



Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

Vintage 2016

While the final overall annual statistic would be suggestive of a very average year in terms of temperatures, sunshine hours and rain, 2016 was anything but this: An extreme first half year with remarkable temperature variations and well-above average rain challenged the vines a lot, before they had to adopt to very calm, extremely dry weather conditions in the second half. Despite an unusually sunny August and September, the grapes ripened at leisurely pace, prompting us to start harvest only very slowly on 10th October. Very calm weather conditions in the following weeks allowed us to continue very unhurriedly, and finish only in mid November.

The year 2016 started with a January that had both rather cold periods with temperatures down to minus 9°C, and warm temperatures up to +14°C, more rain, but also more sun than the average. February then was mild, yet brought more rain. The latter continued through March, which was a comparatively cold month. Extreme weather conditions followed in April, with a peak of 22°C on 21st April and then a drop down to 0°C only three days later. Budbreak had started in mid April, so we were very fortunate that the dramatic fall of temperatures did not harm the vines in our vineyards, as they did in other regions.

The rather extreme weather conditions continued in May – after a cool start with temperatures still not exceeding 2°C on May 4, they shot up to 26°C only 4 days later. Some beautiful, sunny days allowed this month to nearly reach the average amount of sun hours. However, more rain followed, finally exceeding the longterm average of that month by more than 40%. And nature did not calm down in June: Again, remarkable variations of temperatures in June were experienced: 8°C on 20th June, 34°C only three days later. Overall, there was 50% more rain than usual, and a third less sunshine.



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Vintage 2016 (continued)

July, finally, brought the turn: Hardly any rain at all and many sunshine hours. Temperatures were still varying a lot, between 10°C on 15th July and 35°C five days later. Overall, the average temperature was slightly above the longterm average. The same patterns – very little rain and huge variations in temperatures – continued in August and September. These months were the sunniest in the whole year, both exceeding 220 sun hours, which meant more than 60% more sunshine in September than usual.

October, then, again, was mostly dry and temperatures decreased to the average. Only slowly did we start harvest on October 10, when the grapes finally reached good ripeness levels. Harvest went on at a leisurely pace, well into November, which spoiled us with above-average sunshine. We only finished harvest on 14th November, bringing home the last, fully ripe and slightly botrytized “Goldcapsule” grapes.

The long harvest brought us a well-balanced range of Kabinette, Spätlesen and Auslesen, and in the final phase a limited quantity of partially botrytis-affected Goldcapsule grapes. Though this was not a high botrytized vintage, we could also select a small portion of noble rot grapes at Beerenauslese level in November.

Early tastings revealed wines of high balance and finesse, with a very pronounced minerality, expressing the vineyard characteristics particularly well.

We are looking forward to experiencing another unique vintage that handled its natural challenges remarkably well, in a very relaxed manner.