

2020 Vintage

The 2020 vintage began with no particular issues in winter, when temperatures were mild and precipitations and snowfalls few and far between. The first part of spring was relatively dry and sunny, ensuring a homogeneous resumption of plant growth, which began at the end of February and ended - for the later-ripening varieties - towards late March. The months of March and April were marked by fine weather and mild temperatures, with little rainfall, predicting in the first instance an early harvest. This forecast was proved wrong in May however, when a considerable number of rainy days was recorded in an unstable climate that continued until late June. On the one hand, the advantage built up at the beginning of spring was worn out by the slowing down in plant growth, while on the other hand, the accumulation of water in the soil, combined with not overly high temperatures during the summer, prevented water stress issues. As far as production volume is concerned, while early estimates tended to highlight high quantities, particularly for the early-ripening varieties, thanks to the traditional practice of green harvesting the situation was later normalized, further enhancing the quality of the grapes. In general, climate conditions were ideal, with some soil management difficulties happening towards the end of spring, due to early fungal attacks, as a result of May and June's rainfall. Fortunately, these were not accompanied by hailstorms or any other significant weather events.

The harvest began for the white grape varieties in early September, around one week earlier than the historical average. Sugar and acidity levels proved to be lower than in the past, but they remained steady during vinification, ensuring great balance between these two components which is critical for this type of wine. Harvesting continued with the Dolcetto, which has produced wines with very elegant aromas despite a drop in temperatures in some areas early in September, resulting in a slowing down in the accumulation of sugars and a delayed harvest. As far as the varieties with a longer ripening cycle, such as Barbera and Nebbiolo, are concerned, the harvest looked like being an early one as soon as veraison took place between the beginning and the middle of August. The subsequent drop in temperatures led to a temporary slowing down in ripening, which restarted exponentially in the second half of September. Barbera, in particular, immediately showed excellent parameters on analysis, with great sugar and acidity.

Nebbiolo proved to be in excellent condition when it was ready for picking: moderate overnight temperatures led to a rapid accumulation of polyphenols, which were already at excellent levels by the middle of September. Growth was constant, rather than exponential, so the grapes reached technological maturation - in other words optimal sugar levels - between the end of September and early October. In terms of acidity too, neither the Nebbiolo nor the Barbera suffered the losses typical of short-cycle and hotter vintages. This may be due to early growth resulting from the substantial supply of water at the beginning of the summer, which allowed the vines to physiologically develop in the best possible way.

In conclusion, also considering grape ripening control data, the 2020 vintage can be said to be extremely good with points of excellence, especially for the medium-long ageing wines, which are showing characteristics that are perfect for achieving winemaking distinction.