

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC

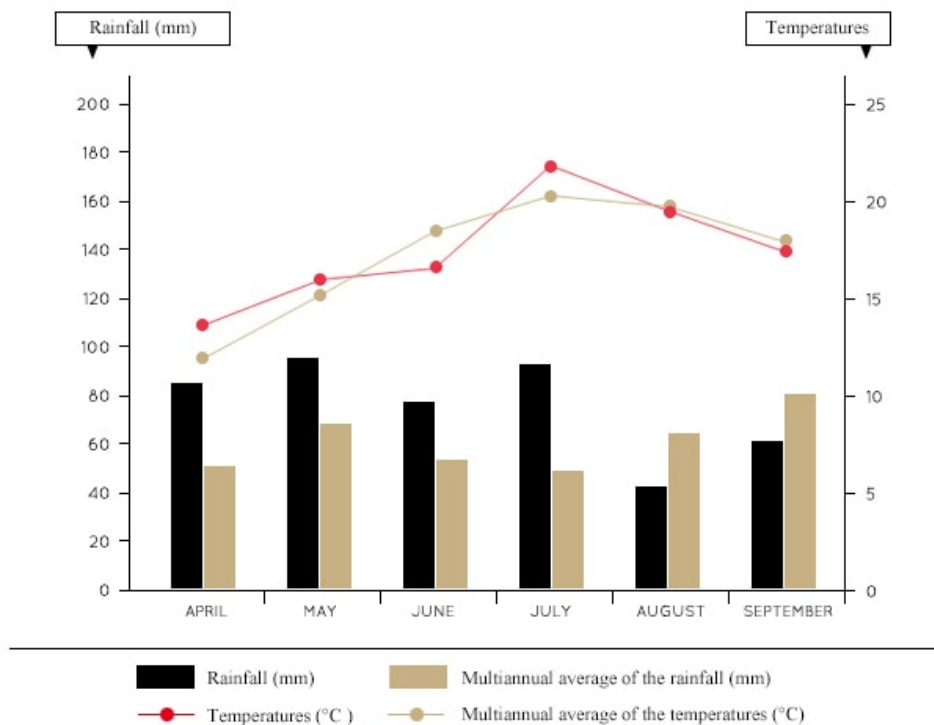
1971

1971 was a late-ripening year as well as a very wet one, especially during flowering. This led to very low yields. However, a magnificent Indian summer saved the vintage. 1971 Cheval Blanc is surprisingly round and seemingly sweet. It is one of the finest successes of the decade.

TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

The beginning of the growing season was difficult in 1971, with a great deal of rain. July was rainy and warm, which gave rise to a vigorous attack by vine diseases. Fine weather in August and September nevertheless saved the vintage.

1971 : 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. Due to rainfall all year long, there was practically no water deficit in 1971.

1971 WATER BALANCE



GROWING SEASON

The harvest was fairly late, lasting from the 30th of September to the 11th of October. The poor weather conditions during flowering caused a significant amount of coulure. Unsurprisingly, the crop was therefore small, with yields of just 18 hectolitres per hectare. This meant that 1971 Cheval Blanc was very concentrated. Cheval Blanc can be said to have produced the best wine in Bordeaux in this vintage which was somehow overlooked and forgotten, although it is excellent on the Right Bank.

	Begin	End
1971 harvest dates	September, 30th	October, 11th
Average harvest dates: 1946-2014	September, 24th	October, 8th

RIPENING AND YIELDS

1971 yield (hl/ha)	Average yield (1946 to 2014)
18.5	33.9

BLENDING

Degree of alcohol	12.5
Total acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	2.85
Volatile acidity (g H ² SO ₄ /L)	0.55
pH	3.8
Free SO ₂ (mg/L)	3
Reducing sugar content (g/L)	1.7
IPT (DO280)	46