



PURE CHABLIS

One grape
One region
One of a kind

Press release – November 7, 2024

2024: a year of many challenges

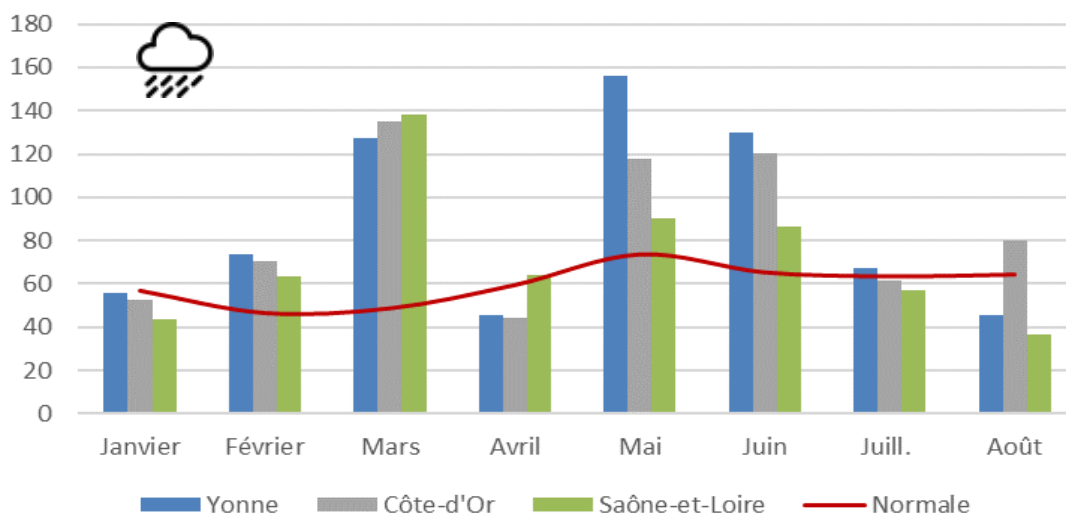
Chablis, along with many other French regions, has experienced some unusual weather in 2024. Flooding, excessive rainfall, frost, hail - there was no respite for the crops. Little by little, this bad weather took its toll on the prospective harvest. Throughout the vine-growing cycle, winegrowers had to be on high alert, and put in an enormous amount of work to protect the grapes. The Chablis wineries are not at full capacity this year, but the winemakers are pleased with what they are tasting. The wines beautifully express typical Chablis characteristics, with tension and an assertive minerality.

No two years are alike. In 2023, Chablis wine region had to contend with drought. By contrast, at the end of August 2024, there had been almost 50% more rainfall than usual for the season as a whole.

Rainfall for the month of March broke all records, exceeding the monthly average by more than 150%. This excess led to flooding and in March and April the river Serein burst its banks.

Mild temperatures during these two months accelerated the growth of the vines. They awakened and grew rapidly, by early April they were eight to 10 days ahead of schedule. It was in this damp environment that the spring frosts struck. For some, the damage was significant, but across Chablis region the impact remained limited.

*Average monthly precipitation (in mm) - Bourgogne 2024
Comparison with the norm by department*



Then the rain returned in the form of hail. It struck several times, but the most devastating storm hit the Chablis region on May 1. Of the 5,870 hectares of vineyards, 2,000 hectares were partially or totally impacted. It was only May - there was still a long way to go until the harvest.

Weather conditions were less than ideal during flowering: the flowers were only partially fertilised, and *coulure* (poor fruit set) and *millerandage* (uneven grape size) also affected the prospective harvest. And it continued to rain. After March, May and June saw record rainfall.



Photo credit: BIVB / Michel JOLY

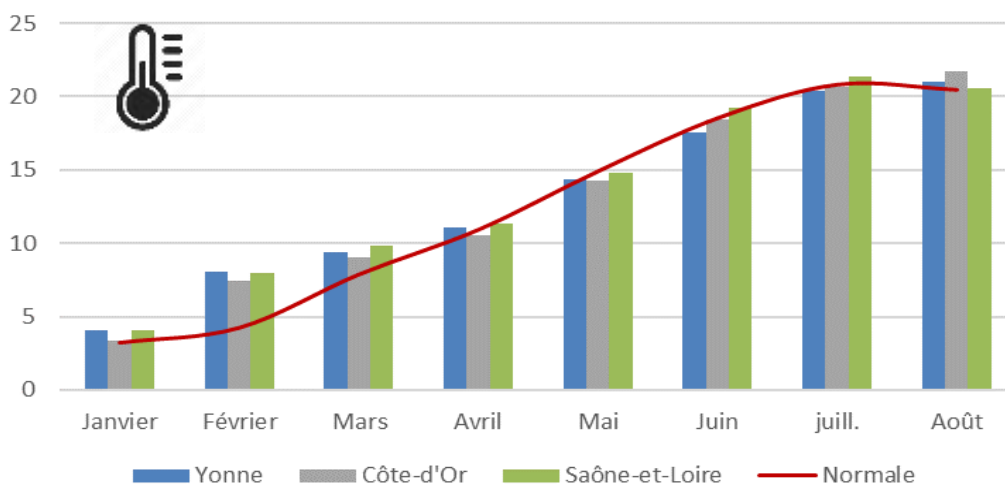
This erratic weather forced the winegrowers to work at a frenetic pace and to be constantly on their guard nurturing their vines, preventing the spread of disease and controlling grass growth...

The damp conditions, that had prevailed since spring, led to the appearance of mildew, which kept up the pressure throughout the season. It also gradually reduced potential yields.

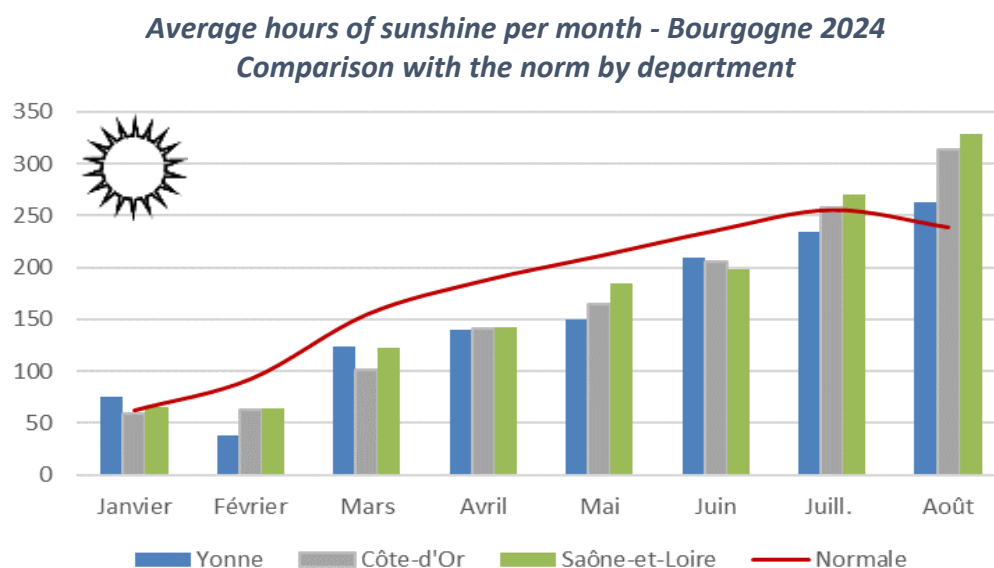
By early summer, the vines had lost their head start, and were now even a little behind schedule.

August was relatively dry and sunny, which improved the situation and provided good ripening conditions.

Average monthly temperatures(°C) - Bourgogne 2024
Comparison with the norm by department



But the weather in September was consistently dreary. It can be difficult to fix a date for the harvest, aiming for the best possible balance while ensuring the health of the crop. Grape picking began the week of September 23. The sorting tables were brought out, and some plots were harvested quickly because of the paucity of grapes.



As it turned out, it was a mixed picture, sometimes with big differences within a single village. The south-east of Chablis wine region seems to have been spared. Some growers' yields were under the 10hl/ha, many brought in a little more or a little less than half their harvest, while a few managed the whole lot.

The wines in the making reflect harvest volumes: they have rather different profiles. However, a trend is emerging, with notes of citrus, fresh, crisp white fruit, and a marked tonicity. This vintage beautifully expresses typical Chablis characteristics, with tension and an assertive minerality.

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