

Bordeaux wines vintage

2023

A breath of **RENEWAL**

Despite rainy weather in spring, the essential conditions for the production of sparkling wines, dry and sweet whites, rosés and reds fell into place at harvest time for the 2023 vintage: sunshine with sometimes scorching heat, welcome rain and cooler nights at the end of summer. This vintage, early once again and only slightly later than the record 2022 vintage, was picked at perfect ripeness, with healthy, highly aromatic berries. While the volume was already down, it has turned out to be one of the smallest vintages of the past ten years.

Lastly, the 2023 vintage reflects the work undertaken to diversify production, both in terms of colour and wine styles. The goal is to best respond to changes in consumer tastes and to different tasting occasions, from light styles to be enjoyed now through to long-lasting wines that will stand the test of time.

Unsettling weather offset by a calmer summer

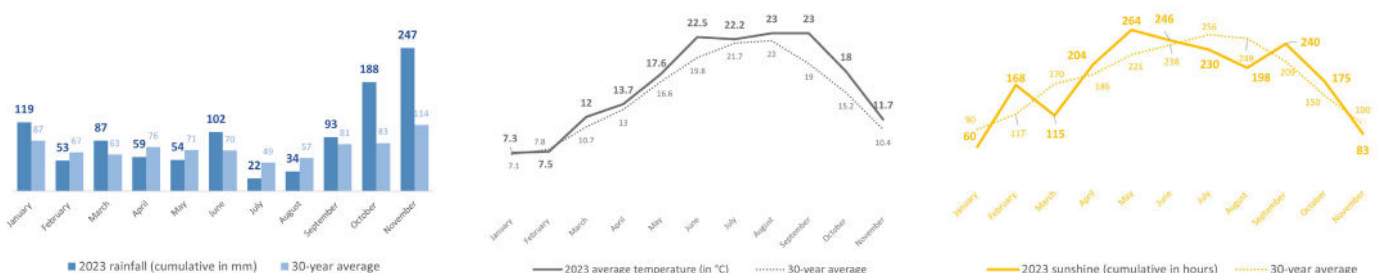
The spring weather conditions were favourable for uniform flowering and good bunch emergence. Bud burst was not early, thus avoiding damage from April frosts.

However, the near-tropical weather in June was conducive to an outbreak of downy mildew (a fungal disease) of record proportions, both in terms of its speed of spreading and its scale. All vineyards in south-west France were hit, causing very significant damage. Some estates thus lost a very large proportion of their crop, regardless of their cultivation and protection methods, and despite a relentless fight. Others, however, were only slightly affected, or even left completely unscathed.

The weather changed dramatically from 16 August onwards, giving way to a historically hot summer and a long heatwave. This restored a sense of calm, by naturally cleaning up the vineyard and providing excellent conditions for ripening the grapes right up to harvest.

Once again this year, vines in the Bordeaux region demonstrated their ability to adapt to extreme weather conditions. In human terms, this vintage was the fruit of constant vigilance and perseverance.

2023 weather conditions: rainfall, temperature and sunshine source: Météo France



A 2023 vintage low in volume

source: Customs / CIVB

The 2023 harvest totalled 3.84 million hectolitres (-7% vs 2022) down on the five-year average (4.2 million hl). Against a backdrop of increasingly complex climate change, rainfall in 2023 was extremely variable from one place to another, resulting in great disparity between estates: for some, the yields were close to the AOP limit, while others were barely able to produce 20 hL/ha.

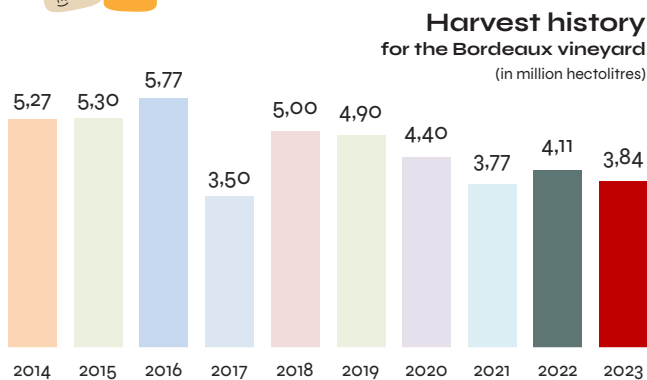
The most significant drop was for red wine (-11% vs 2022), with just over 3 million hectolitres. The record pressure from downy mildew in spring 2023 was the main cause of these low yields, with Merlot being particularly sensitive to attack.

This year's harvest for dry white wines is up 32% on 2022. The 2022 vintage saw significant losses due to extreme weather events such as frost, hail and drought. Nevertheless, sweet whites are down 10% on 2022, with 40,000 hectolitres harvested.

Production of Bordeaux rosé AOP remains stable (+2% vs 2022), while Crémant continues to grow. The 2023 harvest is 124,000 hectolitres, up 37.5% on 2022.



Colours of Bordeaux
2023 production distribution
(% volume)



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS in every corner of the vineyard

More than 3,000 HVE-certified estates, more than 25% of vineyards in conversion or certified organic, +27% AB vineyards in 1 year, 10,000 hectares of Terra Vitis, etc. Bordeaux continues its commitment to sustainability and is having it certified. At the same time, the sector's CSR* label Sustainable Impact has been deployed since 2021, and in 2023 brought together 82 companies representing more than 9,000 hectares.

* Corporate social responsibility

Rise of lesser-known grape varieties

In blends or as single varietals, these grape varieties offer a new aromatic palette. They include:

- **Petit Verdot** (+108% in 10 years): very deeply coloured spicy wines, rich in tannins. In blends, it brings structure, power, colour and a spicy note.

- **Carménère** (+110% in 10 years): very deeply coloured, peppery, herbaceous wines, rich in tannins that become rounder with age.
- **Malbec** (+152% in 10 years): deeply coloured wines, rich in tannins, fruity and soft.
- **Sauvignon Gris** (+47% in 10 years): elegant wines with floral aromas.

**RED, WHITE, ROSÉ,
SPARKLING,
ORGANIC, HVE,
DEMETER, FOR THE
FRIDGE OR FOR THE
CELLAR, ATYPICAL,
ICONIC, CLASSIFIED,
COMMITTED...**

**Unique by nature,
Bordeaux is about
diversity, with a
wine for everyone.**

Combining innovation with respect for age-old traditions and know-how, winegrowers and merchants are changing the style of their wines within the diversity of the Bordeaux AOP. "Drinkability", controlled alcohol levels, fruit expression and freshness are at the heart of their approach. It is through the diversity of terroirs, grape varieties, winemaking and ageing methods that the creativity of Bordeaux is expressed, from classic cuvées to the most unusual.

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Profile of the 2023 vintage

Extract from comments on the 2023 Bordeaux vintage by Prof. Laurence Geny, Elodie Guittard, Dr Valérie Lavigne and Prof. Axel Marchal // Bordeaux University Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences, Oenology research unit www.bordeauxraisins.fr/les-millesimes.html

Red wines with a wide range of styles, including some great successes, dazzling dry white wines and admirable sweet wines reconciling power with freshness.

DRY WHITE WINES

At this stage, 2023 looks set to be a great vintage for dry white wines. Protected until mid-August by reduced sunshine, regular rainfall and the absence of excessive temperatures, the white grapes did not suffer particularly badly from the heat at the end of August. The Sauvignon Blanc shows remarkable aromatic vibrancy, with great freshness but also plenty of flesh. Even where yields are higher than usual, the wines do not suffer from dilution and charm with their full flavour. Sémillon is also very successful on the best terroirs, bringing added roundness and very elegant white flower aromas to blends.

SWEET WHITE WINES


Harvesting botrytised grapes with a good level of concentration was not a problem in 2023. In contrast, in the hot, dry conditions of late September and early October, a rapid response was needed to avoid harvesting grapes that were too sweet, which can cause fermentation problems. Fortunately, the acidity levels are high due to the early harvest, and perfectly offset this richness. The resulting wines are wonderful: highly aromatic, with notes of candied fruit worthy of the best years, they are powerful and deep, while retaining great freshness. The purity of their expression, their balance and their density make 2023 one of the great vintages for dessert wines.

RED WINES

On average, the red wines of 2023 are slightly lower in alcohol than in 2022 with good acidity levels, despite the hot days at the end of August. Vinification took place under good conditions, sometimes with bleed-off of juice when warranted by excessive berry size or yields. At the start of ageing, the Merlot wines are generally deeply coloured and fruity but without any over-ripe aromas, and their taste is a faithful reflection of their terroir. Structured and sometimes austere on gravel, more generous and full-bodied on clay, bright and saline on clay-limestone, they are of a good standard overall, although with a degree of heterogeneity for the reasons previously mentioned. On estates badly affected by downy mildew, rigorous sorting was required to avoid undesirable aromas. Cabernet also varies greatly in style depending on the choices made, particularly the date of harvest. When left to reach perfect ripeness, the Cabernet Franc wines have their very characteristic aromatic signature, with floral notes and delicate tannins, but without the roundness they have in some vintages. The success of Cabernet Sauvignon is also highly dependent on the soil. On great terroirs, the wines are remarkable: racy, structured, full-flavoured, with good depth and an expression of black fruit, without any herbaceous character. The results on secondary terroirs are more mixed, with sometimes leafy notes and rather hard tannins. Careful and rigorous selection was necessary during blending.

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VINS DE BORDEAUX

Key figures

OUR PEOPLE

- 5,000 winegrowers (in the AOP)
Average size of estates: 21 hectares.
- 300 wine merchants who account for more than two-thirds of Bordeaux wine sales worldwide.
- 29 cooperative cellars and 3 unions which represent 39% of AOP growers and 23% of production.
- 60,000 direct and indirect jobs

OUR AOP WINES OF ALL COLOURS



- 4.2 million hectolitres harvested on average over the past 5 years (equivalent to 560 million bottles).
- 65 in Appellation d'Origine Protégée (AOP)

Our Appellations d'Origine Protégée: Barsac ▪ Blaye ▪ Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Francs Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Bordeaux ▪ Bordeaux Haut-Benaige ▪ Bordeaux Supérieur ▪ Cadillac ▪ Canon-Fronsac ▪ Cérons ▪ Côtes de Bordeaux Saint-Macaire ▪ Côtes-de-Bourg / Bourg / ▪ Crémant de Bordeaux ▪ Entre-deux-Mers ▪ Entre-deux-Mers Haut-Benaige ▪ Fronsac ▪ Graves ▪ Graves Supérieures ▪ Graves de Vayres ▪ Haut-Médoc ▪ Lalande de Pomerol ▪ Listrac-Médoc ▪ Loupiac ▪ Lussac Saint-Emilion ▪ Margaux ▪ Médoc ▪ Montagne Saint-Emilion ▪ Moulis ou Moulis-en-Médoc ▪ Pauillac ▪ Pessac-Léognan ▪ Pomerol ▪ Premières Côtes de Bordeaux ▪ Puisseguin Saint-Emilion ▪ Sauternes ▪ Saint-Emilion ▪ Saint-Emilion Grand Cru ▪ Saint-Estèphe ▪ Saint-Georges Saint-Emilion ▪ Saint-Julien ▪ Sainte-Croix-du-Mont ▪

2022 - 2023 SALES

(July 2022 - August 2023 sales campaign)

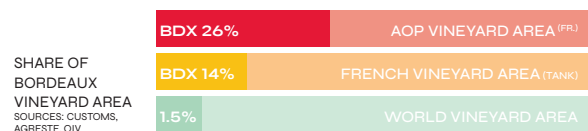
3.8 million hectolitres of Bordeaux wine sold (-4% in 1 year) equivalent to more than 500 million bottles for a value of nearly 4 billion euros.

 16 bottles per second, sold around the world

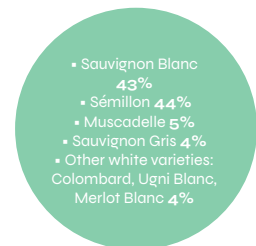
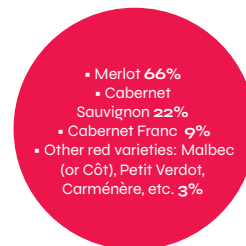


OUR APPELLATION TERROIRS

- 103,000 hectares of AOP vineyard in the Gironde region



- 89% red grapes and 11% white grapes



for blended wines or single varietals.

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