Modified grape composition under Climate Change conditions requires adaptations in the vineyard

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# Climate Change results in increased temperatures...

# Increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>



#### Increase in temperatures



#### Neethling et al., 2011



Météo France

#### .... and increased water deficits



# Not necessarily because of reduced rainfall



#### Consequences of increased temperatures





Grape composition at ripeness in Languedoc (Source: Dubernet laboratory, Narbonne)



#### Advanced harvest dates

Grapes : Higher sugar levels Lower acidity



- Dried fruit aromas increased with harvest date and grape maturity
- y-nonalactone increased with dried fruit aromas and harvest date (oxidation mecanism)

Poster L. ALLAMY : Number

### in recent vintages from a same estate



#### Consequences of increased water deficit





## Conditions for producing high quality « terroir » wines

- Grapes must reach full ripness
- Grapes should not ripen in the hottest part of the season
- → Ideal window for ripeness : between September 10 and October 10
- Risk with climate change : too early ripening

# Adaptations to increased temperatures

Delay ripeness

#### Delay maturity : 1 - training system

- Late pruning
  - Up to one week delayed bud break
- Trunk height
  - Lower maximum
    temperatures in the fruit
    zone



#### FIGURE 190 Evolution moyenne durant 3 années de la température minima et de la température maxima mesurées sous abri à 20 cm et à 2 m par CHAPTAL à Montpellier, Bel Air.

Champagnol, 1984

#### Delay maturity : 2 - Canopy management

- Limitation of leaf area / fruit weight ratio
  - Delays veraison
  - Decreases grape sugar (slower accumulation)
  - Little effect on acidity
- Effect on aromas and skin phenolics ?



#### Delay maturity : 3a – Plant material (rootstock)

- Up to one week delay in veraison
- Likely even more at ripeness

Merlot grafted on 4 different rootstocks in the Saint-Emilion area



Boehler et van Leeuwen, unpublished

## Delay maturity: 3b - Plant material (variety)

- Variety choice is the most powerfull tool to delay maturity
- Change variety among existing varieties
  - Merlot -> Cabernet-Sauvignon
- Introduce new varieties



### Delay maturity : 3c - Plant material (clone)

#### • Up to 8 days delay in veraison among clones

Cloanl collection of Cabernet franc, Saint-Emilion

Porcontago of vorsison

		r ercentage of veraison				
	Clones	03/08/2009	07/08/2009	11/08/2009	Mid veraison	
09 05 73	Α	58%			02/08/2009	
27 37 78	н	52%			03/08/2009	
27 44 14	l I	46%	72%		04/08/2009	
27 23 66	G	46%	84%		04/08/2009	
14 47 62	F	43%	85%		04/08/2009	
11 34 28	С	45%	70%		04/08/2009	
13 32 08	D	28%	65%		05/08/2009	
13 55 39	E	38%	85%		05/08/2009	
27 44 63	J	36%	76%		05/08/2009	
11 28 26	В	17%	63%		05/08/2009	
GR 07 30	К	23%	48%	69%	08/08/2009	
14 52 45	L	20%	39%	65%	09/08/2009	
GR 08 26	М	18%	33%	63%	10/08/2009	

van Leeuwen et al., 2013, JAFC 13

# All these options can be combined and implemented consecutively

- Regional specifications
- For most regions these options will allow maintaining production and typicity at least untill 2050

Action	delay in maturity (days)		
Higher truncs	3 - 5		
Later pruning	3 - 5		
Dereased LA / FW ratio	5 - 12		
Rootstock	3 - 6		
Clone	3 - 8		
Local variety	0 - 14		
Non local variety	10 - 25		
Total with local varieties	17 - 50		
Total with non local varieties	27 - 61		

Simulation maturity dates PR = recent past FP = 2020 - 2050 FL = 2070 - 2100



Pieri, 2012, Climator

#### Choice of harvest dates

- Easy to implement adaptation to modify grape composition
- Paradoxe : over the past 30 years tendancy to increased veraison - harvest duration (« hang time »)



# Adaptations to increased water deficits

### Adaptation to increased water deficits : 1a - Plant material: rootstock

- The use of drought resistant rootstocks (110 R) is cost effective and environmental friendly
- New drought resistant rootstocks should be created



RGM3



Photo: Pr. H. Schultz

#### Adaptation to increased water deficits : 1b - Plant material : grapevine variety

- Mediterrenean varieties are drought resistant
- Avoid using sensitive varieties in dry climates



•Appellation: Campo de Borja, Aragon, Spain •Annual rainfall : 350 mm •Photos taken on 10 septembre 2006 by Miguel Lorente

## Adaptation to increased water deficits : 2 - training system

- Long traditrion to cultivate vines in meditarranean regions : gobelet trained « bushvines »
- Low leaf area and low yield
- High quality wines can be produced with less than 400 mm annual rainfall and without irrigation



## Adaptation to increased water deficits : 3 – Soil water holding capacity

- Avoid planting vines on soils with low Soil Water Holding Capacity
- Assess SWHC before plantation

Example: vineyard on hard Urgonien limestone in la Clape



# Adaptation to increased water deficits : 4 - Irrigation

- With irrigation economically sustainable yields can be reached in dry areas
- But: water ressources are declining
- Irrigation can induce salinity problems
- Some blocks can never be irrigated

![](_page_20_Picture_5.jpeg)

Drought in Californie

![](_page_20_Picture_7.jpeg)

Salt stress in irrigated vines

#### Which priorities for water use?

 Is it reasonable to use 100 to 150 liter of water to produce 1 bottle of wine

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Long tradition of dry farmed vineyards in mediterranean regions

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

Marocco

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_5.jpeg)

Greece

![](_page_22_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### It is possible to produce very high quality wines in dry regions with dry farming

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

Henschke's Hill of Grace

![](_page_23_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Economic equation

- With increased drought, yield decreases

- Jereas Joreas Jorease Jorease production Decrease production cost (for able to harvest gobelet trained vine harvester able to harvest pevelopping a mechanical harvester able to harvest bevelopping a mechanical harvest bevelopping a harvest bevelopping

# Conclusion

- Increased temperatures : advanced phenology and higher temperatures during grape ripening
- Delay maturity
- Plant material is the most promising option
- Increased drought induces reduction in yield
- Three options :
  - Increase yield through irrigation
  - Decrease production costs by mechanization of gobelet vines
  - The use of drought resistant plant material is a cheap and evironmentally friendly option