

# Louis Latour

MAISON FONDÉE EN 1797

Domaine Louis Latour

## Vegetative Cycle 2017



**2**017 is an early vintage of high quality, which revives with more usual volume. The wines are balanced and expressive, with freshness and fruity aromas prevailing. An outstanding vintage is budding!

### 2017 Plant Cycle :

**Bud break :** 29th March (13 days in advance\*) - bud sprawl on April, 4th.

**Flowering :** 26th May (8 days in advance\*)

**Véraison/ripening :** 26th July (7 days in advance\*)

**Harvest:** 4th September (10 days in advance\*)

### French Climate Analysis - 2017:

*A very cold period between December and January. It has been a long time since such low temperatures have been recorded over such a significant period.*

*Radical change for February and March when normals are exceeded by 2° C!*

*Normals temperatures in April and May before a significant heat spike in June (+ 2.3° C / normal) and a maintenance of high temperatures until the end of August.*

*Average temperature slightly above normal over the period April-September.*

The year 2017 is characterized by a warm climate, low rainfall and sunshine. This ideal season allows the vine to grow in harmony while minimizing the attack of mildew and growth of weeds.

Despite this "easy" year, some important climatic events have affected the development of the vine. After an historical early budburst (in April 4, as in 1943 and 1989) due to a very mild March, we come close to a frost disaster between April 25 and April 29, with a drastic drop in temperatures. To avoid any loss of harvest, we crisscross the vineyard for several nights, especially on April 26, when we decide to light candles in Corton-Charlemagne.

Beginning of May, temperatures rise up sharply, allowing the vine to grow very quickly and causing an intensive pace of work. The flowering takes place on May 30th, as the legendary year of 1947.

Then, if the rainfall is light, it is perfectly timed to allow a complete growth of the vine (70 mm between bunch closure and veraison).

In August, despite the flower abortion that hit the whites, the harvest is expected to be bigger than in previous years. At the end of the month, the vines suffer from drought, preventing the phenolic maturities to evolve.

Fortunately, 15 mm of salutary rain, fall on August 31, clearing the situation. The harvest starts on September 4th.

The ripening of the grapes is very heterogeneous according to the parcels. Indeed, the vines reacted differently to hydric stress, depending on the nature of the soils. This year in particular, it is vital to control the development of the phenolic maturities, plot by plot, to organize the picking (analyzes and tastings of berries).

Thus, the crop of the Charlemagne's parcels spreads from the 4th to 16th September. The grapes are magnificent. The sanitary state is perfect, with high sugar levels and great acidities (mainly tartaric). The situation is similar in red. The harvest take place over 14 days, from 4 to 17 September. The quality of the grapes is exceptional.

The vinification takes place serenely and the wines have a beautiful maturity.

The Chardonnay offers very balanced wines, fruity, powerful with a nice tension.

Pinot Noir wines have vibrant, strong colors with intense aromas of red and black fruit together with silky tannins.

The wines are well-balanced and show great finesse and elegance.

Christophe Déola,  
Director of Domain Louis Latour  
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2017 Moyenne (1981-2010)

