

## HARVEST UPDATE 2018

# Vins de Provence: a beautiful harvest and an anticipated increase in overall volume

The harvest is complete in the majority of the Provence vineyard and is coming to an end in areas where the grapes have ripened later. The condition of the grapes is excellent and despite some disparities between areas, it is projected that, overall, there will be higher volumes than anticipated.



The harvest schedule suggests that 2018 will certainly be an atypical year in Provence, with a harvest spread over an extended period of time. Whilst the harvest is almost complete in a portion of the vineyard, several areas in the region still have a week of harvesting ahead of them.

### A HARVEST IN IDEAL CONDITIONS ...

After a year with high levels of rainfall, the harvest began at the end of August with exceptional weather conditions. September offered optimal conditions for the vines: sunny afternoons and cool evenings, where temperatures dropped to below 10°C. A much welcomed mistral and a lack of rainfall meant that the grapes were in excellent condition at the time of picking.

### ... ALLOWING OPTIMAL VINE MANAGEMENT, AN INDICATION OF THE QUALITY OF THE WINES

The excellent weather and health conditions from August onwards allowed producers to spread their harvests over time and to wait until the end of maturity, in almost every plot. We can, therefore, expect a very high quality harvest.

### DISPARITIES IN VOLUMES BUT OVERALL RESULTS ARE UP

The first results show areas with an increase in volume (in the Bouches-du-Rhône and along the coast) and others with lower volumes (in the Centre-Var). Whilst it is still too early to tell, as we await the late harvests (in areas such as in the Var backcountry), the overall sense is that the harvest will be better than in 2017. However, we will need to wait two months for the winemakers to confirm this.

## VINS DE PROVENCE

Located between the Mediterranean and the Alps, the Vins de Provence vineyard brings together three appellations d'origine contrôlée, spanning some 200 km through the Bouches-du-Rhône, the Var and the Alpes-Maritimes. These are the AOP Côtes de Provence, AOP Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence and the AOP Coteaux Varois en Provence. They are brought together in the Conseil Interprofessionnel des Vins de Provence (CIVP), which unites some 486 private wine cellars, 61 cooperatives and around a hundred wine merchants. In 2017, they produced the equivalent of around 155 million bottles of red (7%), white (4%) and rosé (89%), the historic speciality of Vins de Provence.