



**DE LAS**

*Grands Vins de la Vallée du Rhône*

## **DELAS 2007 GRAPE HARVEST**

People will probably talk about the summer of 2007 for a long time to come. The Rhone Valley was no exception to the rule: after very early opening of the buds, the vine flowered very early in the season (between 20 May and 5 June). At the time, we were heading for a particularly early grape harvest. However, the weather during the following months proved wrong the most definite forecasts as regards the date of the harvest.

Of course, the wind that characterises our region helped us greatly to preserve quite outstanding healthy conditions of the vines. The only “catastrophic” episode was a very violent hailstorm on Côte-Rôtie on 21 June, which destroyed a considerable part of the harvest. Certain plots lost 60% to 65% of their crop, and our La Landonne plot selection was ruined.

The end of the period of ripening was particularly slow, and the plants looked very “weary”. The only thing that then enabled us to reach the desired levels of concentration in sugar and other constituents (anthocyanin, polyphenol, aromas, etc.) was concentration through loss of cellular water, which happened thanks to a beneficial *Mistral* wind that started on 29 August and lasted until 25 September.

The first grapes from Crozes-Hermitage and Condrieu arrived in the Delas fermenting cellar on 12 September and harvesting lasted until 2 October. Every plot behaved in a very particular way, and we had to spend a lot of time on the terrain to decide the order of grape-picking. Harvest in Cornas and in Côte-Rôtie only finished on Saturday 29 September and Monday 1 October. The white wines have fine rich aromas and are very pure. From the pumping-over stage, the Syrah grapes are of strong purplish colours. The malic acid content is very high this year, and it is too early to predict the acid balance of this vintage.

For southern areas, 2007 will be the year of record anthocyanin levels, particularly in Grenache grapes, which often lack colouring. Our bases of grape varieties for *assemblage* of Côtes-du-Rhône Saint-Esprit and Châteauneuf-du-Pape *appellations* shall probably include a larger than usual proportion of Grenache.

Direction et Service de Presse  
16, Rue Jeanson  
51160 Ay  
Tel : 03.26.56.94.00 Fax : 03.26.56.94.13