

# Bordeaux 2010 is shaping up well

Springtime, mainly dry and cool, finished with a period of some heavy rainfall in mid-June. Summer began in perfect harmony with the year's calendar. Temperatures and hours of sunshine were extremely generous as of 21st June.

These conditions continued right up until the month of July when records of hours of sunshine were beaten (+38 hours compared with the average of the past thirty years). The month of August, fine and hot, especially during the last ten days, encouraged a good start to ripening. This fine weather enabled the vine to make up for lost time observed during the flowering period.

If they continue, these excellent summer weather conditions promise a superb vintage. However, this early lack of water in some areas may cause the ripening process to come to a halt, so some light rainfall would be welcome.



### White grapes

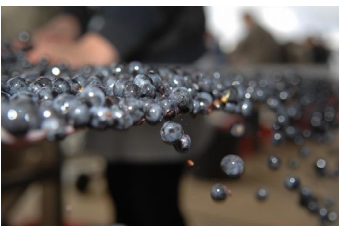
Marvellously warm, sunny days in August encouraged ripening and cool night-time temperatures helped to protect the fruit and aromas. These grapes show excellent aromatic potential.

**Harvests of white grapes will begin on 6th September in the earliest areas for the Sauvignon variety.**

### Red grapes

At present, the difference in temperature between day and night is extremely favourable for the quality and synthesis of anthocyanins and aromas. The berries' colour is becoming richer, with contents of total anthocyanins already high and sugar contents have increased significantly. Acidity levels are still very high. The grapes are currently in the process of ripening.

**If these weather conditions continue during the late summer, early autumn season, harvests of red grapes should begin at the end of September/beginning of October for Merlot grapes, the earliest variety.**



#### Reminder of harvest dates in 2009:

- Dry whites: in the earliest-ripening areas, harvests of Sauvignon grapes began as of 27th August. Everywhere else, they began in September and continued with the Sémillon variety.
- Reds: harvests of Merlot grapes began in mid-September for the earliest areas and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were gathered during the first days of October.
- Sweet whites: end of September

#### Reminder of harvest dates in 2008:

- Dry whites: 8th September
- Reds: around 24th September for the earliest-ripening varieties (Merlot) and around 10th October for the Cabernets.
- Sweet whites: from mid-September onwards.

# Weather conditions in 2010

Data provided by Météo France, departmental Met Office for the Gironde

• **March:** rainfall levels, hours of sunshine and temperatures were equivalent to averages of the past thirty years.

**In the vineyards:** this is the period of budburst (the buds open and small leaves appear).

• **April:** drought conditions, summery afternoons and sunshine.

• **May:** a particularly dry month; there was very little sunshine and temperatures were low.

• **June:** the amount of sunshine and temperatures were in line with seasonal averages. There was some heavy rainfall between 8th and 17th June; afterwards the weather was dry until 30th June.

**In the vineyards:** the stage of mid-flowering is estimated to be as of 4th June. Flowering finished at the beginning of the second half of the month of June. This is the period of berry set (fertilised flowers become grape berries).

Changeable weather conditions during the flowering and berry set periods led to the occurrence of both flower abortion and millerandage (mixed size berries). The extent of these phenomena, which may affect yields, varied for different grape varieties and terroirs.

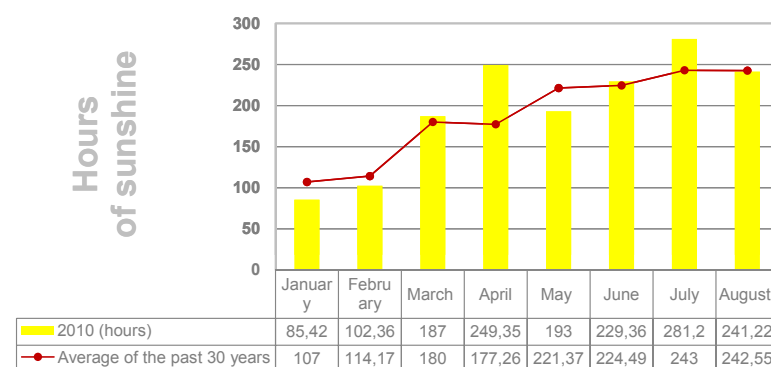
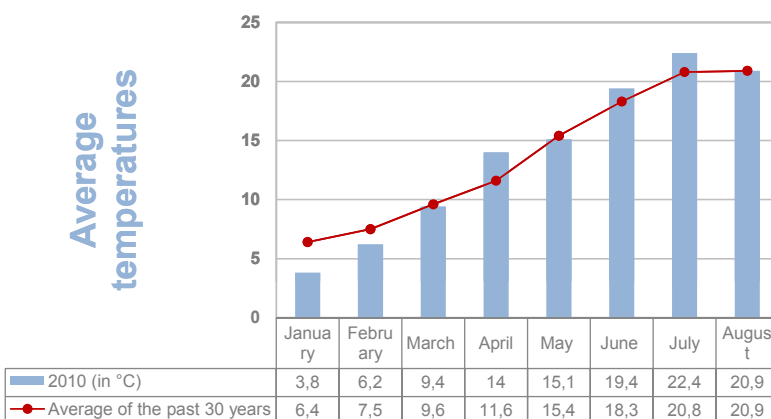
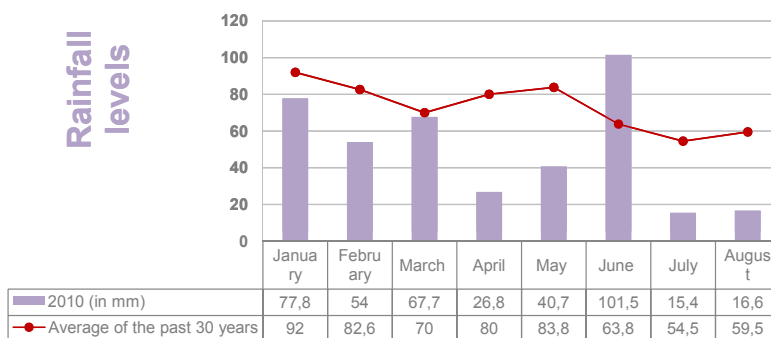
• **July:** a hot month (temperatures slightly above average), very dry, with a generous amount of sunshine.

**In the vineyards:** to due a lack of water, the vegetation stopped developing and this helped the grapes to ripen.

Veraison began at the end of July (the berries swell in size and their skins begin to change colour. White grapes become golden or yellow, and red grapes vary in colour from garnet-red to midnight-blue).

• **August:** temperatures and hours of sunshine were in line with seasonal averages, but rainfall levels were far lower.

**In the vineyards:** the average date for mid-veraison for Merlot grapes was noted on 6th August and for Cabernets on 11th August. A ripening period encouraged by good weather conditions.



## Summary of weather conditions from January to August 2010

- Rainfall levels: a constant lack of rainfall, except in June
- Temperatures close to averages of the past thirty years
- Number of hours of sunshine in excess, except in January and May