrah, showing complex taste profiles will have a great ageing potential.



On 2 October, the whole team gathered in the cloister of Château Coussin and enjoyed a paella with *César à Sumeire* Château Coussin rosé, to celebrate the end of the 2023 harvest !