



VINTAGE 2002

SUMMARY

This is a very uneven vintage because picking lasted over a nine-week period. This called for drastic sorting in the cellar and much skill in producing a final blend that fully expresses Château d'Yquem's true potential.

Alcohol : 14°
Residual Sugars : 129g/L
Total Acidity : 4,54 g/LH₂SO₄
Total SO₂ : 335 mg/L

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The 2002 growth cycle was extremely dry. In fact, it was the driest vintage in 75 years. It was accompanied by a misleading impression of "bad weather" due to much less sunshine than usual. Temperatures were nevertheless above average.

HARVEST

Due to contrasting (and "contrary") weather, ripening was very uneven. In early September, some plots were well along, and others not at all. There were even green grapes and golden grapes in the same bunch. The harvest began in a first wave of picking between the 12th and the 16th of September because certain grapes had developed nicely after showers at the very beginning of September.

A period of three weeks without a drop of rain then set in. We attempted to pick on three separate occasions, bringing in a few grapes that were fully mature on the second and third tries. This long span nevertheless allowed late-ripening grapes to catch up and when rain finally arrived on 9 October, these were perfectly ready for Botrytis cinerea.

After ten days and 50 mm of precipitation, the fungus spread throughout the entire vineyard. We tried our luck picking when the weather cleared on 20 October, but sugar levels were just short of what we required. We thus waited another week, during which scattered showers had us somewhat worried. However, a fourth wave of picking, starting on 29 October, resulted in fruit that was not only very sweet, but also very much affected by botrytis. A few grapes in good condition were gleaned on the 4th and 5th of November, bringing a long, nerve-racking vintage to a close.

TASTING NOTES

This 2002 is a lovely vintage. It is very typical of its appellation, with beautiful, pure hints of candied fruit. It enchants the palate thanks to its marked refinement, voluptuousness and alluring freshness. This vintage is so forthcoming that it enables wine lovers to enter the universe of Yquem as of now.