



## CHATEAU LAROZE

### SAINT-EMILION Grand Cru Classé

## VINTAGE SHEET

2006

### THE 2006 GROWING YEAR

The growth cycle in 2006 was four days earlier than that of 2005 and plant development was faster because the water supply was better. By mid-June, growth had significantly slowed down and the first signs of hydric stress appeared in early July on the young vines. Fortunately a storm brought us 40mm of life-saving, refreshing rainfall that fed the vines.

The lack of water and the heat wave affected grape ripening by slowing it down; the heat wave was over at the end of July and the 25mm of rainfall on the end of July meant that ripening could begin in good conditions.

Then another 15mm of rain fell in mid-August, which preserved the vines from a too severe drought. Even though August was dry, it was cooler than usual; night temperatures dropped from the beginning of the month as a northerly wind set in. By the end of August the grapes were of a normal size and in healthy condition, looking better than in 2005, as they had not suffered so much from the drought conditions. We carried out the second thinning out operation on the south and west sides later than usual during the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> August to avoid the risk of the grapes burning in the very intense sun. Unluckily for us, early September saw a return of the heat wave conditions that one normally associates with normal, hot August days. The resulting scalded bunches were inevitable. From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, rainfall totalled 130mm, whereas the average figure recorded over the last seven years is only 41mm!

In conclusion, August was cool and drier than usual, while September was very hot, then rainy - not the most ideal conditions for a premium vintage. However, the grapes displayed definite potential with their thick skins, rich in anthocyanins. The lack of heat had to be compensated for by harvesting as late as possible. So in waiting for the best possible maturity we had to accept to loose a significant quantity of grapes. The yield was 33,7 hl/ha, but after rigorous selection, only 26 make Château Laroze this year.

## THE HARVEST

The grape seeds ripened slowly and we pushed this maturation as far as possible, to the extent that we finished our harvest after certain neighbouring estates, on later cropping *terroirs* that usually finish three to seven days after us.

Our fruit screening system that sorts the grapes into three categories made this possible: the round grapes, those that are slightly split and those that are crushed with the juice that escapes from them. All three are handled and vinified separately.

Definitely a great system to have when you get weather like in 2006!

## The vintage in figures

MID-FLOWERING DATES	Merlots: 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Cabernets: 5 <sup>th</sup> June	
DATES FOR MID-POINT OF COLOUR CHANGE	Merlots: 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Cabernets: 8 <sup>th</sup> August	
HARVESTING DATES	Merlots: from 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept to 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Cabernets: from 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Cabernets Sauvignons: oct 4th
WINE YIELD	3,370 litres per hectare		
Percentage of NEW BARRELS			
Laroze	66 % new barrels	33 % 1-year-old barrels	
Lafleur Laroze		90 % 1-year-old barrels	10 % vats
LENGTH OF BARREL AGEING			
Laroze	12/14 months		
Lafleur Laroze	10 months		
FINNING	Laroze : no	Lafleur Laroze : no	
FILTRATION	Laroze: yes	Lafleur Laroze: yes	
BOTTLING	May 2008		
NUMBER OF BOTTLES	Laroze : 83 000 bottles	Lafleur Laroze : 17 000 bottles	
Percentage 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> WINE	Laroze : 83 %	Lafleur Laroze : 17 %	
BLEND	% Merlots	% Cab. Francs	% Cab. Sauv.
Laroze	73 %	26%	1%
Lafleur Laroze	75 %	10 %	15 %



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