



## Vintage 2023

### Acceleration of Climate change

Climate changes already visible in 2022 were confirmed in 2023 with erratic rainfall, heatwaves, and a general increase in annual temperatures. Grape varieties most susceptible to mildew, such as Merlot, struggled to resist its attacks, while Cabernet proved more resilient.

#### **Budbreak :**

Winter was marked by mild temperatures one degree higher than average and a significant 37% decrease in water compared to the previous year, with only 4 days of negative temperatures, reaching just 0.1°C in February. Bud break began during the first week of April with temperatures 1.2°C above average, associated with a pre-epidemic risk of mildew contamination. The first grape clusters were abundant, and we removed the secondary buds.

#### **Flowering :**

The early flowering occurred from May 21 until the end of the month. We performed leaf thinning at the cluster level. June was punctuated by violent and frequent rains, washing away treatments and forcing us to reapply almost every three days to maintain preventive vine protection. Nevertheless, mildew attacked the Merlot plots, particularly on the clusters and not the leaves.

#### **Veraison :**

The risk of mildew persisted throughout June and July, accompanied by significant rainfall and temperature drops compared to the seasonal norm. Veraison began around July 15, concluding by the end of the month.

#### **Harvest :**

Harvesting took place from September 21 under sunny conditions.

#### **Wines :**

The harvest is less abundant for Merlot than for Cabernet, but both varieties are of high quality, with wines exhibiting aromas of hazelnuts, prunes, and very jammy cherries

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## CHÂTEAU FOUGAS

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