

# 2018

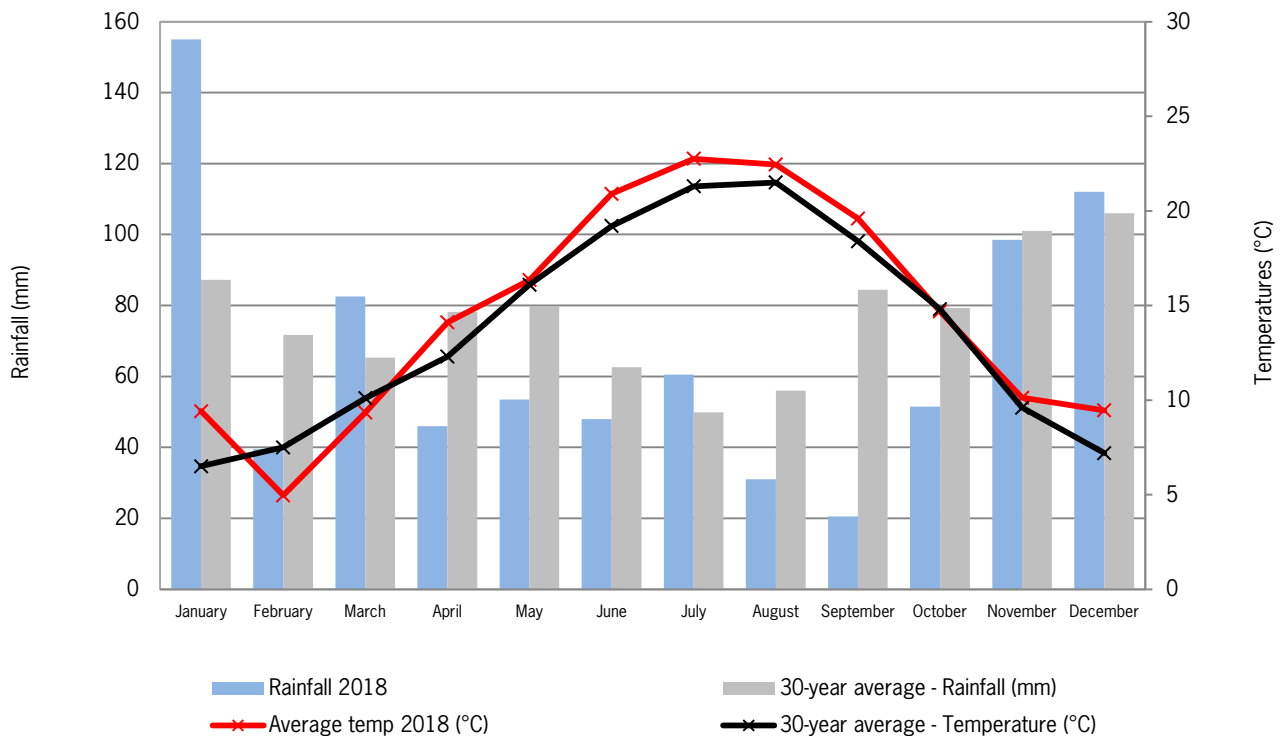
## VINTAGE CONDITIONS

### Purple Rain

The 2018 vintage began with a particularly wet winter, recording rainfall of 507 mm between November and March (30-year average of 427.5 mm). Temperatures were mixed, with a mild January but cool February and March marked by stormy winds and snow.

The wine season began with a slightly late bud break (5 to 7 days late depending on the grape variety), generally around 5 April for the Merlot and 12 April for the Cabernet. But it was homogeneous and straightforward thanks to mild temperatures at the beginning of April.

**Meteorological Comparison - Pauillac 2017 - With Bordeaux Norms (1968-1997)**



Thanks to these mild temperatures and a good soil humidity at the beginning of spring, vegetative growth progressed normally. Development slowed gradually at the beginning of May as temperatures fell. Weather was unpredictable during the spring with light but frequent rainfall, ensuring significant and extended leaf wetness. We therefore had to monitor the vineyard closely to limit the development of cryptogamic diseases, particularly mildew.

From 15 May, a series of particularly violent hailstorms hit vineyards in Gironde, for example on 21 and 26 May when more than 5,000 hectares suffered heavy losses. Fortunately, our properties were not affected by the phenomenon. The first flowers appeared on 24 May for the Merlots and full flowering occurred in line with the 20-year average. Flowering and fruit set were rapid and modest, effectively limiting coulure and millerandage.

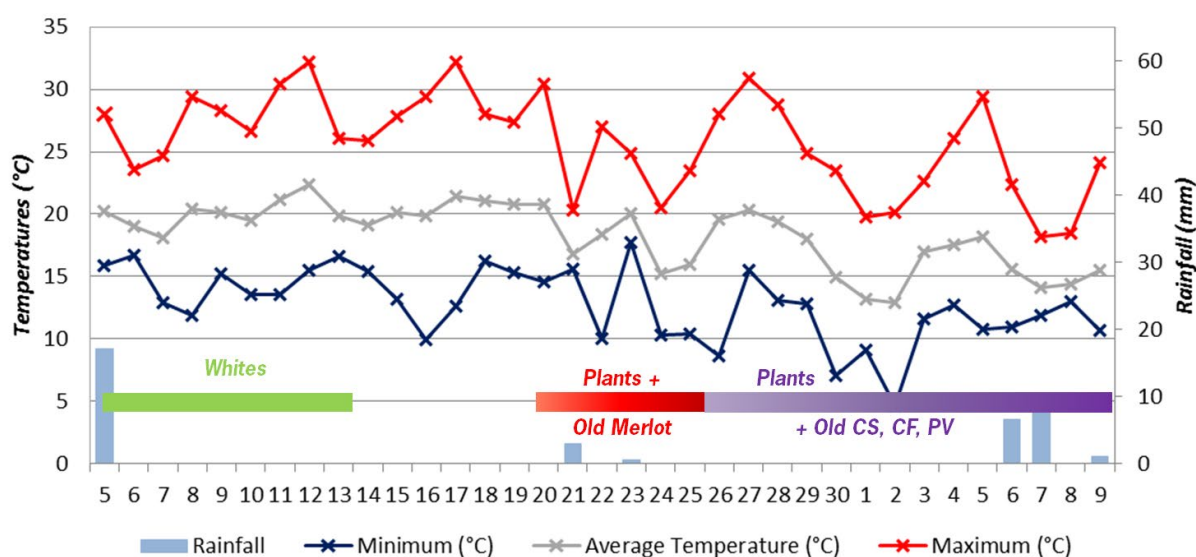
### Dates of harvesting and crop development in the vineyard at Château Lynch-Bages

VINTAGE	Varieties	Budburst began (March)	A Mid-flowering (June)	Difference A to B	B Mid-veraison (August)	End veraison	Difference B to C	C Start of Harvest (LYNCHBAGES)	Difference A to C	Start of Veraison	End of Harvest
LYNCHBAGES 2009	M	29-Mar	5-Jun	63	5-Aug	17-Aug	48	23-Sep	111		29-Sep
	CF	3-Apr	6-Jun ← days →		9-Aug	← days →		5-Oct	days	16-Jul	
	CS	7-Apr	9-Jun	66	12-Aug	24-Aug	55	7-Oct	121		12-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2010	M	6-Apr	7-Jun	62	7-Aug	18-Aug	50	27-Sep	112		30-Sep
	CF	8-Apr	9-Jun ← days →		11-Aug	← days →		6-Oct	days	19-Jul	
	CS	15-Apr	11-Jun	65	14-Aug	25-Aug	55	9-Oct	120		14-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2011	M	28-Mar	12-May	62	25-Jul	7-Aug	48	13-Sep	110		14-Sep
	CF	2-Apr	14-May ← days →		28-Jul	← days →		20-Sep	days	30-Jun	
	CS	6-Apr	18-May	65	1-Aug	13-Aug	51	22-Sep	116		28-Sep
LYNCHBAGES 2012	M	30-Mar	1-Jun	73	14-Aug	24-Aug	50	4-Oct	123		5-Oct
	CF	1-Apr	2-Jun ← days →		16-Aug	← days →		11-Oct	days	23-Jul	12-Oct
	CS	4-Apr	4-Jun	76	20-Aug	30-Aug	53	13-Oct	129		18-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2013	M	8-Apr	13-Jun	66	19-Aug	29-Aug	42	1-Oct	108		4-Oct
	CF	10-Apr	17-Jun ← days →		21-Aug	← days →		7-Oct	days	3-Aug	8-Oct
	CS	18-Apr	19-Jun	68	27-Aug	5-Sep	38	5-Oct	106		13-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2014	M	20-Mar	30-May	68	8-Aug	20-Aug	46	24-Sep	114		30-Sep
	CF	27-Mar	5-Jun ← days →		12-Aug	← days →		30-Sep	days	15-Jul	2-Oct
	CS	31-Mar	10-Jun	64	14-Aug	27-Aug	52	6-Oct	116		11-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2015	M	6-Apr	1-Jun	62	3-Aug	15-Aug	50	23-Sep	112		24-Sep
	CF	10-Apr	3-Jun ← days →		8-Aug	← days →		1-Oct	days	18-Jul	2-Oct
	CS	15-Apr	8-Jun	62	10-Aug	23-Aug	52	2-Oct	114		8-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2016	M	31-Mar	4-Jun	64	8-Aug	19-Aug	50	28-Sep	114		3-Oct
	CF	2-Apr	6-Jun ← days →		13-Aug	← days →		4-Oct	days	21-Jul	5-Oct
	CS	4-Apr	10-Jun	66	16-Aug	25-Aug	49	5-Oct	115		12-Oct
LYNCHBAGES 2017	M	27-Mar	25-May	62	27-Jul	11-Aug	51	18-Sep	113		21-Sep
	CF	31-Mar	27-May ← days →		4-Aug	← days →		22-Sep	days	11-Jul	22-Sep
	CS	2-Apr	31-May	66	6-Aug	18-Aug	49	25-Sep	115		5-Oct
LYNCH-BAGES 2018	M	5-Apr	1-Jun	60	1-Aug	14-Aug	48	19-Sep	108		25-Sep
	CF	9-Apr	4-Jun ← days →		3-Aug	← days →		25-Sep	days	17-Jul	25-Sep
	CS	12-Apr	8-Jun	57	5-Aug	20-Aug	51	26-Sep	108		9-Oct
23-year average (1995-2018)	M	25-Mar	3-Jun	66	8-Aug		47	24-Sep	113		27-Sep
	CF	29-Mar	5-Jun ← days →		12-Aug	← days →		1-Oct	days	19-Jul	29-Sep
	CS	2-Apr	8-Jun	67	15-Aug		49	3-Oct	116		9-Oct

Early summer was marked by unpredictable weather conditions, with heavy rain that ended on 15 July with another violent hailstorm which affected the southern Médoc.

The vintage then made a dramatic U-turn with a magnificent summer and early autumn. Summer 2018 was dry and sunny, the second hottest summer for 100 years after 2003. But unlike in 2003, the soils, which were saturated with water due to repeated rainfall up to 15 June, showed no signs of drought. Phenology gradually made up for lost time and a homogeneous veraison began on 17 July. Maturation started in August and proved particularly qualitative, as reflected by the high berry sugar content. The sun and heat allowed the aromas of fresh red fruit, characteristic of our grape varieties, to fully express themselves.

### Harvesting and weather in Pauillac– September-October 2018



The white grape harvest began at Château Lynch-Bages on 5 September, with a first sorting of Muscadelle. After seven days of morning picking in exceptional conditions, harvesting ended on 13 September with a second sorting of Sémillon. Thanks to these same weather conditions, we could begin picking the red grape varieties on 19 September, with about ten hectares of Merlot. The grapes' sanitary state was perfect. Only six days were needed to pick the Merlot, while it took nine days to harvest the Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Harvesting ended therefore on 9 October.

At Château Haut-Batailley, secateurs cut the first grapes on 21 September. The Merlots were harvested between 21 and 25 September, for a total of four days of actual harvesting in favourable weather conditions. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested between 28 September and 8 October, for a total of nine days of actual harvesting. We pick these exclusively by hand. A first sorting took place in the vineyard before transporting the grapes in 200 kg containers. They were then sorted a second and third time, before and after de-stemming.

At Château Ormes de Pez, the grapes were harvested traditionally, by hand, by a team of about fifty people. In 2018, it took fourteen days to harvest our four traditional grape varieties. The Merlot was picked in six days between 20 and 26 September, and the Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot were harvested in eight days between 26 September and 8 October. The harvesting conditions were ideal, as a result of which everything progressed smoothly. The grapes proved to be of a high quality with a rich sugar content and exceptional polyphenols.

**The 2018 vintage and its characteristics:**

- The weather conditions were mixed. Winter and spring were mild but wet while the summer was hot and dry. Ideal conditions for grape ripening, followed by a perfect harvesting weather.
- The wines have a beautiful colour together with a good extractable anthocyanin content.
- The grapes' skins and seeds were particularly ripe, explaining the vintage's exceptional phenolic and tannic profiles.
- The intense berry concentration and high sugar content have resulted in rich, powerful and opulent wines with a relatively high alcoholic strength. Yet they still offer freshness and acidity that are well-balanced on the palate.
- Yields were moderate. The summery conditions, which lasted through to the end of the harvest, produced low berry volumes.

