



Impact of Climate Change Across the Burgundy Wine-Growing Region
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Current climate change is having an effect on vines. But there are still a large number of questions about the real impact of climate change on vineyards. Nevertheless, significant changes are already being observed in Burgundy.

Though this is an insufficient indicator to fully appreciate the repercussions of climate change, the start date of the harvest has been moved forward by about three weeks over the past 36 years.

Further, over the past forty years the key stages in the vine growth cycle have also changed. Flowering takes place about ten days earlier and the final formation of the grapes about twenty days earlier around the middle of July.

Another measurable change is the weight of the bunches of grapes, which have increased by 50% (+20g) over the past 12 years for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. This is directly linked to the number of grapes on each bunch, which has increased by 30% since 1994. This can be attributed to improved weather conditions (less rain, higher temperatures) during the setting period (when the flowers turn into fruit) resulting in a higher setting proportion.

Generally speaking, observations in the vineyards show that climate change contributes to the proper physiological functioning of the plant and also helps with the key phases in the development of the vine. But a direct consequence of this is that the vine grows more vigorously since the growth cycle lasts longer.

All of these factors mean that a larger number of grapes are produced, and this could have a negative effect on all the efforts to improve quality in recent years in terms of technology and the tending of the vines. Climate change is already with us and inevitable. Steps need to be taken today to adapt to this new situation and so ensure the sustainability of future wine-growing.