



THE 2006 VINTAGE: A CREDIT TO THE WINEGROWERS

This was a vintage quite unlike its predecessor, marked by damp, changeable weather with temperatures ranging from cool to torrid. This, combined with a high incidence of disease, led to erratic growth throughout the year and resulted in uneven fruit set and crop loads that forced us to maintain the vineyards parcel by parcel — and in some cases, even vine by vine. The end of the season was no better than the beginning: A wet, cool August was followed by a heat wave in early September, then thundery periods at the start of the harvest.

All of this, of course, made for grapes with distinctly different tastes depending on variety and terroir. That, in turn, complicated matters at the winemaking stage, fuelling predictions that the birth of the 2006 vintage would be anything but pain-free! But despite all the difficulties there are some nice surprises, with Bordeaux wines falling into two, fairly distinct categories: firm and somewhat austere in style; more mellow and less extracted.

The results far exceed expectations and are partly due to the strict sorting of grapes at the time of picking and on the sorting tables on arrival at the winery.

Ten years ago, the outcome would probably have been quite different. Most winegrowers would have preferred to harvest early rather than wait and run the risk of rot development. The 2006 vintage is a credit to all those winegrowers.

Tasting notes:

Color: Rich, sustained red.

Nose: Delightful hints of blackberry overlaid by the merest whiff of classy, elegant wood mixed with aromas of toast and tobacco. A bit closed at first, but the wine opens nicely with air to show balanced, fully-flavored fruit.

Palate: Soft and rounded on the attack with a touch of liveliness, remaining rounded as it develops on the palate. Somewhat firm on the finish for the time being but should soften with age. A wine for laying down and definitely worth the wait.

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