



DELAS

Grands Vins de la Vallée du Rhône

The 2014 harvest at Delas 2014, a promising vintage...

Following several very dry years, a rainy winter from the beginning of January through until mid March caused groundwater levels to swell. The skies then cleared from mid March through until the end of June.

Good water reserves combined with high temperatures resulted in early bud burst and a quick and healthy start to the vegetative cycle which led us to expect an early harvest in August. In mid May, flowering was followed by exceptional fruit set with almost every flower bearing fruit.

July and August were cooler and the rain returned, in small amounts, but every weekend. Although not enough to disrupt the vegetative cycle, it was enough to worry the wine growers. We lost the head-start from the beginning of the year and reverted to the averages seen in a "normal" year.

The end of summer was sunny and windy with ideal weather for healthy vines with optimum ripeness levels. This ensured perfect conditions for harvesting.

However, we had to wait until the final days of the harvest for the grapes to attain good phenolic maturity, with DELAS being one of the last to harvest, particularly in the Côte-Rôtie (between the 22nd and the 24th of September).

2014 was an excellent year for the hillside vineyard parcels which produced low yields of outstanding quality. This phenomenon was particularly evident in the "l'Oncle" parcel situated in Les Bessards (young vines) which was harvested on the 16th of September at optimum ripeness levels and with a potential alcohol level of 14.3°.

Overall, this intensely coloured vintage is smooth, elegant and well-balanced, reminiscent of the 2006 and 2011 vintages.

Due to the outstanding quality of the grapes, some barrels of the white wine underwent fermentation using indigenous yeasts under microbiological control, including a barrel of white Ste Epine from St Joseph.

The 2014 harvest also allowed DELAS FRERES to try out new equipment for processing the harvest (sorting tables, state of the art de-stemmer, crates and harvesting logistics).

In the southern vineyards, the Grenache ripened slowly and produced high yields. Despite a particularly high volume harvest in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the usual proportions of Syrah blended by Delas Frères should ensure good concentration and a consistent style for the Haute-Pierre *cuvée*.