

Bourgogne 2022: A generous and promising vintage

Bourgogne, 14 November 2022

The 2022 vintage encapsulates what Bourgogne does best: Generosity and promise! After three years of quality without quantity, with yields impacted by weather events, it is certainly welcome, taking some of the pressure off sales and allowing stocks to be built back up. Despite some small disparities depending on the varietal, the vines stood up pretty well to some rather extreme weather and were able to take advantage of the slightest rainfall. As the wines begin the ageing process in cellars stacked up to three barrels high, winemakers and *négociants* are happy because the 2022 vintage is certain to seduce the palates of wine lovers around the world!

The weather this year was once again extreme, with frost, heatwaves, and drought. Budburst was later than in recent years, which helped protect the vines from April frost. Then, it was the subtle balance between vine and *terroir* that we can thank for the fact that despite this year's harvest being deprived of water and subjected to four separate heatwaves, it came through unscathed. This balance can be perceived in the musts which, by all accounts, have good degrees of potential alcohol. The wines are revealing quality, with nice concentration and fine balance. And it's a surprising vintage because although the weather was very hot, the wines are vivacious and offer aromas of fresh fruit; the promise of good things to come.



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White wine

The whites are rounded, smooth, and complex. They are rich and very expressive, with fruity aromas. They are present without being overbearing. In the mouth, notes of fresh fruit and beautiful balance preserve the freshness.

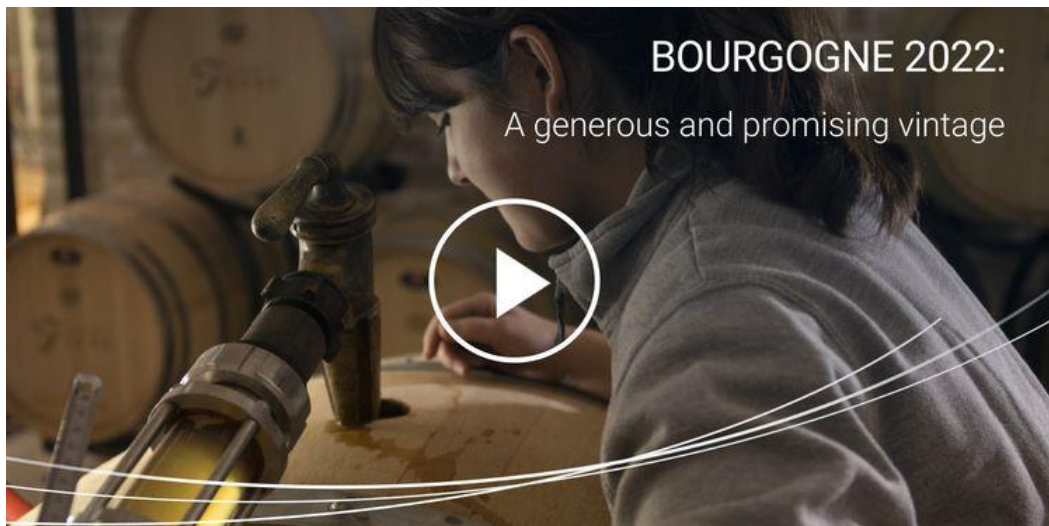
Red wine

The reds are just embarking on the ageing process, and are showing lovely color, smoothness on the tongue, and good concentration. The structure is carried by soft tannins with a roundness coupled with a lovely density. They offer indulgent aromas of ripe red and black fruit.

Crémant de Bourgogne

The base wines were well balanced with good maturity, meaning little enrichment was necessary. The acidity was moderate. The wines are powerful, yielding and crisp, with good length in the mouth.

[Click on the image to watch a video about the 2022 vintage](#)



This press release presents a general overview. Each wine and each winemaker is unique, so each wine must be tasted before it can be characterized.

The weather in 2022

Conditions were tricky for the 2022 vintage, from intense sunshine and heat to lack of rainfall (see graphs below). Once again, the vines astonished us by their ability to make juice from almost no water at all: Once the bunches formed, they enjoyed heavy rain in June and a few stormy showers mid-August to produce abundant, aromatic, and balanced juice.

A great start to the year

After a winter that was milder and drier than normal*, the very first green shoots were observed in the early days of April. A mass of cold air from the north caused temperatures to drop across the Bourgogne region, and winegrowers had to battle with four nights of frost, between 3-11 April. They feared the worst but despite some damage in the earliest ripening sectors, the situation was much less serious than in 2021. Moreover, the weather warmed up immediately, allowing the vines to quickly return to growth and to develop secondary fruit-bearing buds.

Fast-paced growth

In mid-April, summery temperatures and a lasting dry spell encouraged the vines to grow rapidly. The vines grew frantically and growers could barely keep up with topping out and raising wires. This went on until flowering, which happened between 19-26 May, two weeks earlier than the average. The exceptional temperatures during the month ensured flowering happened in excellent conditions, with very little shatter and just a touch of *millerandage*. The bunches formed very well, already suggesting a generous and possibly very early harvest.

Nourishing rainfall

The weather remained good and fruit set occurred around two weeks ahead of schedule. Winegrowers began to pray for rain as drought began to take hold. Then finally, the long-awaited rainfall arrived in the form of thunderstorms between 21-25 June. An average of 50mm of rain fell across the region, but locally, this varied between 20-90mm, depending on the sector. The storms were sometimes violent, with some significant damage from hail, but only in limited areas. As such, cumulative rainfall in June was much higher than normal (see graph below), and the vines benefited, taking in enough water to get them through the whole summer.

Ripening under a scorching sun

The grapes ripened in full heatwave conditions, which helped keep disease at bay. There were four periods of heatwave across the summer, but consequences were limited. Vines can withstand both high temperatures and low rainfall, although younger plants and plots on shallow or sandy soils suffered more. Ripening was closely monitored and sugar levels progressed well in general, but less well in certain plots during the first two weeks of August. This was a result of the lack of rain and such disparities are translated into the harvest. The winegrowers got ready for picking while still waiting for rain, which finally fell in mid-August, allowing the vines to finish ripening and produce their juice.



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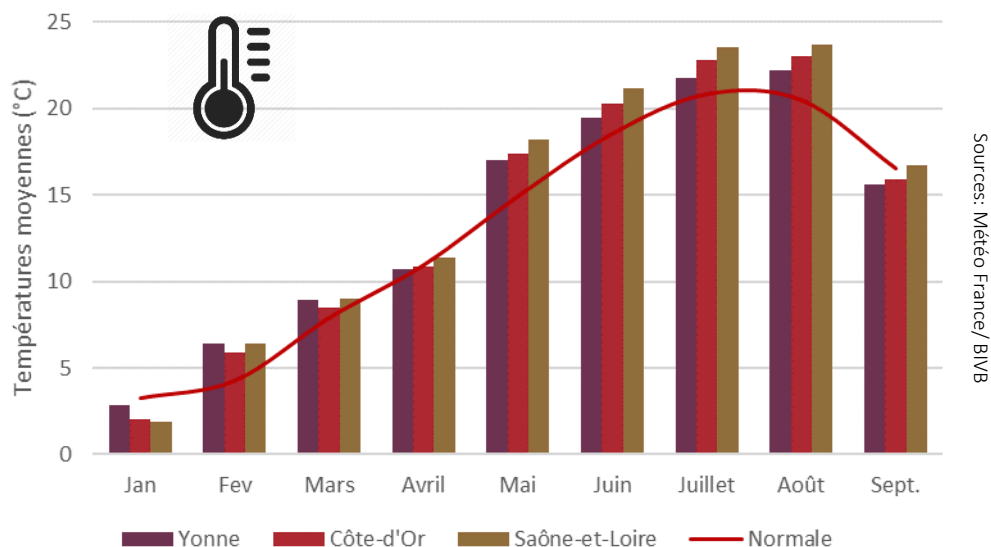
Plot-by-plot harvesting

In the end, this was not the earliest vintage we have seen in recent years. Harvesting began slowly on 16 August for some Crémant de Bourgogne vines. Grapes for still wines began to be gathered on 20 August on the Côte de Beaune, while the Crémant de Bourgognes picked up the pace. The rest of the region followed on behind, with the last bunches brought in from the Côte de Nuits, the Hautes Côtes, and the Chablis region during the third week of September.

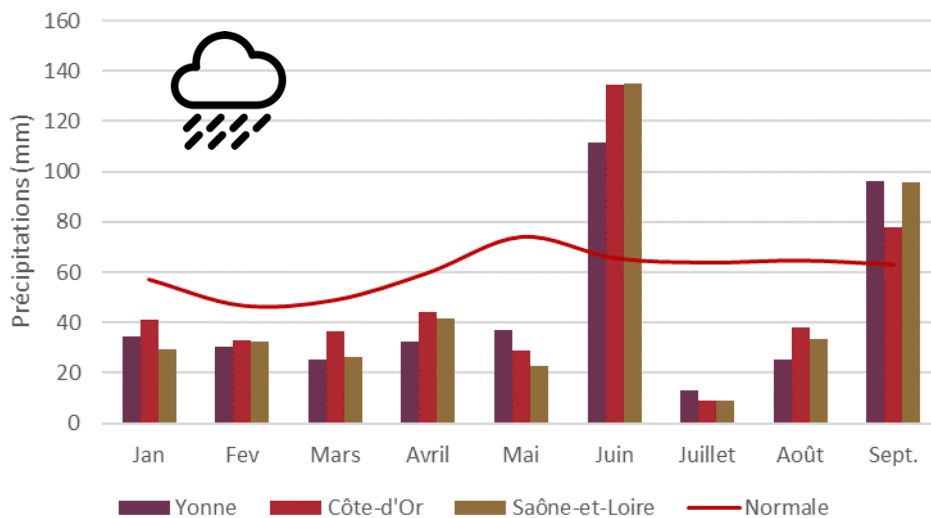
It was an unusual harvest in that picking was spread out over several weeks. This was due to a diversity in ripeness, good weather, and unexpected volumes. Ripeness checks coupled with berry and juice tastings were the only guides. Almost all the grapes had good sugar levels towards the end so it fell to the acidity content to determine when the grapes needed to be cut. Yields were high for both white and red, with crates filled with perfect bunches leading certain producers to vinify in whole bunches.

Vinification went well, and when the must went into barrels it was confirmed that despite it being a dry year, yields were very satisfactory indeed.

Average* monthly temperatures (°C) - Bourgogne 2022
Comparison to normal by *département*

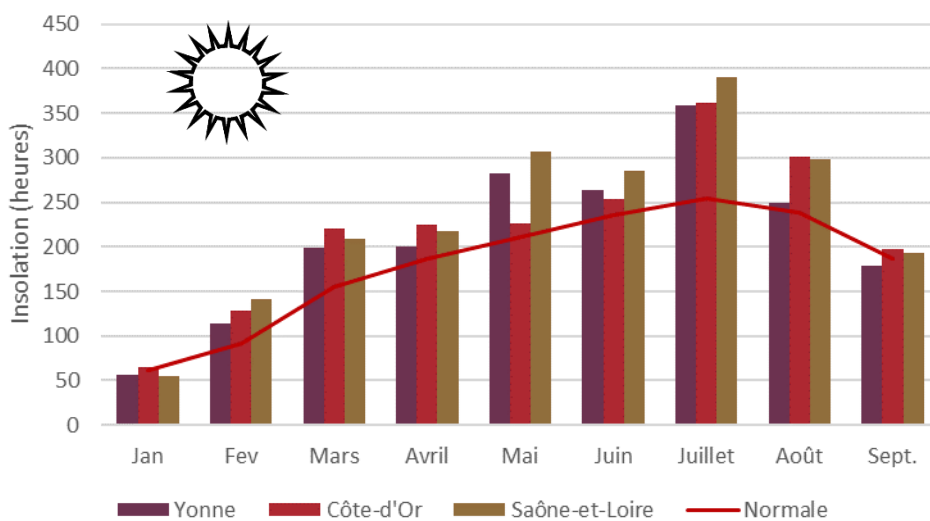


Average* monthly precipitation (mm) - Bourgogne 2022
Comparison to normal by *département*



Sources: Météo France/ BIVB

Average* monthly sunshine (hours) - Bourgogne 2022
Comparison to normal by *département*



Sources: Météo France/ BIVB

**This year, seasonal norms are changing and averages will be measured against the period 1991-2020 instead of 1981-2010.*

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