



COMMENTS ON THE COMING HARVEST 2010

August 26, 2010

The climatic conditions of the vintage in the production area of Val d'Orbièu:

Winter 2009/2010 has been quite rainy (380 mm from 1st of January 2010 to today, 450 mm from October 2009) with regular rainfall well spread throughout February, March and May which allowed a good penetration into the soils and top-up the water reserves. On the other hand, July and August were very dry (less than 15 mm).

Regarding the temperatures, the winter was cold and spring was cool (compared to average). The summer was quite warm with a large number of windy days (from West and North-West) and dew-free nights. The water stress experienced by the vines at the moment is mostly related to this excess of wind.

Physiological situation of the vines on the production area of Val d'Orbièu:

The winter was cold, therefore the vines have started to grow and bloom late. This delay continued throughout the growth cycle. We will therefore have a late harvest (8-10 days late compared to 2009).

The development of the bunches was quite promising (except for the Syrah), but with some traces of millerandage (unequal development of the grapes) and coulure.

There's a water deficit, but without excessive suffering for the Mediterranean varieties and more resisting plots. However, since several days the early varieties and more sensitive or young vines have started to suffer. This water stress is clearly less than in 2009

Health situation: a perfectly healthy harvest

We have a perfect vintage in terms of health status: mildew under control without difficulty, mildew pressure very low, no botrytis, no presence of grape worms. The health status is now subject to weather conditions until the end of the harvest.

Quality and quantity of the crop

The estimated volume of the French harvest is generally low (47.7 million hl national forecast) below average over the past 5 years. The harvest will be low in the Languedoc due to the reduction of the production area, but also due to the lack of rain since May. If weather conditions continue (no sea winds, no rain) harvest will be very low in Languedoc (-15% compared to 2009).

Regarding maturity, our vineyards are 8 to 10 days late compared to 2009. The acidity is rather high, the phenolic potential seems higher than in 2009.

Overall, we can say that the 2010 harvest is late, low in quantity and promising in quality. Indeed, all the conditions are right for an excellent year (subject to weather conditions we have in the coming days).