

# 1999 BURGUNDY HARVEST REPORT

## **GROWTH TIMELINE**

- Early Mar* “tears of the vine” appear
- Mid Mar* buds begin to swell
- Late Mar* growth slowed by cooler weather
- Early Apr* rising temperatures cause rapid growth
- Apr 7<sup>th</sup>* bud-break occurs in Maconnais, Cote de Beaune and more than half of Yonne
- Apr 10<sup>th</sup>* green point stage reached, all districts bud break begins for earliest plots of Chardonnay and Gamay. first leaves appear
- May/June* flowering begins for earliest plots of Gamay and Chardonnay and develops rapidly due to warm summer temperatures
- Mid June* Fruit-set occurs for the above plots, while flowering begins in the Yonne
- Early Aug* “Veraison,” in which the fruit changes color, begins in early districts
- Sep* Consistently warm daytime temperatures and cool nights help to create fully-ripened, concentrated fruit.
- Sep 6<sup>th</sup>* harvest begins in Cremant
- Sep 7<sup>th</sup>* harvest begins in Beaujolais
- Sept 15<sup>th</sup>* harvest begins in Cote de Beaune
- Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>* last harvest begins in Chatillonnais vineyards

<b>QUANTITY</b>	Very high. The Institut National des Appellations d'Origine approved vinification of tonnage that is 40% higher than levels considered reasonable for making top-notch Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. <sup>1</sup>
<b>QUALITY</b>	Exceptional overall, with very ripe fruit. Reds were slightly more consistent than whites. Expected to be one of the best vintages ever, but wines will be light for those who failed to curtail volume through green harvesting.
<b>PRICE</b>	Hospices de Beaune auction on November 21 <sup>st</sup> indicates prices are stable relative to last year, despite the increased yields.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mansson, Per-Henrik, "Bidders keep Burgundy Prices Stable at Annual Hospices Auction," Wine Spectator Online, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), Accessed on 11/24/99.

## **RHONE VALLEY<sup>2</sup>**

**QUANTITY** Generous, but less abundant than Burgundy due to April frost that killed some vine shoots at higher elevations. Green harvesting was still necessary in lower elevations to keep yields in line.

**QUALITY** Excellent. Grapes achieved high natural alcohol % and good maturation.

## **LANGUEDOC**

**QUALITY** Away from the coast, the growing season started late following a cool spring, but then finished early due to exceptional weather from July through September. Harvest took place under excellent, sunny conditions. Very good season for both red and white. Concentrated wines with good aging potential.

---

<sup>2</sup> All Rhone Valley and Languedoc information from Terry Robards and Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, Vol 12, No 13, p 16-17.