



RÉSERVE DE LA COMTESSE

| 2010

THE VINTAGE

After a cold and dry winter, **bud break** took place early April, later than usual, but under excellent climatic conditions.

Flowering occurred early June, under a difficult climate. Important rainfalls had significant adverse effects on pollination (coulture and millerandage) particularly in Pauillac.

We then decided to thin out the affected bunches. The adverse effect on yields was in fact marginal, but the effect on quality was significant since small millerandage-affected berries would have given more acidity and astringency to the wine.

Summer was characterized by sunny days followed by cool nights which allowed the grapes to mature in perfect conditions. Unlike 2009, temperatures remained regular and moderately high but **drought conditions** during the summer played an important role in the outcome of the vintage. From the beginning of April until the harvest at the beginning of October, only 181 millimetres of rain fell. That is less than half of the so-called normal seasonal average rainfall of the last 30 years. There was an early stop in vine vegetation growth due to the very dry growing season. As a result, mid-point for **veraison** was early (beginning of August), which enabled the grapes to start their ripening process quite early.

At Pichon, the average age of the vines is 35 years, the sub-soils are made up of deep layers of gravel, and the top soils are ploughed. All these factors work in favour of the terroir and the production of high quality wines. In these conditions the water constraints created by drought can generate higher wine quality, as long as the vine doesn't suffer stress.

Late summer weather provided ideal conditions for the grapes to reach perfect ripeness. Fine and dry weather, not too hot in the day and cool during the night brought about concentration in the berries, ripe tannins, very high levels of anthocyanins and perfectly healthy berries.

The good conditions of the season allowed us to take the necessary time to stagger our **picking** according to the results of our ripeness tests. We began on **September 22nd** in an early-ripening Merlot plot. We continued the picking on October 4 for interplanted vines, before harvesting the Petit-Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It was not until October 6 that we began picking the Cabernet Sauvignon. **The harvest finished on October 13th.**



| Bud Break | Flowering | Veraison | Harvest |
|--------------|---|--------------|--|
| 9 - 16 April | May, 31 st - June, 7 th | 1 - 9 August | Sept, 27 th - Oct, 13 th |

THE WINE

ALCOHOL

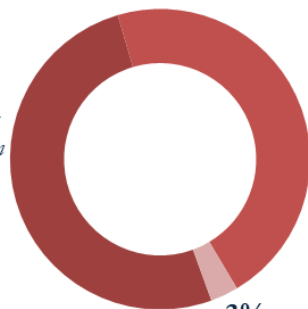
14% VOL

PH

3,7

BLEND

51%
Cabernet
Sauvignon



3%
Petit Verdot

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FINE WINE

Est. 1997

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