



Beaujolais Wineries Celebrate Completion of 2011 Harvest
Vintage ranked as high quality, following three year trend of excellence

November 17, 2011 – New York, NY: For the 2011 harvest, Beaujolais was blessed with almost ideal weather conditions: abundant sunshine in the spring and consistently low rainfall during the summer, a French rarity. As a result, grapes were allowed to reach the peak of ripeness three weeks earlier than last year, putting 2011 among the earliest harvests the region has experienced in several decades.

Grape picking in Beaujolais began in the third week of August and completed in mid-September. Vine and grape health were excellent, producing top quality grapes with ripe stalks and pips, thick skins and good sugar and balanced acidity. The natural fermentation cycle was steady, progressively releasing color and tannins while retaining all the aromas and flavors of the ideal Gamay grape. While the ripeness of the grapes were equivalent to the 2009 harvest, this year's lower acidity, resulted in wines that are concentrated yet supple.

With vinification now ending in the cellars, early tastings of the 2011 vintage reveal luxurious wines that are deep in color with refined, fruity notes of ripe red and black fruit. Full in the mouth, these wines show incredible balance, with bright acidity and a long finish on the palate. "2011 is a vintage with a wide palette of aromas and flavors," notes Bertrand Chatelet, technical manager of the Sicarex, a research institute in Villefranche-sur-Saône devoted to the study of Beaujolais vineyards. "The wines are rich and powerful without losing any of their freshness. Their great, rounded mouthfeel makes them delectable."

2011 is already a promising vintage, in the same vein as 2009 and 2010. After the extraordinary vintage of 2009, marked by its great concentration and balance between ripeness and acidity, and the classic 2010 vintage, endowed with superb aromatic expression and great finesse, Beaujolais has followed up with a lovely opulent and silky vintage in 2011.

Through this trilogy, Beaujolais is reviving its bond with structured, intense wines that skilfully marry the richness of flavours with the finesse of tannins, a performance unmatched by any other vineyard in France this year.

Want to learn more about Beaujolais' 2011 harvest?

Save the date for November 17th for a celebration of Beaujolais Nouveau 2011 in your area and contact us for more details on the US celebration of the 2011 release of Beaujolais wines.

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