



Presentation of the 2016 vintage

Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Duhart-Milon,
Château L'Évangile, Château Rieussec

Climatology and viticulture

After very varied weather in 2015, 2016 proved to be a more uniform vintage throughout the Gironde region. This was a year that brought both quantity and quality, but was not without its fair share of surprises.

The start of winter was extremely mild and wet, suggesting that bud break would be early, but in the event it was delayed by cooler temperatures in February and March.

The cold spring, with a lot of rain in Pauillac and Pomerol in June, threatened to disrupt flowering, but fortunately this went well on both the left and right banks.

The summer was very dry, and the vines had to cope with significant water stress until the end of véraison (when the grapes change colour) which in some cases was uneven and delayed. This hot period lasted longer than in 2015, and seemed likely to affect the ripening stage, but to our relief some rain finally arrived on 13 September! The growth cycle could therefore be completed without hindrance.

The weather remained hot and dry until the end of the red grape harvests, enabling them to reach perfect ripeness. In Sauternes, the botrytis did not develop until very late; the best rounds of selective picking were between 20 and 28 October.

The vinifications took place in ideal conditions, and the great potential of a vintage that had been something of a dark horse was finally revealed!



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Harvest and blends

Harvest :

Merlot : from 23 to 28 september
Cabernet Sauvignon : from 29 september to 12 october
Cabernet Franc : 4 october
Petit Verdot : 12 october

Blends :

Château Lafite Rothschild

Château Lafite Rothschild :
Cabernet Sauvignon : 92%
Merlot : 8%

Carruades de Lafite :
Cabernet Sauvignon : 44%
Merlot : 49%
Cabernet Franc : 5%
Petit Verdot : 2%

Château Duhart-Milon

Merlot : from 26 to 29 september
Cabernet Sauvignon : from 3 to 12 october

Château Duhart-Milon :
Cabernet Sauvignon : 67%
Merlot : 33%

Moulin de Duhart :
Cabernet Sauvignon : 21%
Merlot : 79%

Château L'Evangile

Merlot : from 26 september to 5 october
Cabernet Franc : from 4 to 10 october

Château L'Evangile :
Merlot: 92%
Cabernet Franc : 8%

Blason de L'Evangile :
Merlot: 74%
Cabernet Franc : 26%

Château Rieussec

Dry wine : from 2 to 21 september
Sauternes : from 26 september to 4 november

Château Rieussec :
Sémillon : 83%
Sauvignon : 12%
Muscadelle : 5%

Carmes de Rieussec :
Sémillon : 98%
Muscadelle : 2%

R de Rieussec :
Sémillon : 57%
Sauvignon : 43%