



GEORGES
DUBŒUF

BEAUJOLAIS NEWS

A Good End To A Tumultuous Year In The Vineyards



There's a certain sense of relief when the grape harvest starts to wind down and comes to a close.

And this vintage has certainly not been an easy one.

After a particularly sunny and dry winter, there were reasons to worry that spring would come too early. April arrived with rain, followed by clearer weather but very cool temperatures. April 5th saw temperatures plunge below freezing, with frost proving too much for the delicate young shoots. From north to south, all of the vineyards in the Mâconnais and Beaujolais were affected.

It stayed cold throughout April and May, slowing vine growth ahead of a wet and blustery first half of June. The gusts blowing up from the south played havoc with the vines as the blossoms began to fade. Summer finally appeared on June 22nd, and the gentle warmth soon turned into a heatwave. The storm on July 1st brought cooler temperatures, but also a touch of hail in the upper reaches of Beaujolais.





We started seeing very mixed results in the beginning of July, as the various episodes of frost, wind and hail affected each vineyard differently. Another heatwave swept the country, with the hottest temperatures on record, but June and July's twin heatwaves were mercifully short.

Despite these setbacks, the vines are all in excellent health. Blossoms appeared in early June, so we could expect to harvest the grapes from the first half of September – perfectly normal for successful vintages.

There is good reason to be optimistic. The season may have started on the wrong foot, but we're now looking at some excellent and smaller harvests – thanks mostly to the unpredictable weather.



Indeed, the southern vineyards were battered by an exceptionally ferocious storm on August 18th, with gale force winds and hail sweeping across the Pierres Dorées (where some of the Beaujolais Nouveau grapes come from). In technical terms, this was a supercell, a storm that rotates like a cyclone and brings torrential rainfall and sometimes hail. This storm rocked almost 3700 acres of Beaujolais vineyards, slashing their yields by half or even more, before several days of rainfall soothed the vines and the sun returned.

The end of August and the beginning of September were extremely sunny and dry, allowing the grapes to mature under good conditions.

The harvest was eventually scheduled to begin on September 9th. Under a benevolent sun, the grapes (while smaller and fewer than in previous years) ripened magnificently.

The yields may be low, but our first tastings have revealed some excellent young wines, bursting with fruity aromas of raspberry and redcurrant. On the palate they are fresh and inviting, revealing the purity of Gamay and the vivacity of a delicious young wine.

See you very soon !
From Beaujolais with love,

Georges & Franck DUBOEUF
The 26th September 2019



QUINTESSENTIAL WINES

