



The 2014 vintage: All the makings of a great

6 November 2014

This latest vintage is very promising indeed, with good yields, although it will not completely make up for low levels of stock. After another year of surprising weather, September lived up to its reputation and played its part to the full in terms of ripening the grapes. The nascent wines are already promising good things, with lovely balance and intense colors. The final figures for volume won't be known until early 2015. However, initial estimates mark a return to normal for many producers, although there were a few disparities in some areas.



In the springtime, the 2014 vintage looked like being an early one and the vines profited from the hot and dry weather, which indicated an abundant harvest and healthy vines. The harvest nonetheless was affected in some places by shatter, when certain flowers do not develop into fruit.

On 28 June, the Bourgogne winegrowing region was hit by violent hailstorms. The damage was very considerable in some places, particularly in certain appellations on the Côte de Beaune and around the village of Lugny. For some of these vineyards, this was the second or even

third consecutive year they have suffered in this way, seeing their hopes of a good harvest destroyed in a matter of moments.

In summer, the sun appeared to have gone on vacation elsewhere, and the advance gained at the start of the cycle was soon lost. However, despite the wet and chilly weather, maturation began to gather pace at the end of August. The sun returned along with a northerly wind during the first few days of September, providing ideal conditions for optimum ripening and ensuring the grapes remain in good health.

The Bourgogne winegrowing region, like France's other winegrowing regions, experienced a few pockets of sour rot. The plots of Pinot Noir where this occurred were subjected to strict sorting, both in the vines and in the winery. This occasional phenomenon was localized and was an exception in an otherwise very healthy year.

The harvest began in mid-September, in the sunshine and in good humor. The grapes brought into the wineries were ripe, healthy and aromatic. Fermentation went off without a hitch, and the warm weather at the end of fall allowed the malolactic fermentations to be quickly.

White wines

2014 will be an excellent year for white wines in the Bourgogne region.

The grapes, with optimum maturity thanks to the September sunshine, have now been vinified and are revealing perfect balance.

Their clear-cut, precise structure promises good keeping potential.

Red wines

These red wines offer intense colors, a fruity nose, and concentration in the mouth, with smooth, pleasant tannins, and lovely notes of fresh fruit.

They are wonderfully sophisticated, hinting at all the qualities of great red Bourgogne wines.

Crémant de Bourgognes

The grapes harvested for Crémant de Bourgogne showed relatively high levels of acidity, necessary for the structure and vivacity of these sparkling wines.

Thanks to some good yields, in particular for the Aligoté varietal, the Bourgogne winegrowing region should be able to respond to the growing demand.



This press release only offers a general snapshot.

Because each wine and each winemaker is unique, wines need to be tasted individually before being characterized.



The weather in 2014 in the Bourgogne winegrowing region

A wet winter and a dry spring, marked by mild temperatures

The first part of the year was marked by mild temperatures. The average temperatures for the first six months of the year were almost 2°C above average, a trend that was particularly evident in January when temperatures were 3°C over the average in the vines.

The end of the winter brought some exceptionally heavy rainfall. In January, the Côte-d'Or and Saône-et-Loire saw 50% more rain than usual. However, the situation in the Yonne was closer to normal. In February, the rain was even heavier in some areas. It was up 135% in the Côte-d'Or, up 65% in Saône-et-Loire and 50% in the Yonne. In parallel, the weather was mainly overcast. Sunshine hours were down in the Côte-d'Or.

The trend was then inversed. While the mild weather continued, rainfall was down by 50% on average between March and June. Sunshine was plentiful, with higher-than-average hours, particularly in March, when sunshine was up by 50%, and June when it was 20-30% higher depending on the department.

These mild and sunny conditions encouraged the growth cycle to start earlier than usual, with budburst 10 days earlier than averages over the last two decades. The vines produced an explosion of flowers that appeared in the space of a few days. Shatter occurred in some places, which had an impact on yields. 2014 was also a year of little disease, with mildew virtually non-existent across the region.

A turnaround at the end of June

On 28 June, violent storms brought hail to the Bourgogne winegrowing region, affecting the Côte-d'Or and the Saône-et-Loire in particular. Some appellations were hit particularly badly and lost a significant part of their future crop. This weather phenomenon usually signals a change in the weather, and the summer was a cool one. In July, temperatures in the Saône-et-Loire were more than 3°C below average, and only a little warmer in the two other departments. In August, the whole region saw temperatures of around 2°C lower than seasonal norms.

Rainfall was also varied, depending on the area. The Yonne was wet with rainfall up 80% in July and up 111% in August compared to seasonal norms. The Côte-d'Or was also wet, up 65% in both July and August. Taken as a whole, Saône-et-Loire enjoyed normal rainfall, but on closer examination, the north of the department had 32% more rainfall, while the south 33% less than normal.

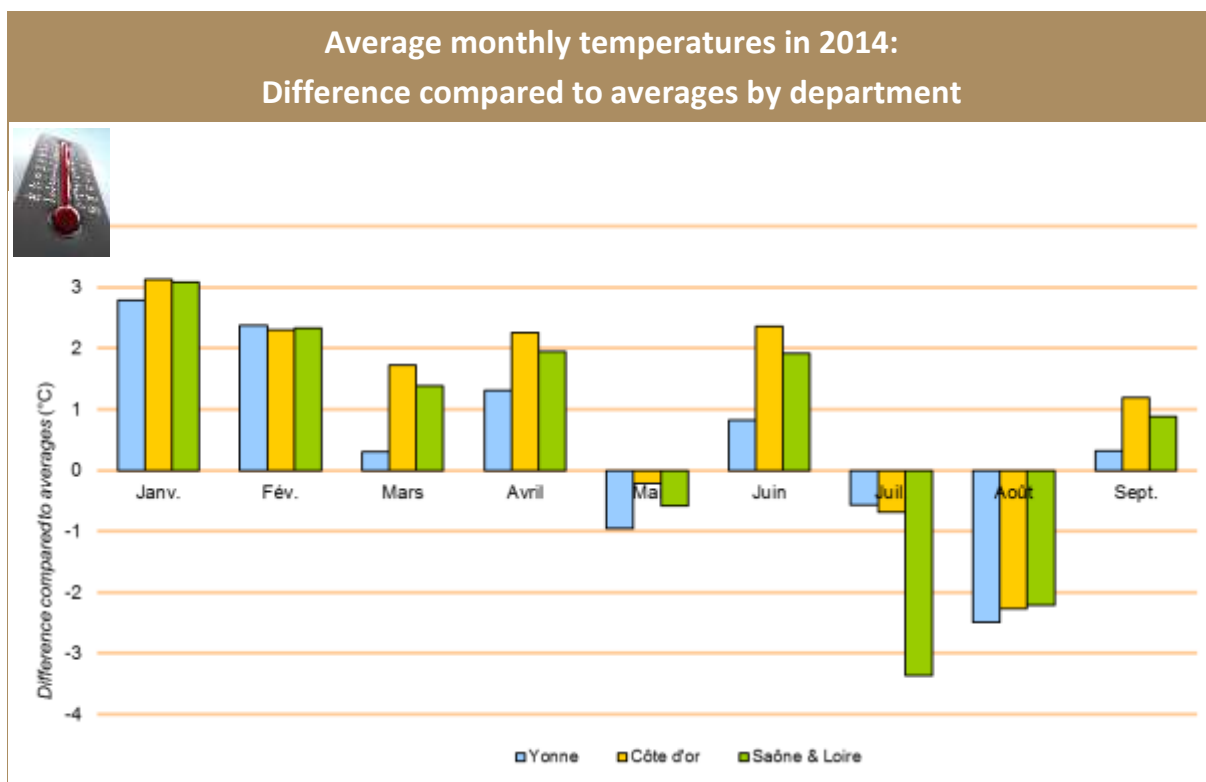
Any advance in the vines' growth cycle was now forgotten, as progress slowed. Onset of ripening was spread over several weeks, but maturation progressed at a good pace.

The arrival of summer... in early September

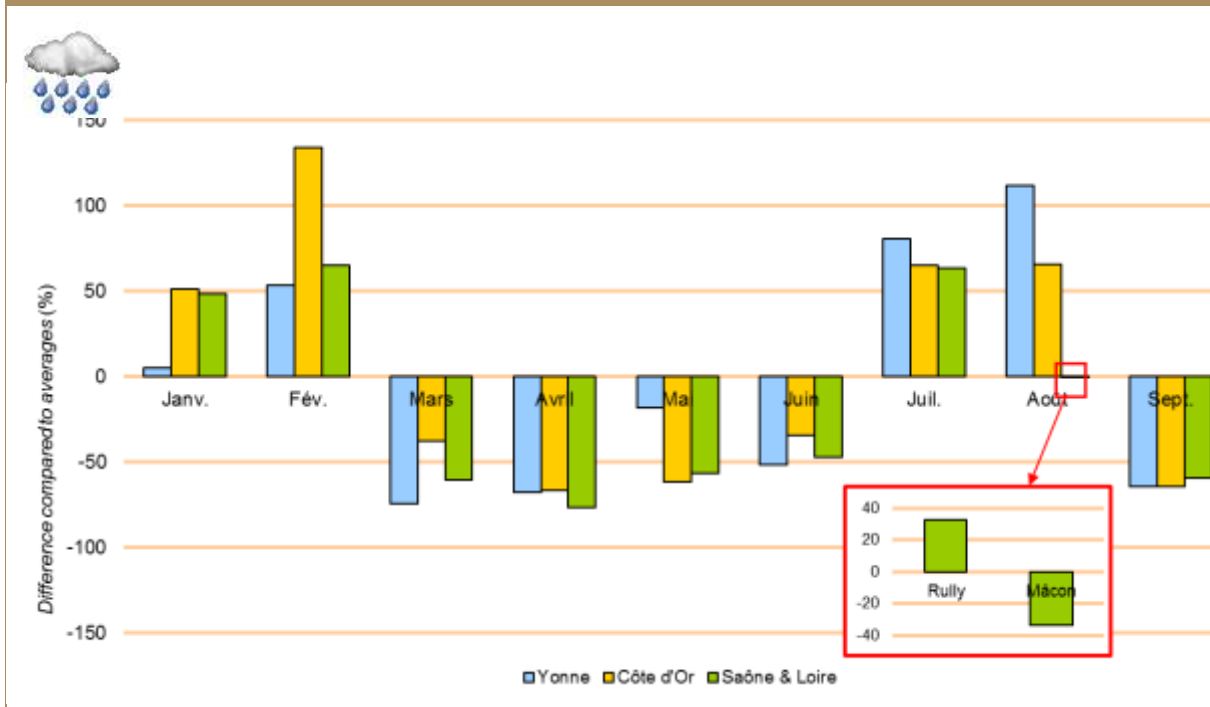
The sun returned in September and with sunshine hours up 20-30%, it was hotter by around 1°C than usual, and rainfall was down by 60%. These conditions were good news for the grapes, which matured in ideal circumstances right up to harvest. A northerly wind dried out any pockets of rot.

The good health of the grapes was maintained, for the whites in particular. As for the reds, although the grapes were healthy in general, the fragility of the Pinot Noir grape meant the harvest required very careful sorting to ensure only the best was vinified.

The harvest began around 15 September across the region and the sun shone until the end of the month. The grapes were high quality and promise a very good vintage.

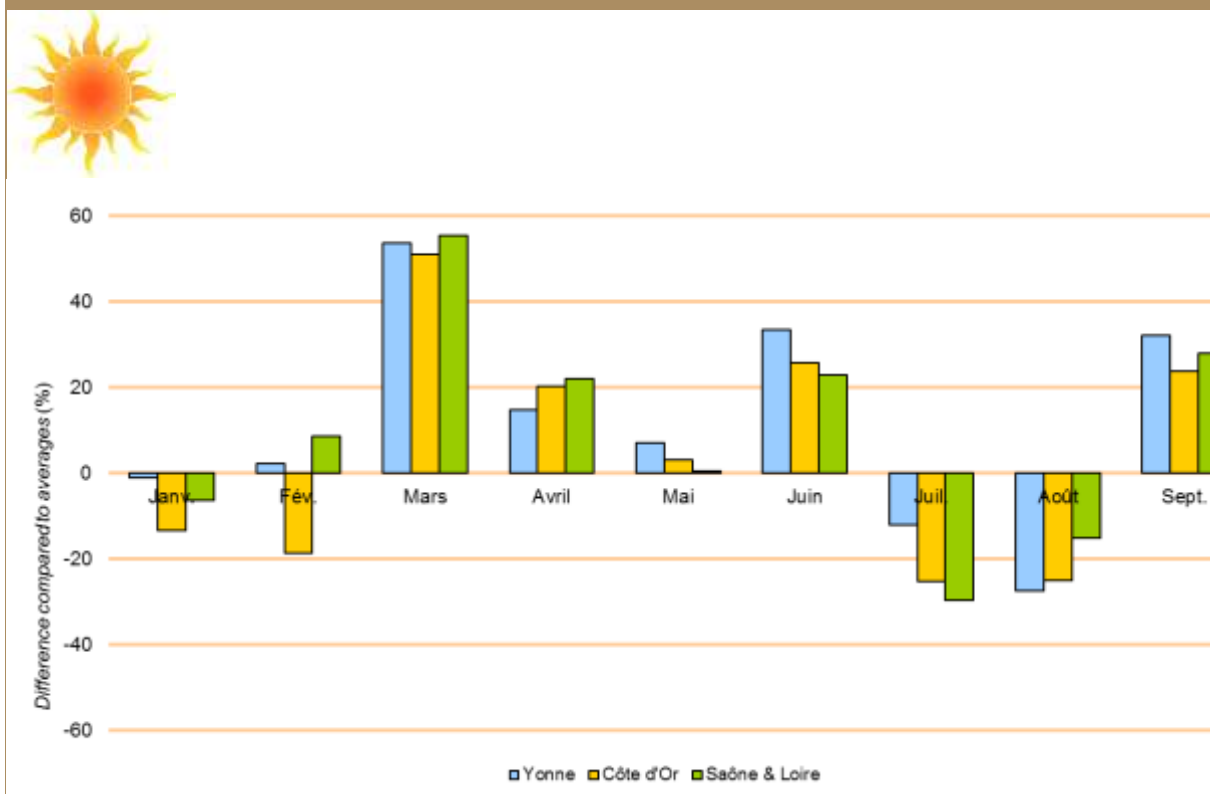


Average monthly rainfall in 2014:
Difference compared to averages by department



Sources: Météo France/BIVB

Average monthly sunshine in 2014:
Difference compared to averages by department



Sources: Météo France/BIVB

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Burgundy / Bourgogne Wines



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