

VENDANGES 2017



After all the winter jobs were finished and the new plantations and the grafting had been completed, we suddenly emerged furiously, straight into summer, in the month of May !

The summer period - was tremendously hot with temperatures rising to the forties and a non-stop heat, without the smallest drop of rain until the end of november ! It was a very difficult period for both man and nature. However, somehow we managed to avoid the frosts, the hail and the fires of this year; 2017 was to produce one of the smallest crops in France for many years.

Of course, harvest came very early and we started on the 4th, going through until the 24th September.

We managed to retain a respectable volume of rosé (800 hls), which represents only around 14% less than in 2016. Equally we progressed by 4% with our white wines, whilst the reds remain 16% of the total production of the domain, which is quite sufficient. The production of red wines is becoming more and more a sport for the rich. We have, at the moment in our cellars, some 827 hectoliters of red wines slowly ageing, which in itself represents half a crop.

What is quite remarkable about the 2017's is that despite their climatic profile, they have retained a lovely freshness, in all colours. This is totally illogical, but then again, wine is never really logical!

Whether it falls from the sky, or comes up from the ground, it is essential that water returns to the region. Time and time again people have been unable to resist such extended periods of heat and lack of water. In the old days, they used to lead a procession to ask God for rain. It went from the church in Roquefort, carrying the remains of "Saint-André", through all the different points up to La Chapelle de Saint-André, perched on the rocks, high over "Les Bastides". Old timers will tell you that sometimes their wishes were answered so well that they got more rain than they bargained for !

As much as yeasts and bacteria transform the sugars into alcohol, as much as the wine has not even the slightest memory of the grapes, - as much as what has been, the work, the fear, the courage, the pain or the exaltation: all these moments, that with the help of "other bacterias", will transform themselves into some kind of fiction. After all, what finally remains for us in our memory are a few moments of joy and happiness - and the WINE of course!

"One forgets sad evenings, but never tender mornings" (J.Gabin.)

Wine, as a witness to our lives, whispers to us dreams of truth, that already no longer belong to us, except to transform into poems, fables or legends.

And so, believe me, this year Yet again, the wines will be good. I will say no more, as all the rest would only be a collection of well-intentioned little lies .

I hope that this year will be a very happy one and consequently, drink well, drink Roquefort. The sun no longer revolves around the earth, but rather around Wine !

All of the Living Forces of the Domain join me and we salute you.
"Bien Roquefortement"

José, Jacintha, José*, José**, Victor, Antonio, Éric, Krystyna, Marion, Margaux

Appointments to come:

- *Millésime Bio, Montpellier January 29th 30th 31st 2018*
- *Grenier St Jean, Angers February 3rd 4th 2018*
- *Haut les Vins, Düsseldorf March 17th 2018*
- *Renaissance des Appellations, Vienne June 10th 2018*

And unexpected moments, privileged meetings...

Raimond de Villeneuve

