

HARVEST

2018, an unusual year in the vineyards of Vins de Provence



THE YEAR IN THE VINEYARDS

Beneficial rainfall

The most notable event of 2018 has clearly been the high level of beneficial rainfall over all areas of the vineyard after a particularly dry 2017. This rain, from January to early July with averages exceeding usual levels by between 50% and 100%, depending on the period and area, allowed for reserves to be renewed. The rains came with some very localised periods of hail.

A Spring under supervision

These favourable weather conditions allowed for a wonderful and bountiful setting at the end of the spring but these were also propitious to higher than usual levels of mildew. From May onwards, regular supervision and work on the vineyards was the key to this rather unusual springtime. However, whilst this has no impact on quality, it will impact on volumes in the affected areas.

A hot summer

From July, the summer hit with soaring temperatures and sunny weather in line with seasonal averages.

HARVEST TIME

A return to normality

After a particularly early 2017, the maturity of the grapes is overall around a fortnight late and returning to more typical conditions. Harvesting began in late August-early September in the majority of areas and will start as late as mid-September in the later areas. At this stage, it is difficult to estimate the potential quantity of the harvest which looks to be unrivalled: those areas heavily affected by mildew will produce little whilst the rest promises a hearty yield.

LES VINS DE PROVENCE

Les Vins de Provence brings together three *appellations d'origine contrôlée* spanning close to 200 km, between the Mediterranean and the Alps, across the departments of Bouches-du-Rhône, Var and a commune within the Alpes-Maritimes: the AOC Côtes de Provence, AOC Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence and AOC Coteaux Varois en Provence. These are united under the *Conseil Interprofessionnel des Vins de Provence (CIVP)*, and bring together some 486 private wine producers, 61 cooperative producers as well as around a hundred wine traders. In 2017, they produced the equivalent of around 155 million bottles of red wine (7%), white wine (4%) and also rosé wine (89%), the historical specialism of Vins de Provence.