

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC

1989

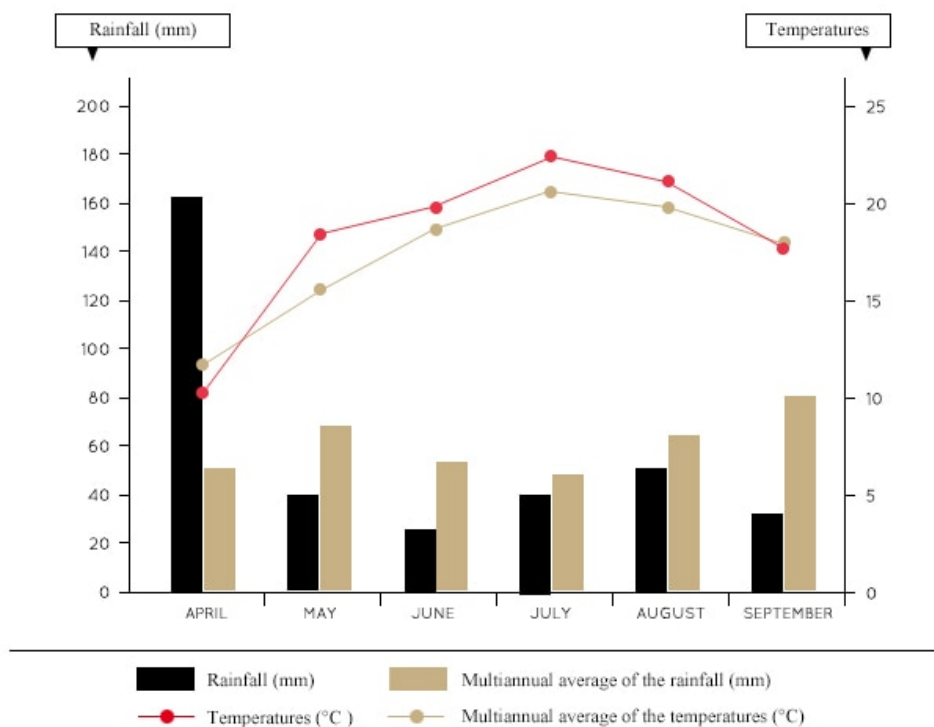
This was a very hot year with record drought conditions. The growing season started exceptionally early.

1989 Cheval Blanc is concentrated and fresh, with a bouquet of rare aromatic complexity displaying hints of ripe fruit and mint.

TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

This was a very hot, dry year. Cumulative rainfall was 664 mm at Bordeaux-Mérignac, i.e. 25% below the regional average. There was even less rain in Saint Emilion. While summer was quite hot, there was no true heat wave. The highest temperature recorded between véraison and the harvest was 32.5°C. Insolation was above average (+13% in July, August, and September).

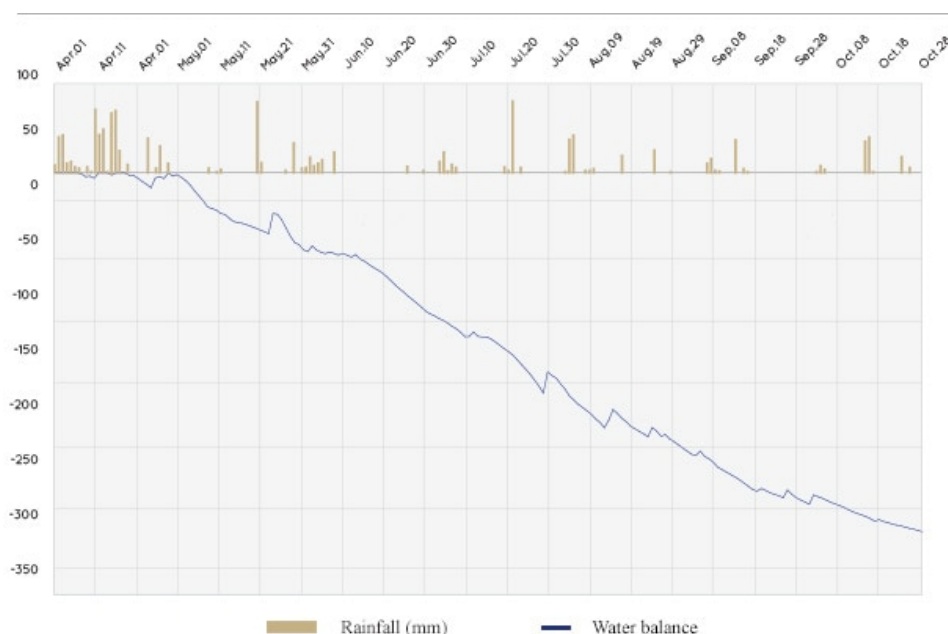
1989 : TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL COMPARED WITH NORMAL VALUES IN SAINT-EMILION



WATER BALANCE

In order to grow well, the vine needs for water stress to set in slowly so the grapes to ripen well and become concentrated. 1989 was one of the driest vintages in the past 50 years. Only 2005 had a more negative water balance.

1989 WATER BALANCE



GROWING SEASON

1989 was an exceptionally early year as well, with bud break in late March, flowering the last week in May, and véraison the first week of August. The harvest started on the 7th of September – the earliest date since the beginning of the 20th century for Château Cheval Blanc – and lasted until the 27th of that month. The crop was larger than usual.

	Merlot		Cabernet franc	
	Begin	End	Begin	End
1989 harvest dates	September, 7th			September, 27th
Average harvest dates (1986-2014)	September, 19th	September, 27th	September, 27th	October, 5th

RIPENING AND YIELDS

The fruit was in remarkably fine condition seeing as there had been very little threat all year long from vine diseases. The grapes were rich and concentrated.

The average degree of alcohol was 13°.

The somewhat excessive weather conditions created a slight gap in ripeness between the pulp and the skin. This explains why there are a few herbaceous notes in the complex bouquet.

1989 yield (hl/ha)	Average yield: 1946 to 2014
50.7	33.9

BLENDING

Degree of alcohol	13
Total acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	2.94
Volatile acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	0.55
pH	-
Total SO ₂ (mg/L)	124
Reducing sugar content (g/L)	1.6
IPT (DO280)	-