



The 2005 vintage

A sublime vintage for the red and white wines of Burgundy very

Hope has given way to certainty.

2005 is going to be a year of very great white wines, with a richness and delicacy well out of the ordinary, as well as superb red wines, seductive and well-built. The richness of these wines perfectly expresses the diversity of our terroirs.

The very high quality of the wines is due first and foremost to well-ripened grapes picked in perfect health. From this point of view, thanks to very nearly ideal weather conditions, the year 2005 is setting a standard.

At the moment of harvest, the berries on the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir (Burgundy's two main grape varieties) were handsome and succulent.

The Chardonnay bore fine golden bunches, with well-spaced berries bursting with sugar. The bunches on the Pinot Noir were compact and deeply-coloured. These are qualities found in the very best years.

Thanks to low rainfall and northerly winds, damage from pests and diseases was almost totally absent, and practically no triage was needed.

The pickers went about their work unhurriedly, under a radiant sky. The growers had the luxury of being able to wait for optimum maturity, which varies according to grape variety and situation.

Sugar levels in the grapes were more than satisfactory (very high in some cases) indicating ripeness and a good balance between sugars and acidities, which carries over into the wine. Large quantities of polyphenols (tannins and colouring matter) were stored in the thick skins of the red grapes - factors known and demonstrated to have beneficial health effects.

Vinification took place under ideal conditions.

As of mid-November :

The white wines, still undergoing fermentation, already exhibit extraordinary richness with aromas which are both complex and delicate (notes of pear and peach, with occasional hints of ripe grapefruit). In the mouth they have great breadth. Mellowness and acidity are in perfect harmony and bring out the elegance and freshness of the Chardonnay.

The colour of the red wines is a deep, intense garnet. The nose is a concentrated blend of very varied fruits (blueberry, blackcurrant, cherry, wild strawberry) and spices (peppers). In the mouth, fruit is balanced by fine and well-rounded tannins enriched by a touch of acidity which lends length. Their powerful and elegant structure make it reasonable to suppose that they have the potential for long ageing.

For the domaines, co-operatives and négociants of Burgundy, the 2005 is undoubtedly a high-class vintage with splendid revelations in store for the future.

Beaune, 20 November 2005



Weather conditions Profile of the 2005 vintage

A dry, sunny, and (more especially) long summer

Burgundy enjoyed nearly ideal weather conditions in 2005: temperature and recorded sunshine close to seasonal norms, little rain, and grapes in perfect health. Any good vintage is the product of a subtle balance between quantity and quality, which is determined by factors which can continue to vary up to the last moment.

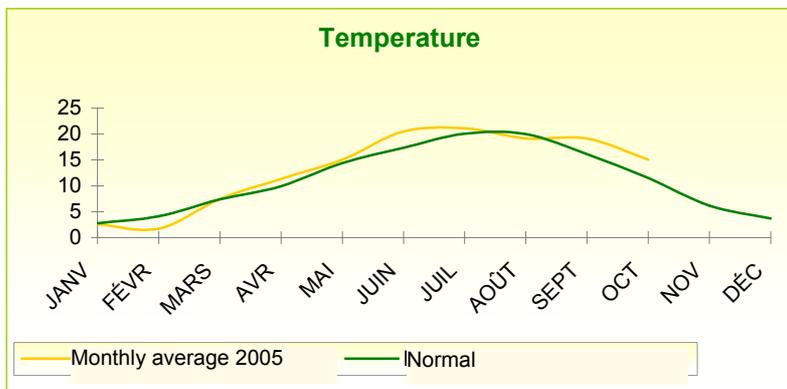
For the first time ever, the grapes ripened at the same rate in the Yonne, Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune as well as in the southern wine-growing districts of the Côte Chalonnaise and Mâconnais. Normally there is a one- or two-week time-lag between the Yonne in the north and the other more southerly districts. This year it was rainfall patterns which closed the gap by slowing maturation in Saône-et-Loire and (more especially) Côte d'Or.

The stuff of dreams

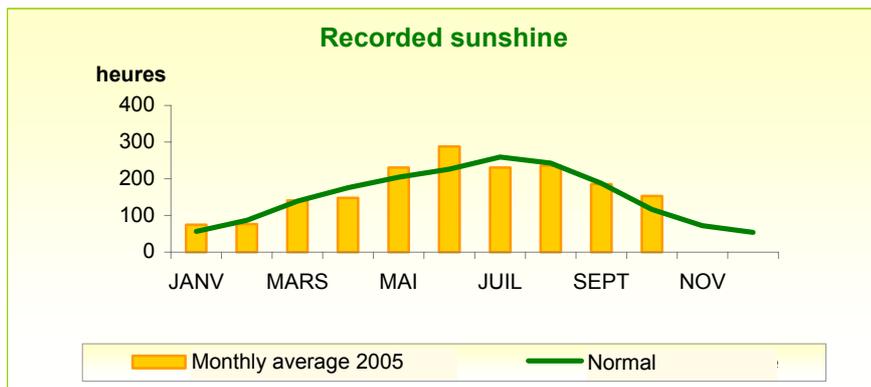
As Michel Baldassini, President of the B.I.V.B. put it in an earlier communiqué, the growers enjoyed *“a dream harvest which took place in weather conditions that have rarely been matched.”* The sun was still shining as picking drew to a close and the growers were able to proceed unhurriedly with vinification.

Climatic conditions, 2005

Temperature and sunshine hours near seasonal norms

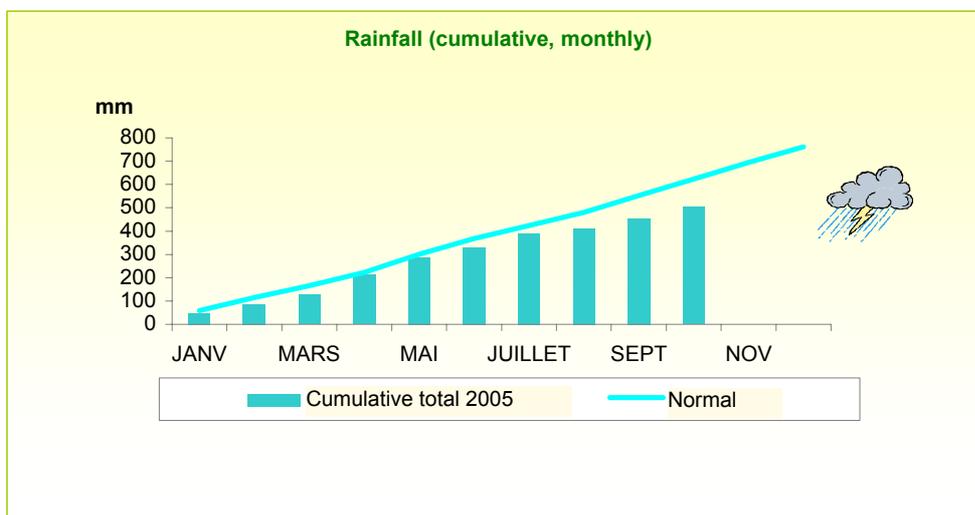


Source : B.I.V.B. – Météo France



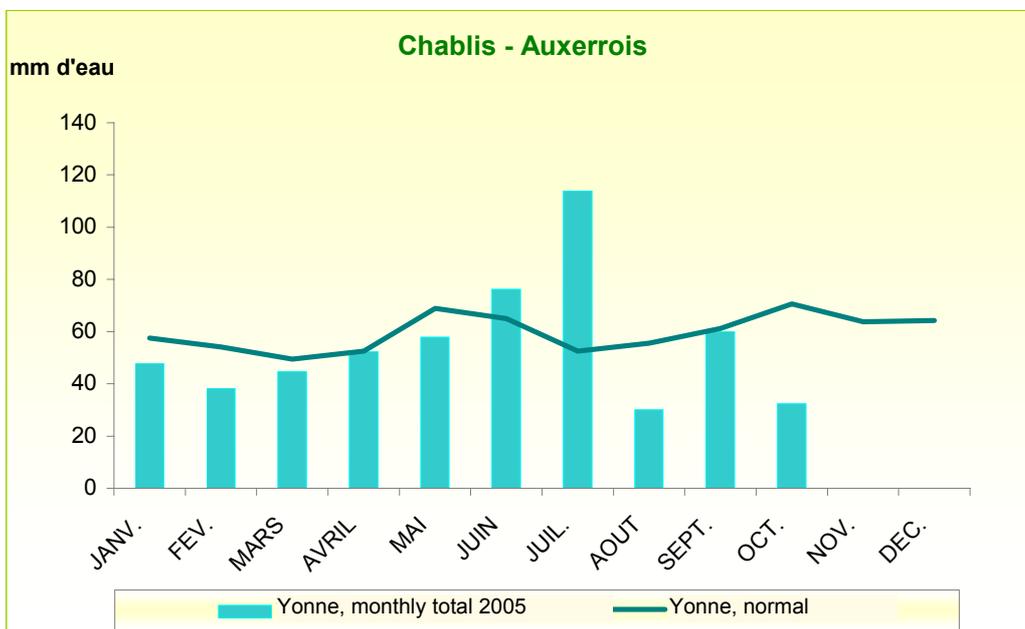
Source : B.I.V.B. – Météo France

A year of low rainfall, derived mainly from rainstorms, sometimes accompanied by hail

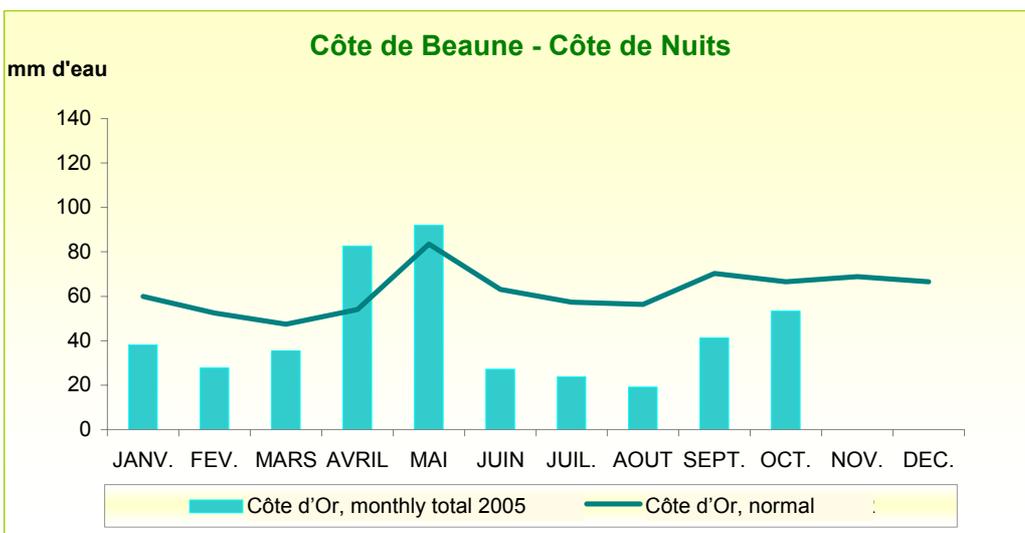


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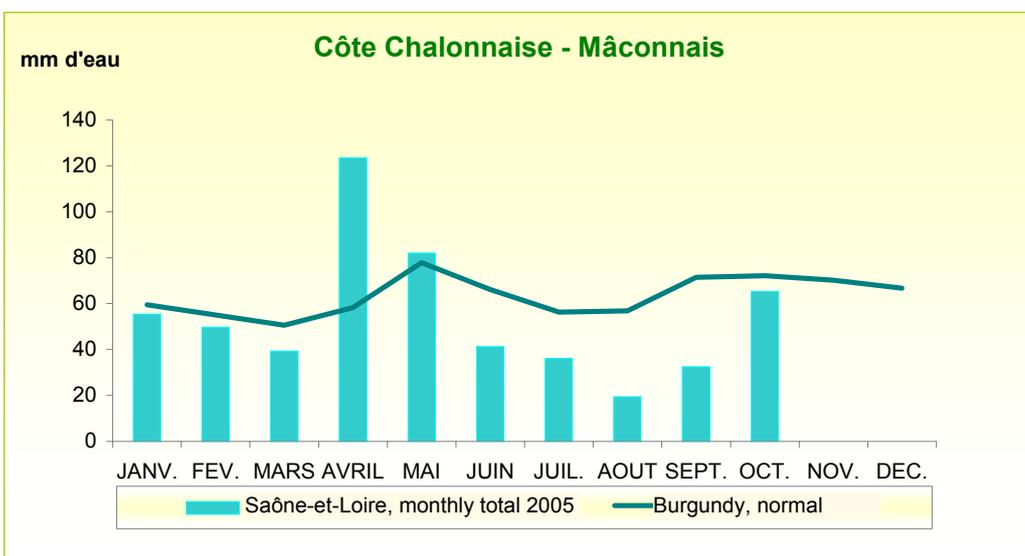
Rainfall by department / vineyard district



Source : B.I.V.B. – Météo France



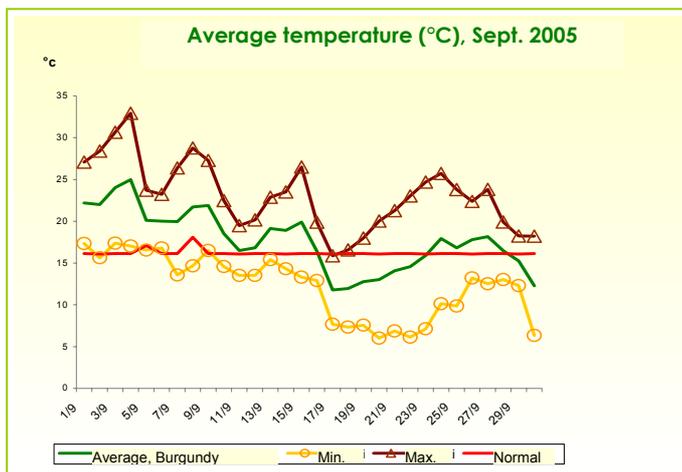
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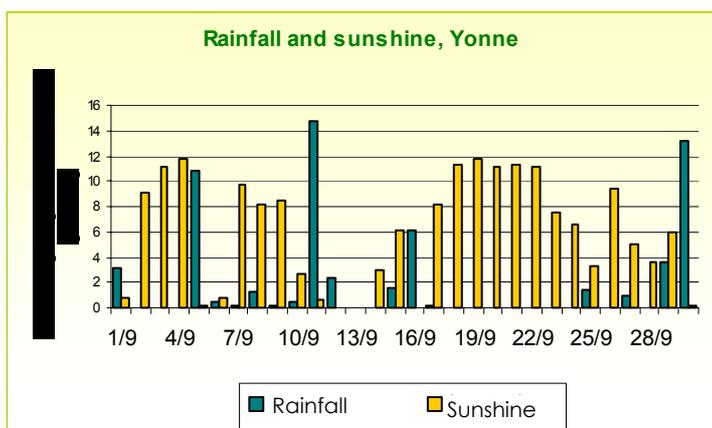
Source : B.I.V.B. – Météo France

Climatic conditions: harvest period 2005

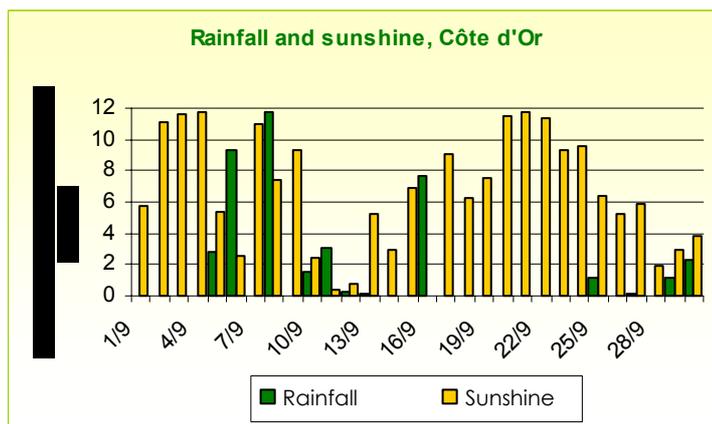
 During the harvest: ideal weather, little or no rain, mild temperatures, ample sunshine



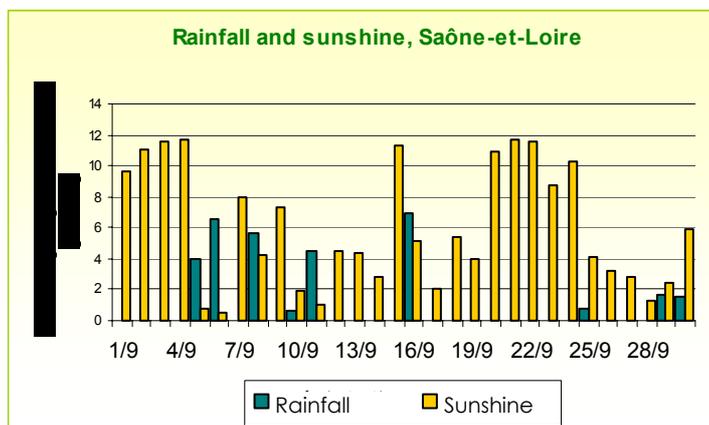
Source : B.I.V.B. – Météo France



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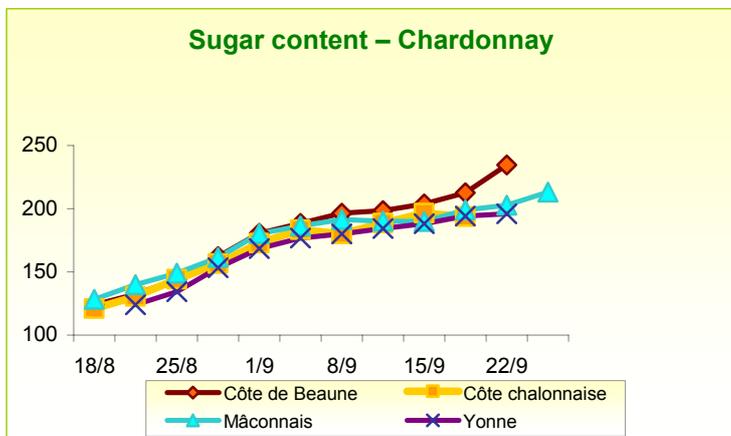


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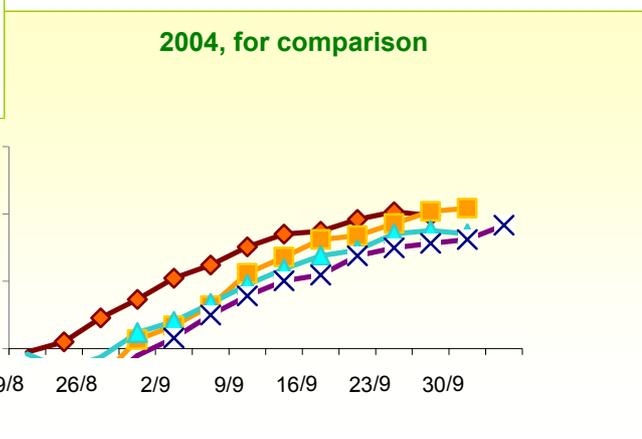


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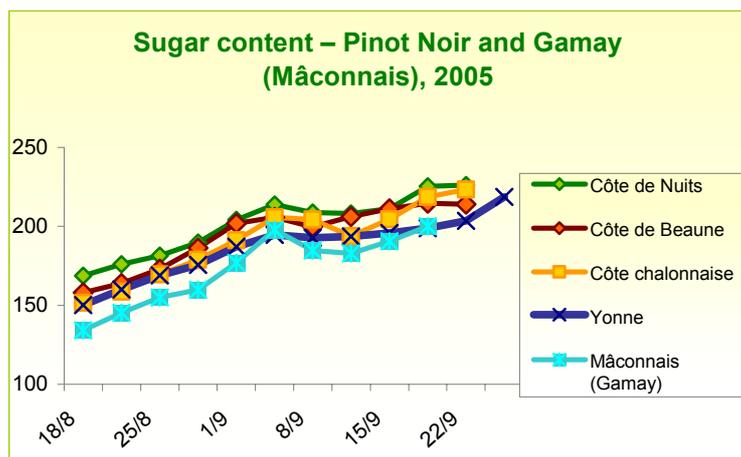
For the first time, the grapes ripened at the same rate in all Burgundy's vineyard districts



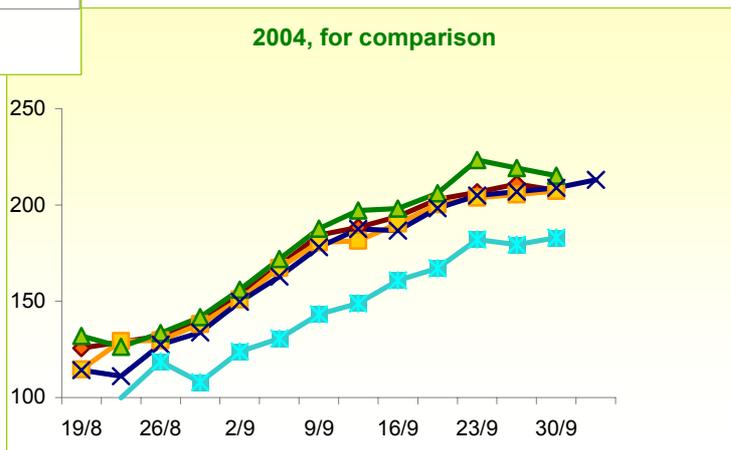
Source : C.I.T.V.B. 2005



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