

Harvest Report 2009, Greece

Harvest in Greece begins in August in the islands and ends at the end of October in the mainland.

In general, 2009 had a rainy winter and spring, and a mild summer without extreme heat but with strong winds. At the end of summer, it seemed to be a very good year for all the wine regions. But the rainfall in September, in the middle of harvest, created problems in some of them.

The Aegean Islands

With the unusual spring rains and with the help of summer's northern winds, grapes matured slowly, giving well balanced white wines with an impressive potential in flavour and very good acidities.

Excellent year for Santorini, Paros, Rhodes, Limnos and Samos.

In the same category we could also add Crete, if not for the heavy rainfalls in the middle of September. We can say that the white wines coming from early harvest have an aromatic complexity. In relation to the red ones, those that came for the harvest before the rain present a very good colour intensity, rich flavour, and a balance taste. On the other hand, regarding those that the harvest took place after the rains the factors that determined the quality of the wines were the proper treatment of the vineyard during the whole year, the situation of the vineyard (mountainous, in a plain, fertile, e.t.c.) and the supervision of the winemaker.

Peloponnese

- Nemea

This year Nemea seemed to have a late harvest of good quality and an increase quantity. After the continuous rain in September everything had changed.

The growers that take care of their vineyards using appropriate practices (thinning, control of the production etc) could vinify a typical Nemea without problems but also without arriving in a phenolic maturity.

On the contrary, vineyards in plains or in heavy soils with high yield, could not even manage to mature.

-Patras

Mavrodaphni and Muscat present interesting results, Roditis harvested after the rain had problems with the sanitary state of the crop.

All the early maturing white grapes typically harvested at the end of August, seem to have had one of their best years.

-Mantinia

This is one of the lately harvested regions . Therefore, the "little summer" that came after the September rains gave the opportunity to the vines to recover and mature properly. This fact allows us to say that a well balanced, typical Mantinia of 2009 would not be a surprise after all.

Central Greece

-In Attica, for the early maturing varieties and Savatiano, it was a very good year with the exception of some regions of NE Attica which were affected by the extensive fires.

-In Boeotia, in spite of the increased production, the results were not as expected due to the rainfalls at the beginning of the harvest.

-For Metsovo it has been an excellent year with aromatic white and rich reds, which reached their phenolic maturity.

-Zitsa's harvest at the end of September gave fresh, well matured white wines.

Northern Greece

A very good year and a difficult one at the same time.

Matured, full bodied and rich in flavour and taste white wines and rose (Amyntaio), represent the good part of this year's harvest.

The same applies to the late harvested red at Naoussa and Goumenissa that could wait for the benefits of the sunny weather after the rains.