



## *The 2016 Vintage in the Bourgogne Wine Region: A pleasant surprise*

*Bourgogne, 20 November 2016*

***The people of the Bourgogne wine region like a story with a happy ending. The wines of the 2016 vintage have granted this wish, exhibiting a quality that was quite unexpected given the difficult start to the year. Climate events in the spring took a severe toll on the harvest, which will no doubt be among the smallest of the past two decades. Fortunately, this has not stopped producers making wines that will fully live up to the expectations of lovers of Bourgogne.***

### **One night of frost**

The night of 26-27 April 2016 will remain etched in the memory of all those who live in the Bourgogne region. It brought an historic late frost, when the first leaves had already emerged. While some areas are used to this kind of phenomenon, its territorial spread was exceptional. A few days beforehand, a violent hail storm struck the south of the wine region. And on 27 May, a further episode of hail swept the Mâconnais and the north of Bourgogne.

A significant proportion of the future harvest was at risk. While everyone strived to preserve those bunches that had been spared and nurture the vines, no one could imagine how this vintage might end up.

### **From one extreme to another**

On the summer solstice of 21 June, things turned radically around. After a particularly cold and wet spring, sun and warmth now took over. This sudden change allowed the vines to recover some strength. They made up for the lateness of the start of the growth cycle.

After an excess of water, some places were now experiencing drought, fortunately eased by some welcome rain in September, which allowed the fruit to ripen in very good conditions. This continued until the end of October, giving each plot the opportunity to be picked at the ideal moment.

The harvests began on 20 September and stretched over one month.



© BIVB / [www.armellephotographe.com](http://www.armellephotographe.com)

## In the end, a vintage of quality

The harvested grapes were in tip-top condition, ripe and delicious. Another pleasant surprise was that the vines had made the most of the summer to send out new growth, this abundant vegetation offering good prospects for the 2017 vintage.

The region's vineyards nonetheless presented two contrasting sides: Either very little or no harvest on the plots hit by hail or frost; or nice yields in those sectors that were spared.

In the course of vinification, the qualitative potential was soon confirmed, with lovely balance, which will give the wines elegance, finesse and structure, for both reds and whites. This constitutes the unexpected signature of this vintage.

In 2016, more than ever, each winemaker has left their own mark on their wines, which reflects the unfolding of this unique vintage.

## White wines

Upon tasting, these wines present the tension characteristic of white Bourgognes. There's already nice substance, which should express itself fully once malolactic fermentation is complete. The aromatic palette includes white-fleshed fruit, which should become enriched during ageing.

## Red wines

A deep yet dazzling red, the colors are surprisingly intense, revealing what the still-shy bouquet does not yet suggest: These are going to be wines that give pleasure. In the mouth they are fresh and soft, confirming this first impression, and underscored by nice breadth. It will take a few more months before we can discover the full personality of these wines.



## Crémant de Bourgogne

The Crémant de Bourgogne base wines are rounded, subtle and fresh. They present the characteristics of their respective *terroirs*, with good balance built on an acidity that is present without being overpowering. The whole aromatic palette can be found in the Chardonnays, from the most mineral aromas typical of the Auxerrois region to the notes of white-fleshed fruit and white blossom that characterize the south of the appellation. The Pinot Noir provides elegant, supple wines, with aromas of cherry. The Gamay is very expressive, with a touch of acidity.

*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*

### Contact:

**Cécile Mathiaud** - Head of PR

Tel: +33 (0)3 80 25 95 76 - [cecile.mathiaud@bivb.com](mailto:cecile.mathiaud@bivb.com)

*All our press releases and thousands of rights-free photos are available in our online press room at [www.bourgogne-wines.com](http://www.bourgogne-wines.com)*

Follow us:





## *The weather in the Bourgogne wine region in 2016: One extreme to another*

*Bourgogne, 20 November 2016*

### **A mild, rainy winter, with little sunshine**

2016 began on an exceptionally mild note. January and February were notable for particularly warm temperatures, especially in the Côte-d'Or department. The variations on seasonal norms were up as much as 109% and 115% in Dijon and Beaune in January. The Saône-et-Loire presented a similar situation, up 97% in Mâcon and 65% in Rully. The Yonne saw the same trend but to a lesser degree (up 35% in Chablis and up 43% in Saint-Bris-le-Vineux). This tendency continued into February, with less marked but nonetheless remarkable variations (from up 22% in Chablis to up 63% in Beaune). Winter 2015-2016 (December-January-February) was the warmest since 1900.

This mildness was accompanied by high levels of precipitation, which varied according to sector. The Côte-d'Or was the most impacted, with a 92% increase in precipitation in January in Beaune. The Saône-et-Loire also had significantly higher-than-average rainfall, up 53% in Rully and 72% in Mâcon. The gap was less noticeable in the Yonne, especially in the Auxerrois, with only a 3% rise. In February, the Côte-d'Or continued to receive high rainfall, while the Saône-et-Loire was closer to norms, and the Yonne was now subjected to heavy rain.

As a corollary, sunlight was below norms: Down 41% in Beaune, 33% in Mâcon, and 27% in Auxerre.

### **A cold and very wet springtime**

In the end, winter arrived three months late. In March, the thermometer dipped below seasonal norms. This drop in temperature was particularly noticeable in the Yonne, which fell to 20% below the seasonal average, whereas temperatures were only 10-15% down in the other departments.

April and May were also colder than usual, with variations of between 3% and 8% on seasonal norms. March and April started cold, but at the end of each month, temperatures were above normal. This allowed budburst to take place in early April. The stage of mid-budburst was observed in mid-April, with dates close to the 10-year average.\*

Precipitation was still significantly higher, intensifying particularly in April in the Côte-d'Or and Saône-et-Loire, and in May in the north of the region. As such, increases tipped 100% for Beaune and Dijon in April, 50% in Rully, and 68% for Mâcon. The rain-gauges went crazy in Chablis in May (up 214%) and Saint-Bris (up 173%). This very wet spring continued into June, with measurements largely ahead of norms, except in Beaune, where they were in line with averages.

As with the start of the year, this exceptional rainfall was accompanied by a significant shortfall in sunshine of more than 20% in all three departments in April, May, except Mâcon, which was down 15%, and June. In June, the Yonne recorded a 40% drop in sunshine compared to seasonal norms.

*\*Data from the BIVB's Observatoire du Millésime*



Beyond these averages, several weather events in the spring had dramatic consequences.

A hail storm hit the Mâconnais on 13 April, damaging part of the vines. This area was then spared by the frost at the end of April, which was especially harsh on the night of 26-27 April. As budburst was coming to an end and the first leaves were visible, it struck several thousand hectares, from the Grand Auxerrois in the north to the Côte Chalonnaise in the south. The conjunction of several meteorological factors led to some particularly significant damage. The buds quickly froze due to humidity levels close to 100% and a glacial wind. The morning sun

then accentuated the burning, as the ice acted as a magnifying glass. Then on 13 May, a violent hail storm struck the Yonne. Another episode of hail on 27 May also caused some damage in the north (Chablis and Grand Auxerrois) and the Mâconnais.

The vines were heavily impacted, as was the overall potential harvest for the vintage.

## All change for summer

Summer arrived right on time, with a radical change in the weather on 21 June. The rising temperatures allowed *véraison* to get underway, even though the first flowers appeared in mid-June. The warm weather triggered rapid flowering, which was nonetheless among the latest in recent years.\*

From July, temperatures returned to normal, and even sometimes climbed above average. Rainfall was generally below average, in places markedly so: In Saint-Bris-le-Vineux it was 68% below norms. Sunlight hours were ahead of norms, except in the Côte-d'Or, where the shortfall persisted.

The summer conditions accentuated in August. Although average temperatures were only slightly above normal, precipitation was scarce, with shortfalls of between 31-71%. Sunshine was much higher than normal in all three departments: Around 24% up in the Yonne and Côte-d'Or, and almost 29% up in Saône-et-Loire.

The trend continued in September, which was very warm.

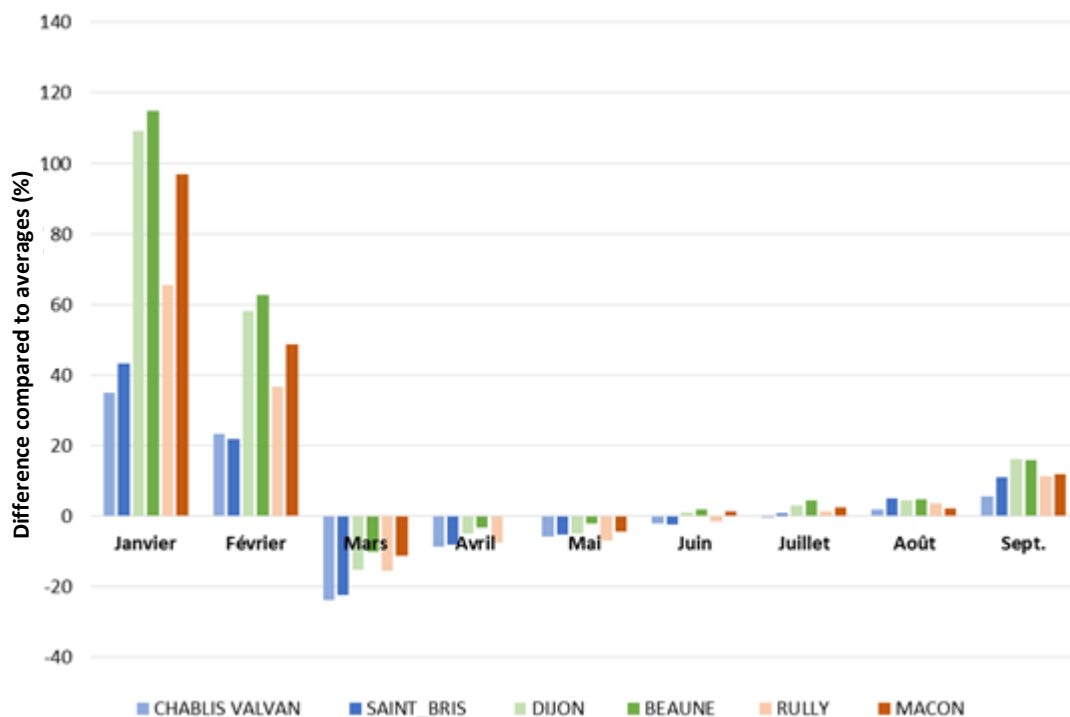
The thermometer showed figures around 10% higher across the Bourgogne wine region. The Côte-d'Or and Saône-et-Loire still showed a shortfall in rain, whereas the Yonne received more precipitation than normal (up 18-31%). There was still lots of sun, 15% more than seasonal norms in the Yonne, 19% up in the Côte-d'Or, and 24% ahead in the Saône-et-Loire.

The clement weather ensured that ripening took place in optimal conditions. Harvesting began on 20 September and spread over several weeks, thanks to a lovely Indian summer which lasted until the end of October.

In 2016, there were no half-measures when it came to the weather! It took in all extremes and set record temperatures (for the heat in summer, mildness in winter, and cold in spring), with extremes of rainfall (in excess in the first half, drought in summer) and record sunshine hours. Although the campaign ended on a positive note with good quality fruit, 2016 will go down as a year that tested the winemakers of the Bourgogne region to the limit.

\*Data from the BIVB's Observatoire du Millésime

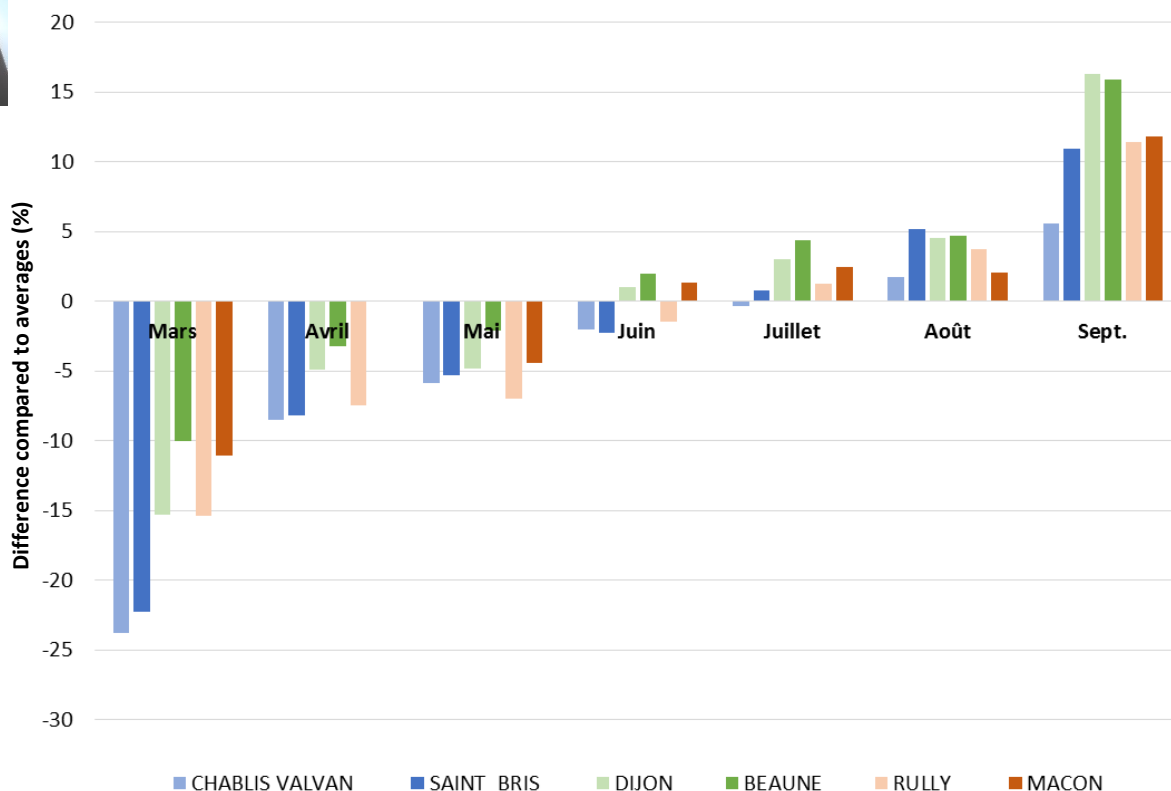
Average monthly temperatures - Bourgogne 2016  
Variation on seasonal norm (%) by department



Source : Météo France

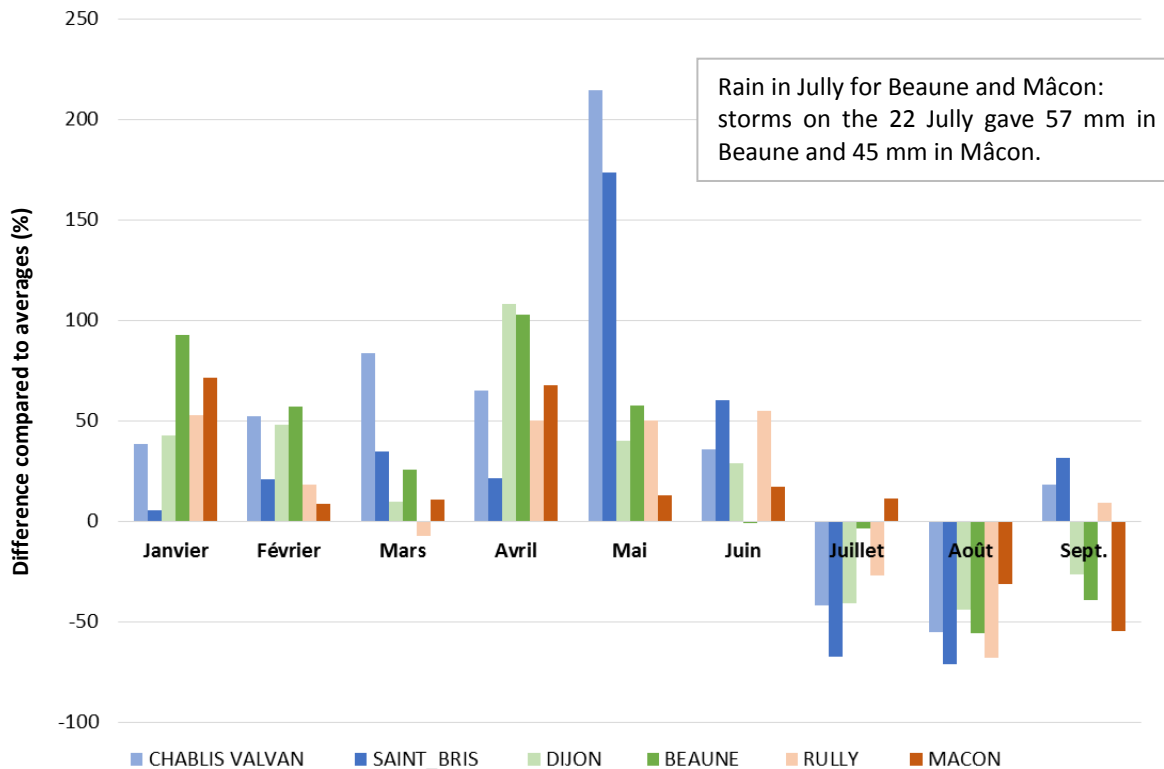
Average monthly temperatures – Bourgogne 2016

Variation on seasonal norm (%) by department - excluding the first two months of the year



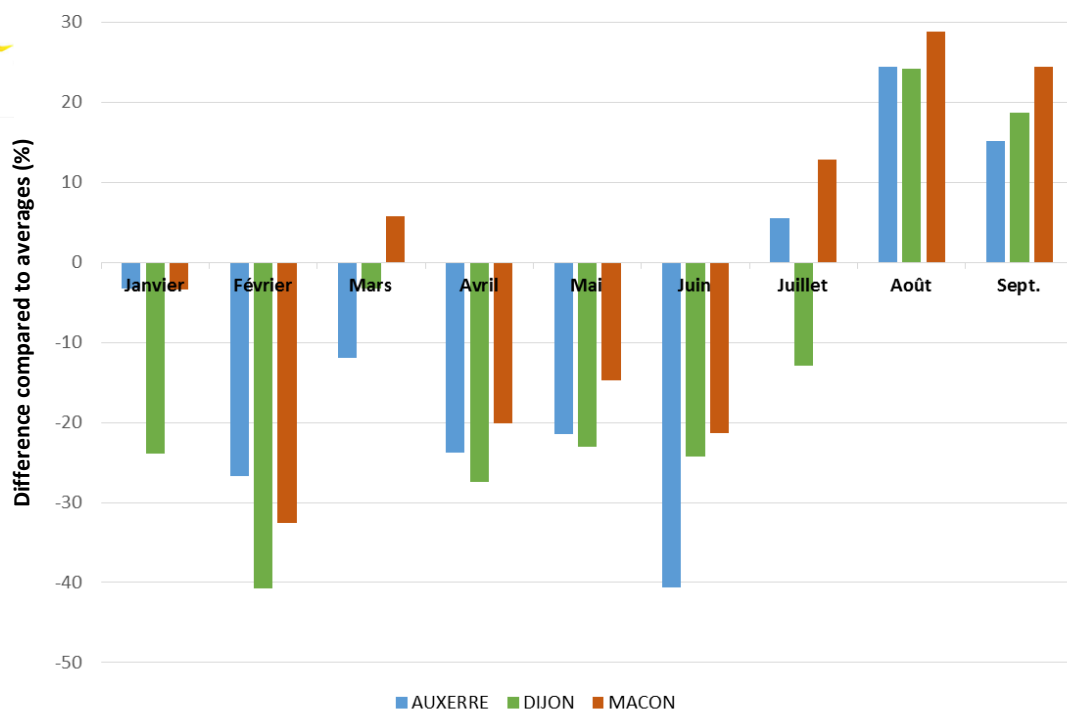
Source : Météo France

### Average monthly precipitations – Bourgogne 2016 Variation on seasonal norm (%) by department



Source : Météo France

### Average monthly sunshine – Bourgogne 2016 Variation on seasonal norm (%) by department



Source : Météo France