

Vins et Vignobles
DOURTHE
Bordeaux depuis 1840

2009 BORDEAUX HARVEST REPORT

A Report compiled on 1 October 2009

STAGE 2

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM SUE@SPEARCOMMUNICATIONS.CO.UK OR +44 (0) 1787 310005

DOURTHE HAS 6 CHÂTEAUX IN BORDEAUX

400 HECTARES OF VINEYARDS

Ch. Le Boscq
 Cru Bourgeois. St-Estèphe



Essence de Dourthe



Ch. Pey la Tour
 Bordeaux
 Bordeaux Supérieur



Ch. Reysson
 Cru Bourgeois. Haut-Médoc



Ch. Grand Barrail
 Lamarzelle Figeac
 St-Emilion Grand Cru



Ch. Belgrave
 Grand Cru Classé Haut-Médoc



Ch. La Garde
 Pessac-Léognan



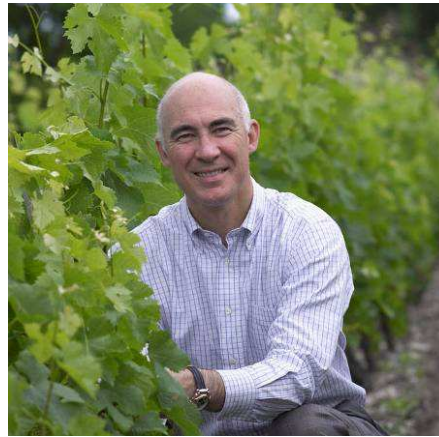
WHO'S WHO AT DOURTHE



FRÉDÉRIC BONNAFFOUS

Head Winemaker

Médoc & Saint Emilion



PATRICK JESTIN

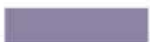
CEO Vins et Vignobles Dourthe



GUILLAUME POUTHIER

Head Winemaker

Graves & Entre deux Mers



A REALLY GREAT VINTAGE? OPTIMISM CONFIRMED



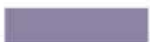
“Magnificent weather throughout September has offered us perfect conditions for harvesting. Our Sauvignon Blanc grapes (Dourthe No 1 and La Grande Cuvee) were in by 15 September

“The beautiful summer weather has assisted the rapid development of aromas and sugars in red varieties but phenols were slow to mature due to lack of water. Rain from 18-20 September was welcomed and assisted their maturity.

“The excellent state of the vineyards and the arrival of cooler temperatures has enabled us to achieve grapes at optimum ripeness. The red harvest has just started with quiet confidence. We decided to wait longer to pick the reds than first predicted in order to maximise the potential of reaching rich, concentrated berries.

“Harvesting conditions are reminiscent of 2005, with the exception that we are now benefiting from the hard work we have invested in our vineyards over the years to maximise our achievement with an anticipated great vintage.”

Patrick Jestin, CEO Vins & Vignobles Dourthe



NEWS FROM THE LEFT BANK

GUILLAUME POUTHIER

Château La Garde, Pessac Léognan (Martillac)

“Fermentation of La Garde white is now complete and the wine is currently lying on its lees with regular batonnage. There is a lot of freshness in this vintage with more body than 2008 and excellent balance (ph around 3.25). Low yields due to hail.

“The 2009 red is certainly the reference vintage for me at Château La Garde. Not only are the conditions perfect, but the remarkable quality of the graves plateau in this vineyard is exceptional and becomes more evident each year particularly so this vintage. In 2009 we have to wait for the phenols to mature. Patience will be rewarded. Picking began on 1 October and will be in full action next week. I’m looking forward to grapes with lots of aroma and colour and the potential to make powerful wines.”



La Garde

FRÉDÉRIC BONNAFFOUS

Médoc

“Rain mid September was widely anticipated. The Medoc suffered severe water stress this summer. Clay soils assisted the maturation of phenols. Volumes are down with small, dense berries which are rich in anthocyanins, tannins and good ph.

“**Chateau Reysson** (clay/limestone) has started well. The first picking of the young Merlots began on 25 September. The must has deep colour and the fruit aromas are explosive. The harvest resumed on 1 October with ripe berries.

“Very good potential reported at **Chateau Le Boscq** (gravel on clay) for the first parcels which started on 29 September. The vineyard is perfectly healthy and harvesting is methodical.

Chateau Belgrave began on 1 October. As in most of St Julien, a lot of potential but the grapes are still on the vine.”.



Le Boscq



NEWS FROM THE RIGHT BANK



Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figeac

FRÉDÉRIC BONNAFFOUS

Château Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figeac, Saint Emilion Grand Cru.

“The weather has been in our favour so we decided to wait to achieve good skin ripeness.

“The first grapes were picked on Monday 28 September. There is great potential in the berries which are homogenous, concentrated and in good condition. A great wine is the making but we have to wait until we taste it in vat”



Pey la Tour

GUILLAUME POUTHIER

Château Pey La Tour Bordeaux, Bordeaux Supérieur

“The mood is optimistic for the 2009 vintage although yields are reduced. The phenols have been developing quietly and we are waiting until Monday 5 October to begin the harvest in earnest starting with the Merlots. We have gained a lot of maturity over the past week. The skins are rich in aroma with lots of colour and tannins. Acidity is balanced with low levels of malic acid.

“The grapes look very good. The weather is good. We are confident”.



THE 2009 GROWING SEASON



Winter was relatively dry.

Budding occurred during the last two weeks of March in bright sunshine and above average temperatures, with promising setting.



Spring was humid with some variation in temperature. There was localised hail storms from 11 to 13 May in the Entre-deux-Mers, Blaye, lower Médoc, Saint Emilion, Graves and Pessac Léognan.

The weather improved until flowering, which started at the end of May, and continued until the third week of June. Flowering was even but a bit delayed in areas which were affected by hail.



Excellent climatic conditions continued throughout the summer with a lot of sunshine, warm temperatures and some rainfall. Veraison occurred without problems and, to date, maturity has been satisfactory. Sunny days and cool nights assisted the favourable development of the grapes.



Yields are average to good (except in areas which were affected by hail). The vineyards were in good shape at the start of the harvest.

