

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE VINTAGE REPORT

2022

VINTAGE REPORT 2022

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

Welcome to our latest Northern Hemisphere Vintage Report.

Whilst we're all aware of global economic uncertainty, our industry continues to evolve, with the need to source and supply quality wines from good producers more relevant than ever. In this report, we'll share a broad brushstroke of what's happening in each region, but more importantly, we'll delve into the individual experiences of our producers. The people who really are at the heart of Alliance, who set us apart, and will lead us forward in 2023.

The first report focuses on England and France, where the vintage was marked by high summer temperatures, but the results as you'll see are promising, with Pascal Jessiaume, Head of Viticulture at Maison Chanzy describing 2022 as "the most beautiful harvest ..." not always in quantity but certainly quality.



Walking the rows, Roebuck Estates

FRANCE

The latest estimate of 44 million hectoliters, places French production in line with the average and 17% up from the 2021 harvest.

CHAMPAGNE

PIERRE MIGNON, MARNE VALLEY

Our climate is certainly becoming more unpredictable, with severe spring frosts in April 2021, and this year we have had to deal with high temperatures. The vines have of course suffered some water stress, but as Champagne is the most northerly wine region, we did not suffer any damage in terms of harvest.

For several years now, we have been pruning late, starting in March, whereas we used to prune much earlier. We also thin out the leaves in the vineyards from June onwards, in order to delay ripening. This year we were rewarded with an abundant harvest, with exceptional quality and beautiful maturity, and some of the healthiest grapes in our memory.

2022 offers us very high-quality wines, however, it will be several years before they reach the market given our house style is to age our Champagne well beyond the fifteen-month minimum.

BURGUNDY

MAISON CHANZY, BOUZERON

“For Chanzy 2022 was a generous vintage, both in yield and quality. March got off to a cool start but ended with higher-than-average temperatures, with the first buds appearing at the beginning of April. A cold snap led to a slowing of the vegetative cycle but around 12 April temperatures began to rise again and growth resumed. From that date onwards, temperatures remained above average with flowering recorded around mid-May. After 2020, 2021, and 2007, this was one of the earliest vintages recorded.



The sorting table, Chanzy

By mid-June, the combination of warm temperatures and wet soils allowed the grapes to develop rapidly. Towards the end of the month, some rainfall reduced the water stress and veraison began mid-July, with temperatures remaining high throughout the month of August ensuring full ripening across all parcels. On the whole, 2022 was a year with little disease, with only powdery mildew giving cause for monitoring in the plots at risk. The good weather provided ideal conditions for working the soil and new equipment made for more efficient ploughing. Consequently, the vines remained healthy all year round.

The reds matured faster than the whites, with



our early Pinot Noir vines reaching full maturity by 30 August. We therefore started the harvest on 1 September with our Rully Clos De Bellecroix and several plots of Bourgogne Pinot Noir in the Mellecey and Saint Martin Sous Montaignu areas. We finished the harvest on 22 September with our Aligoté vines as well as some later Pinot

Noirs from the Hautes Cotes De Beaune. The harvest lasted a total of twenty days, interspersed with a few days break, largely due to rainfall. On the vinification side, long and gentle pressings combined with thorough settling produced white wines with excellent texture, purity, and good acid balance. The reds, for the most part, were 100% destemmed and have produced wines bursting with appealing crunchy fruit.

LOIRE

DOMAINE BAUMARD, SAVENNIÈRES

“2022 was a small harvest due to spring frost, but very quality-wise. The vintage went smoothly until August, when high temperatures caused hydric stress and the vines stopped their usual maturation. Fortunately, some localised rain in September brought relief, reviving the vines and by mid-September/early October the grapes had a better level of juice.

So far things are looking good, with strong fermentations; this year in addition to our own production we have bought some grapes for our sparkling wines from a neighbour, which will enable us to maintain volumes and long bottle ageing on the lees. In addition to Clos Saint Yves and Clos du Papillon, we have a small volume of Trie Spéciale cuvée and will be producing a new Anjou Blanc Sec and two red wine cuvées for the first time. Proof that whatever the vintage gives there are always opportunities as a winemaker.”
Florent Baumard

BEAUJOLAIS

DOMAINE DE LA COUVETTE, BULLY

“France’s Beaujolais region experienced an outstanding vintage; 2022 was awesome for quality, like many wine regions in France, the production was really low, and the grapes were dry, with only a small quantity of juice when we pressed. Fortunately, we have some stock of 2021, and we will bottle 2022 later.

Increasingly we have had to deal with extremes ... the heat waves and the late (April) frosts. All these climatic problems are becoming more and more common. From 2022 all our Gamay production is now certified organic and the Chardonnay is still in conversion. The demand for Beaujolais white is always increasing, and we will try to make more white wines in the future. In 2023 we will also plant 0.3 hectares of Pinot Noir to make a new cuvée in the future”, Gautier Marion (*5th generation winemaker*).



BORDEAUX

OLIVIER CAZENAVE, LIBOURNE

“What a strange vintage, and sure evidence of climate change! Winter was very dry, with less than 50% rainfall compared with the 20-year average and uncharacteristically warm. A dry, warmer-than-average spring then followed, but in June we received 60% more rainfall than the 20-year average! Summer was then very hot and dry from July to September, with some rains in early September and October coming as a relief for the vines. The result for many is very ripe wines, with rustic tannins and analytically unbalanced (with high pH and alcohol, low acidity). The use of tartaric acid for rebalancing the wine was widespread, but for me, I had two options, either harvesting very early or very late.

Normally I prefer very late but this vintage, the plant was suffering so much that I decided to pick very early (12 September, just after the rain) and make a fruity easy drinking wine with the correct pH (3.6) and an acceptable alcohol level (13.6%)". *Olivier Cazenave, winemaker.*

CHÂTEAU DE FERRAND, SAINT-ÉMILION

2022 was the opposite of 2021. The conditions were extremely dry, with lack of water a major issue, fortunately, Ferrand's vineyard wasn't impacted by the hydric stress due to our terroir, as the vine took advantage of the moisture from the limestone soils to feed the berries. After 2021, we were expecting a challenging year but thanks to our terroir and our team, the result is



Working hard. Château de Ferrand

very promising and the quality for 2022 is very good ... we predict a great future vintage. Château de Ferrand 2022 is complex, sweet and silky with great freshness from the limestone.

We continually adapt and innovation is at the heart of our day-to-day. 2022 was our second year in biological conversion, and we've set up various trials in the vineyards using robots but also in the cellar using amphoras and a wine globe for ageing.

PROVENCE

CHATEAU DE L'ESCARELLE, LA CELLE

A dry winter led to favourable budding, and this year we were fortunate not to suffer from hail or frosts during flowering. Summer was very dry and very hot, but with investments in the vineyard, new farming practices, and the efforts of our teams we received good volumes and healthy grapes. The use of cover crops, careful water management, and rain showers in mid-August helped avoid the vine shutting down due to the heat. Harvest started two weeks early compared to the average, with other sites subsequently harvested over the following 10 days. During this time, we had some rain along with fresher nights and dry days which helped the vine to complete maturity without too much concentration.

Alexandre Giveau, winemaker adds, *"Single vineyard selection has been even more precise this year with a new approach in the winery by separating the juice during pressing into four*

different qualities: first juice, running juice, press juice and finally the 'bourbes' (solids in French). Thanks to the perfect health of the grapes, no sulfites were added as part of our commitment to reduce levels in our wines as much as possible.

The vintage 2022 is surprisingly very pale given the conditions of the vintage, and has less acidity than classic vintages at L'Escarelle, even though our levels of acidity are higher than other vintners in our area. Each varietal has a pure and intense expression, providing a rich complexity in our final blends.

With this new vintage, we are also experimenting with vinification in oak. A small part (12% of the final blend) of our high-end cuvée 'Croix d'Engardin' has been fermented and aged in new French oak 400 litres barrels on lees with frequent 'batonage'. An addition of a few 'filtrats' (bourbes/solids that have been carefully selected and filtered) provide intensity, concentration of fruit and balance".



Red harvest at Château d' Escarelle

RHÔNE

GUILLAUME GONNET, CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE

“We started harvesting on the 17 August, which is exceptionally early for us but not surprising after such a hot summer. We had weeks of above 35°C this summer, with no relief, so you can imagine our delight when the weather forecasts

the Domaine has held up well. It did hit in the vineyards, but it was fairly localised. The worst hit area was on the plateau La Crau, where the vines were stripped of grapes and leaves. We estimate our loss on the plateau La Crau to be about 50% to 60% of our normal yield from these parcels. The vines themselves were not permanently damaged and we are very grateful to say the 100 to 120 years old vines will live to



started to announce rain in August. It felt like all our prayers had been answered, only along with the rain came wind and for the first time in history, on the 14 August, Châteauneuf du Pape and the surrounding villages were faced with the devastation of our first tornado. Whilst it was an incredibly shocking event, we have a lot to be thankful for.

The tornado missed the main buildings and the area received fairly minimal structural damage. We had a few cars with trees on top of them and lots of mud and branches broken, but generally

see another harvest. Guillaume will be working with our organic agricultural engineer to ensure they are fertilised and back to fighting fit for the 2023 vintage.

Our surrounding vineyards have managed to produce some beautiful grapes and due to a hot ripening period, this vintage looks like it will be very rich, round, and full of fruit. We won't however produce our top cuvées, La Muse and Hommage à Maryline, which are produced from our vines on La Crau. We are pleased and relieved to say our cuvée Bel Ami 2022 will be produced

in our regular quantities. The plots not affected by the tornado on La Crau will be dedicated to this cuvée.

Guillaume is really thrilled with the quality of the vineyards surrounding La Crau. It just goes to show the nature of a tornado, one parcel could be so badly damaged and the neighbouring vineyard remains in perfect condition. Such a strange weather event for us.

Overall the results of the vintage are really excellent. The vines produce outstanding fruit, the 2022 vintage looks like it will be very sexy, with round, soft tannins, with loads of delicious, ripe fruit aromas". *Kelly Gonnet*



Pristine fruit, Terres Fidèles

LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON

TERRES FIDELES

"The 2022 vintage will be a landmark year for many reasons; good winter rainfall was followed by hardly any rain from May to November 2022 with drought and record high temperatures, causing an extremely early harvest. Quality is exceptional and quantities are higher than 2021, but still below average. The harvest was longer than usual, starting much earlier but finishing around the same time as an average harvest.

On a technical level, we will remember a year as one with fewer issues from mildew and moths, but on the other hand, powdery mildew was rather high, particularly on the more sensitive grape varieties and many new outbreaks of flavescence dorée are being identified in the region each year.

The grapes produced have a slightly different balance than usual. We've seen lower acid in many of the grapes, especially low malic acid which may be a result of the heat wave experienced in the middle of the year. Many wines have gone through their malolactic fermentations earlier than usual as a result.

With the thicker, greener skins we've seen this year, we have done longer, gentler extractions to make sure we get the best colour and tannin ripeness. Despite an exceptionally warm vintage, overall the wines exhibit a lively freshness that will make them enjoyable for years to come"

Fergal Tynan MW

ENGLAND

ROEBUCK ESTATES, PETWORTH, WEST SUSSEX

“While the 2018 growing season is often hailed as the ‘vintage of the century’, the 2022 harvest is close on its heels and set to be a truly outstanding vintage.

No frost to speak of across all sites. Flowering conditions were perfect for Chardonnay, leading to very even ripening with excellent fruit quality. Flowering for Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier was slightly less favourable, leading to some uneven ripening. And a lack of rain throughout July and August was a concern. However, 100mm of rainfall in the first week of September really helped with bunch development.

We had a fantastic harvest starting on 19th September, with an incredible team effort from 60 pickers over 22 days. Unlike most years, we picked our Chardonnay first due to such an unusual year with extremes in the weather and some of the hottest and driest temperatures experienced. According to figures from the Met Office - ‘England experienced its joint hottest summer in records going back to 1884, with sunshine hours in England and Wales doubling on average.’ The warm summer has most certainly contributed to the quality of fruit this year and given us the vital components, including superb levels of ripeness, wonderful aromatics, and perfect acids, to craft our beautifully balanced

and deliciously complex vintage sparkling wines.

Overall, a perfect growing season, with an incredible 50% increase in yield from the previous year resulting in 374 tonnes of high-quality grapes sent to press. As always, with the finest of sparkling wines, it will be a few years before the wines are ready for release, but we are excited to watch their evolution”

Jake Wicks, Viticulturalist.



ALL ANGELS, NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

“2022 has been an outstanding growing year for All Angels as for many English vineyards. We would not suggest it is a "vintage of a lifetime" as some have done simply because our lifetime is not yet over and our expectation is that there will be increasingly more such years!

The only bad news we had this year was one air frost which fortunately affected only a small portion of one vineyard that we were not cropping this year. Other than that, the growing conditions were perfect. Unlike some vineyards, we suffered no water stress because of the great soil composition in the vineyards and from across the valley our vineyards stood out throughout the baking summer as a sea of green in an arid landscape. Budburst, flowering, fruit set, and veraison all occurred in perfect conditions and when the welcome rains finally came they were gentle and with light breezes that kept away any risk of mildew or botrytis. Some vineyards suffered at this point as their rains were heavier and the berries swelled quicker than their skins could tackle leading to berry split and the inevitable sequential disease. At All Angels we suffered no disease of any type and the only loss we suffered was due to increased bird strikes outside our netted areas.

We subsoiled at the beginning of the season along each of the rows and weeded mechanically before any growing and regularly thereafter both of which improved the yield. The dry weather meant we didn't need to mow so much which was good as it minimised the compression of the

soil caused by that activity. We have increased our weather stations around the vineyards and all are linked to leaf disease monitors so we can be precise as to when there is a risk of disease and spray only when necessary - all part of our drive to improve sustainability.

Harvest started on 1 October and was over by 10 October.

Yields were up significantly - on the back of an 80% yield increase the year before and though not quite at the levels of 2018, we were not far short. More importantly from our perspective was that the sugar and acid levels were textbook - exactly in the range we wanted for stunning wines and we are already planning an exciting new release that we will share in a few year time. With the year and the results we have had, there are countless possibilities”. *Mark Darley, owner*





HEAD OFFICE

7 Beechfield Road, Willowyard Industrial Estate,
Beith, Ayrshire KA15 1LN

Tel: 01505 50 60 60 | Fax: 01505 50 60 66

LONDON OFFICE

Unit 2, Elm Court, Royal Oak Yard,
Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3TP

Tel: 0207 939 0770

www.alliancewine.com
@alliancewine