



## **Newsletter France – September 2021**

France has experienced its most difficult growing season for many years, with drought conditions in the south and a washout summer elsewhere coming in behind severe April frost across the country. The French Ministry of Agriculture issued a harvest estimate on the 1st September of 33,3 million hectoliters: this would be a crop 29% down in size versus 2020 and 25% down on the five-year average.

The 2021 harvest season in southern France has been beset by frost, coulure, drought and some disease and the new crop is currently coming in lighter on the whites by as much as 50%. Chardonnay prices could rise by 50%+ this vintage. Harvesting on the reds is only just starting to get underway on the Pinot Noir and Grenache and volumes are disappointing. As well as tonnage, conditions will have reduced grape yield and rendered quality heterogeneous. Suppliers will struggle in some cases to meet all the needs of even their existing clients: buyers should be respecting loading terms on the pre-existing contracts, as suppliers may have to make difficult decisions.

Nowadays French suppliers are moving strongly to Spain and Italy in order to secure their needs increasing the normal demand at the begin of the crop.

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