

There was more fear than damage in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyards in 2021: the year passed without major difficulty and 2021 is a **vintage with great depth and balance**.

Climatic conditions:

After a particularly **mild winter** (+2.5°C above average in February), the spring was relatively cool.

As far as the local wine-growers can remember, never did a **spring frost** come so close to the heart of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyard, raising fears of damage on the early-budding varieties, Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault. Fortunately, this didn't happen.

During the night of 7th to 8th April 2021, a cold episode affected almost all of France, hitting everything in its wake, worst of all the tree- and vine-productions. The windy climate and proximity of the Rhône River meant that the Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyards were spared more than most places. This exceptional climatic event affected the borders of the vineyards, where temperatures of -1.5°C were reported (against -7°C in other areas in the Vaucluse).

Nevertheless the 2021 vintage is atypical and we have to look back 15 years to find similar climatic conditions or wine profile.

The **summer** was marked with several very **hot** -albeit short- episodes (mid-June, end of July and mid-August). Summer rainfall was reported between 55 and 77 mm. But thanks to beautiful rain showers early August, the maturing process of the grapes did not suffer from major water stress.

Early September, the vineyard was in a **perfect sanitary state**, having been spared by mildew and showing little susceptibility to oidium. The **ripeness** was **homogeneous** among the plots of the domain, which are usually early for the appellation.

Harvest:

Harvest started on **Monday 13th of September** and ended extremely quickly with nearly twice the handpickers. The crop was safe into the cellar on Saturday 25th of September, after only **10 days of harvest** and just before the stormy episodes that happened around the autumn equinox.

Wine-making and Ageing:

The berries had a lighter color intensity that requested some punch down. The wine has been put into barrel earlier than usual due to a lower malic acid.

This is a very **enjoyable and drinkable vintage** which presents a **great savouriness and nice bitterness** but which will require a longer ageing in foudre, 600L barrel and concrete eggs.

Tasting :

2021 is an **elegant and fresh vintage with solid character**.

It will be perfect for wine and food pairings.

