

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC

2004

2004 was a year with temperatures and water stress usual for Bordeaux.

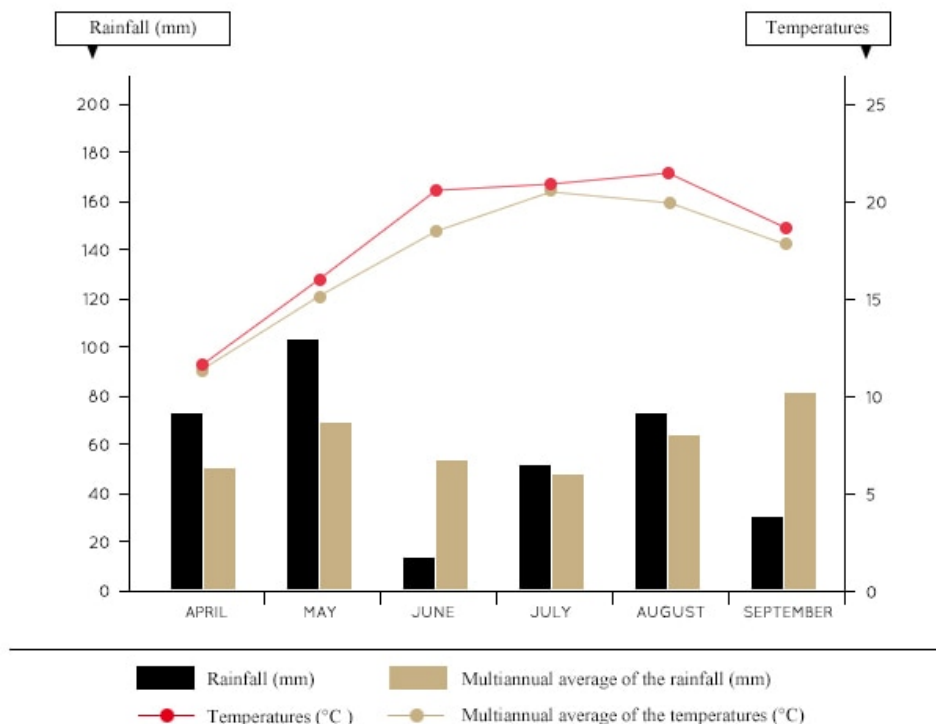
The wine is very classic, with excellent freshness, aromatic precision, and silky tannin.

TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

Temperatures were close to average at the start of the growing season. June was hot and dry, as was the first part of August despite a rainy period from the 8th to the 20th of that month. Early September was very warm, but cool weather set in on the 10th. The entire month was very dry.

After the heatwave of 2003, 2004 was a much more classic vintage.

2004 : TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL COMPARED WITH NORMAL VALUES IN SAINT-EMILION

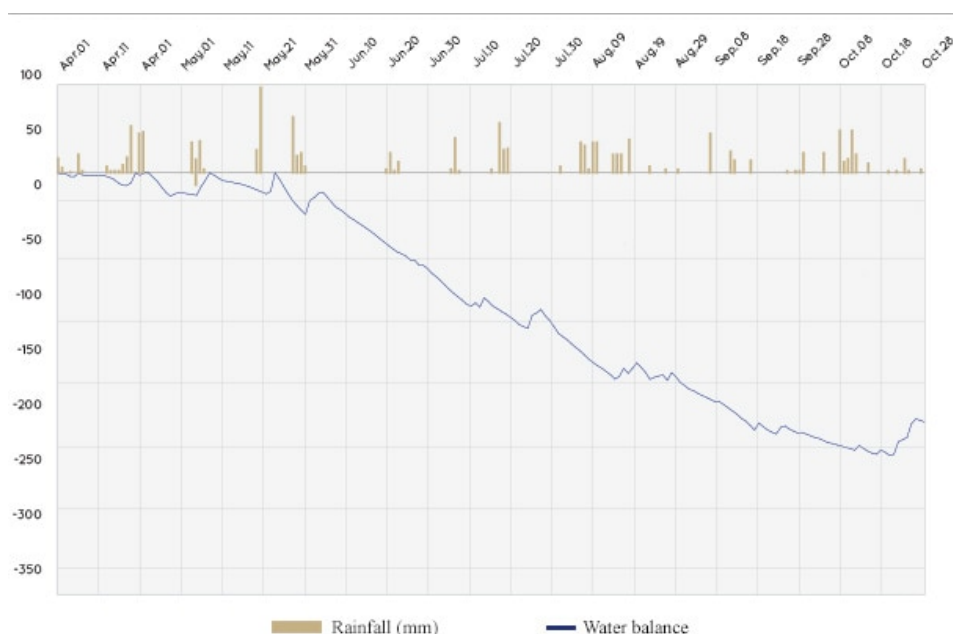


WATER BALANCE

The drought conditions in June created a water deficit that stopped vegetative growth earlier than usual,

especially in plots with gravelly soil. This was beneficial to quality.

2004 WATER BALANCE



GROWING SEASON

On the whole, vine growth was regular and balanced in 2004, only slightly behind seasonal averages. Bud break took place the first week in April. This slight time lag continued until flowering, which nevertheless took place quickly and evenly from the 6th to the 8th of June, with some disparity between Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Mid-flowering was also slightly delayed. This occurred on the 6th of August for Merlot and the 13th of that month for Cabernet Franc. So, the growing season practically made up for any delay by harvest time, which started on the 22nd of September and finished on the 5th of October.

Phenological stage	Merlot 2004	Average 1994-2014	Cabernet franc 2004	Average 1994-2014
Bud break	April, 3rd	March, 28th	April, 8th	April, 2nd
Flowering	June, 6th	May, 30th	June, 8th	June, 1st
Véraison	August, 6th	August, 2nd	August, 13th	August, 8th
Beginning of the Harvest	September, 22nd	September, 21st	September, 29th	September, 27th
End of the Harvest	September, 28th	September, 27th	October, 5th	October, 5th
Number of days between...				

Phenological stage	Merlot 2004	Average 1994-2014	Cabernet franc 2004	Average 1994-2014
Bud break and Flowering	65 days	63 days	62 days	60 days
Flowering and Véraison	62 days	64 days	67 days	68 days
Véraison and Harvest	47 days	48 days	47 days	50 days

While there was not much danger from mildew or oidium, there was more grey rot than the 1999-2009 ten-year average (1.1% for Merlot and 0.7% for Cabernet Franc). This is due to the combined effects of several rainy periods in August and potentially high yield that was nevertheless reduced by two rounds of bunch thinning.

RIPENING AND YIELDS

The fine weather during flowering was propitious to even, homogeneous ripening and a large crop. It was also conducive to large bunches. The size of the potential crop was quite large. Methodical cluster thinning was thus necessary to limit yields and pave the way for a successful vintage. To avoid compensation mechanisms by the vines, this bunch thinning was in fact done twice, once in July and again during véraison.

The berries were heavier than average despite the rather restricted water supply, which also explains the excellent fertilization during flowering. This also accounts for the number of seeds per berry, a source of growth hormones.

Reducing yields made it possible to produce very good wine in 2004. Early water stress helped to stop vine growth and enhance concentration. However, this water stress was not extreme thanks to a several showers in August. The weather during the harvest was excellent. This vintage was especially good for Cabernet Franc, which makes up 53% of the grand vin.

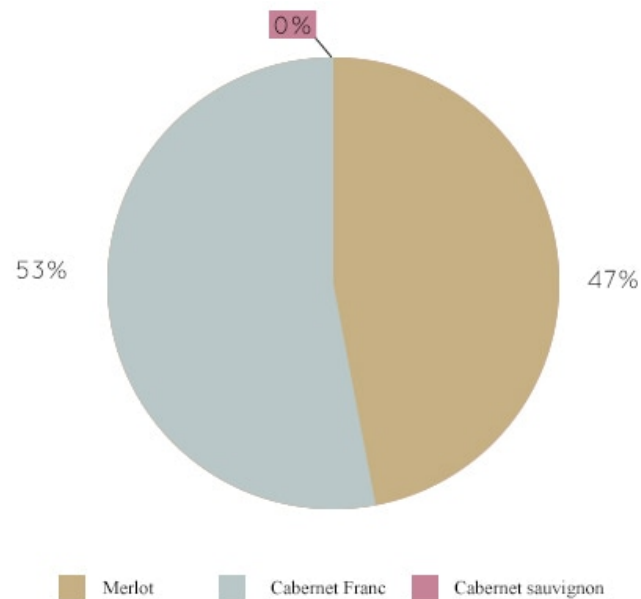
2004 yields (hl/ha)		Average from 1996 to 2014
Merlot	57.9	38.9
Cabernet Franc	51.4	34.2

CELLAR WORK

Maceration varied from 13-23 days. The blend contained 6% of press wine, and 10.2% of the wine was bled off from fermentation vats due to the large size of the grapes. Ageing took place in 100% new oak barrels for 16 to 17 months.

BLENDING

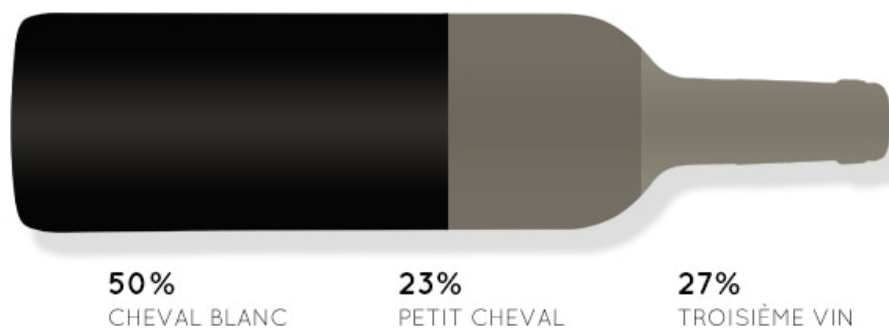
2004 CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC BLENDING



PLOTS COMPOSING 2004 CHEVAL BLANC



2004 PROPORTION OF THE DIFFERENT WINES, CHEVAL BLANC, PETIT CHEVAL & THIRD WINE



ALL 2004 CHATEAU CHEVAL BLANC BOTTLE SIZES



2 634	95 722	3 310	438	62	145	5	12	8	7
Demi-Bouteilles	Bouteilles	Magnums	Doubles-Magnums	Jéroboams	Impériales	Salmanazar	Balthazar	Nabucho donosors	Melchior

Degree of alcohol	13.5
Total acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	3.5
Volatile acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	0.52
pH	3.65
Total SO ₂ (mg/L)	77
Reducing sugar content (g/L)	1.4
IPT (DO280)	64