



CHÂTEAU LES TROIS CROIX

*Famille Patrick Léon*

**2021 Vintage**

**Certification:** Château Les Trois Croix is certified HVE (High Value for Environment) level 3

**Budbreak:** march 23 th.

**Mid-flowering dates:** June 1 st for Merlot, and June 5 th for Cabernet Franc.

**Vineyard work:** A first de-leafing by hand on the vine's eastern side was made on all parcels beginning from July 1st th to July 16 th.

A second manual de-leafing on the southern side was made on all parcels beginning from august 30 th to September 6 th.

Green-harvesting for quality and quantity was done on all parcels just before véraison.

**Harvest dates:** Merlot and cabernet franc : from September 29 th to October 12 th .  
Manual picking in 10 kg crates.

**Yield:** 31 hl / hectare

**Vatting:** from 18 to 24 days for the Merlot and cabernet franc  
Daily partial pumping-over and brief punching down in wood vats.

**Grape varieties:** 88 % Merlot  
12 % Cabernet Franc

**Ageing:** 32 % new barrels / 40 % one-fill barrels.  
18 % two-fill barrels / 10 % in vats.

**Alcohol level :** 13,8 %

**The vintage in a few words :**

The winter of 2020-2021 was rather mild and humid. The cold weather observed in January did not last and from February onwards, temperatures increased quickly leading to an early budbreak.

After a very cold and dry spring lasting until the end of April followed by a rainy May, the advance in the vegetative cycle was negated. Flowering and fruit set took place in good conditions with cold night-time temperatures: there was significant "coulure" on the oldest merlot plots.

A stormy period between mid-June and mid-July led to moderate mildew benefiting conditions. The weather became dry again but the temperatures were still a little cool for the season. September was a continuation of August with a rainy instance which did not disturb the harvests of the merlot and cabernet franc plots.

The low yields observed contributed to the quality of a vintage where the climatic conditions were not always optimal but finally we have a good vintage very classical.