

# Gavin Quinney's Bordeaux Report

THE WEATHER 2014

---

To understand the weather is to understand the vintage - and the wines.

*“My first vintage was in 1964 and I can honestly say that, since then, no two vintages have been the same. Every vintage has been different and has its own character.”*

Jean-Claude Berrouet, winemaker at Petrus 1964-2007 and now a consultant,  
during the harvest at Petrus, 3 October 2014.



# Introduction

---

The English are renowned for talking about the weather and the following report, it could be said, takes this to a new level. As a grower and wine producer in Bordeaux, the impact on the different grape varieties and terroirs is fairly obvious. (It can also be quite dramatic, speaking as a *viticulteur* who lost half the crop to hail in 2009 and 2013.)

Over the years, I've gathered a fair amount of data and visited hundreds of vineyards across the region. The evolution of the vines and the grapes, from budburst in the spring through to the autumn harvest, can be completely absorbing, even before we get to taste the wines.

Admittedly, this report on the weather in Bordeaux in 2014 will only be of interest to a select few. If you're one of them (my commiserations), it should work well on an iPad, laptop or desktop, or on a mobile with a larger screen.

**Gavin Quinney**

Twitter @GavinQuinney

# Table of contents

---

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>4.</b> 10 Points About the Weather  | <b>13.</b> Bordeaux Temperature Comparison 2005 - 2014 |
| <b>5.</b> Bordeaux Rainfall & Temperature 2014                                 | <b>15.</b> Bordeaux Weather March 2014                 |
| <b>6.</b> Bordeaux Yields 2006 - 2014  | <b>17.</b> Bordeaux Weather April 2014                 |
| <b>7.</b> Bordeaux Rainfall by Region 2014                                     | <b>19.</b> Bordeaux Weather May 2014                   |
| <b>8.</b> Bordeaux Rainfall (No. of days of rain) 2014                         | <b>21.</b> Bordeaux Weather June 2014                  |
| <b>9.</b> The same vine in St-Emilion during veraison,<br>or colour change (%) | <b>23.</b> Bordeaux Weather July 2014                  |
| <b>10.</b> Bordeaux Rainfall Comparison 2005 - 2014                            | <b>25.</b> Bordeaux Weather August 2014                |
| <b>11.</b> Bordeaux Temperature by Region 2014                                 | <b>27.</b> Bordeaux Weather September 2014             |
| <b>12.</b> Bordeaux Sunshine Hours Comparison 2005 - 2014                      | <b>29.</b> Bordeaux Weather October 2014               |

# Bordeaux 2014 - 10 points about the weather

---

Overall 2014 was a 'book-end' vintage: a relatively cool and damp summer was propped up by excellent flowering in June, and glorious September sunshine prior to the harvest.

---

The wet and mild winter, notably in January and February, led to an early bud burst at the end of an equally mild March.

---

The vines burst into life with the April sunshine, but slowed down during a chilly May.

---

Plenty of sunshine in the first half of June was excellent for the flowering on the whole, with some exceptions.

---

July was relatively cool and damp, despite heat spikes. The vines didn't get the hydric stress they needed to focus on fruit production.

---

August was cooler and damper too, mildew had to be kept at bay during the holidays, and confidence was low.

---

September saw the turnaround. A dry and sunny six weeks from the end of August to early October transformed the vintage.

---

Rain in the second week of October took some of the shine off the harvest. A week more of sunshine would have been perfect.

---

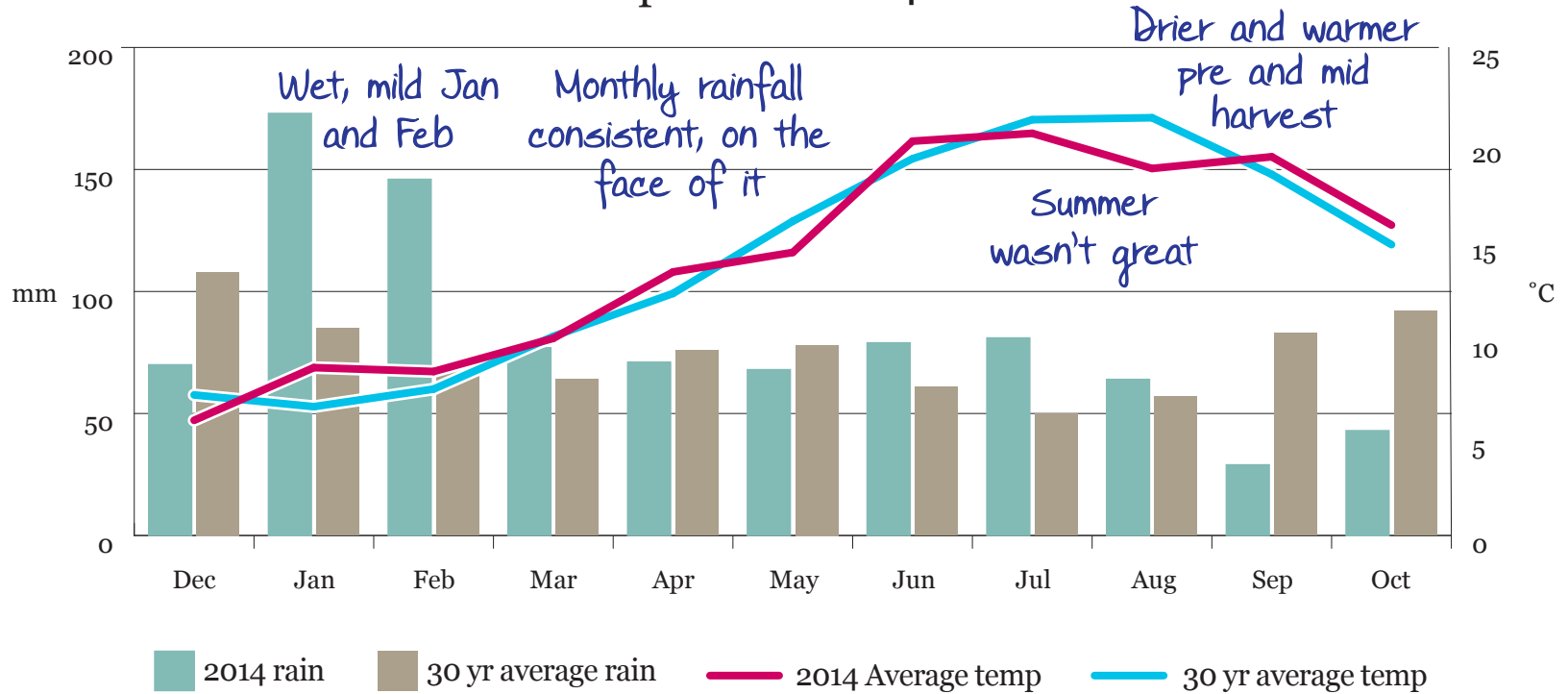
Unlike 2011, 2012, and 2013, there was minimal threat of rot at harvest time on the reds in 2014 (largely down to good weather during the flowering).

---

Yields were approaching normal after the disastrous 2013 crop; the September drought upped the quality - but it reduced the juice.

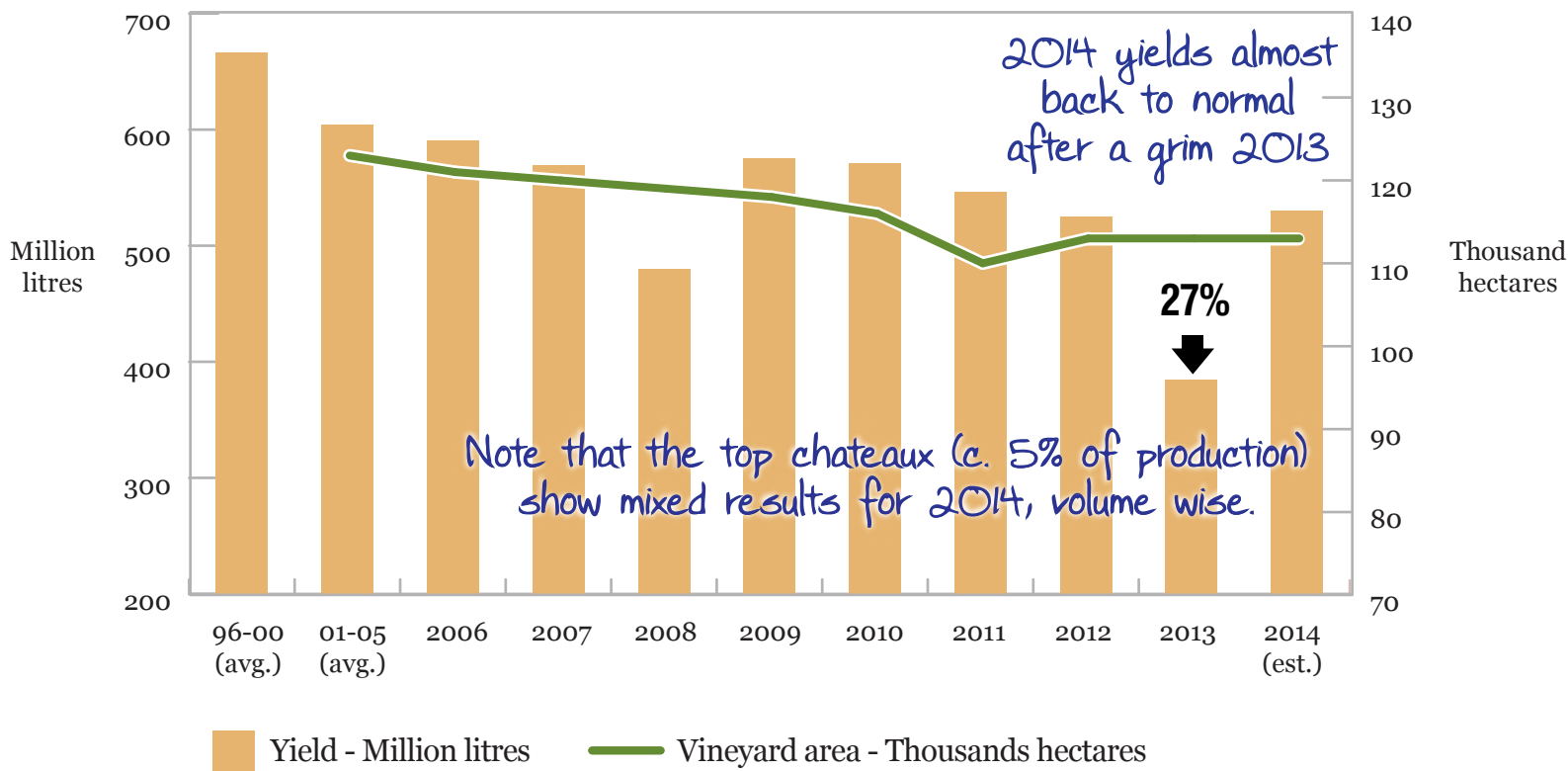
---

# Bordeaux Rainfall & Temperature 2014



Source: @GavinQuinney

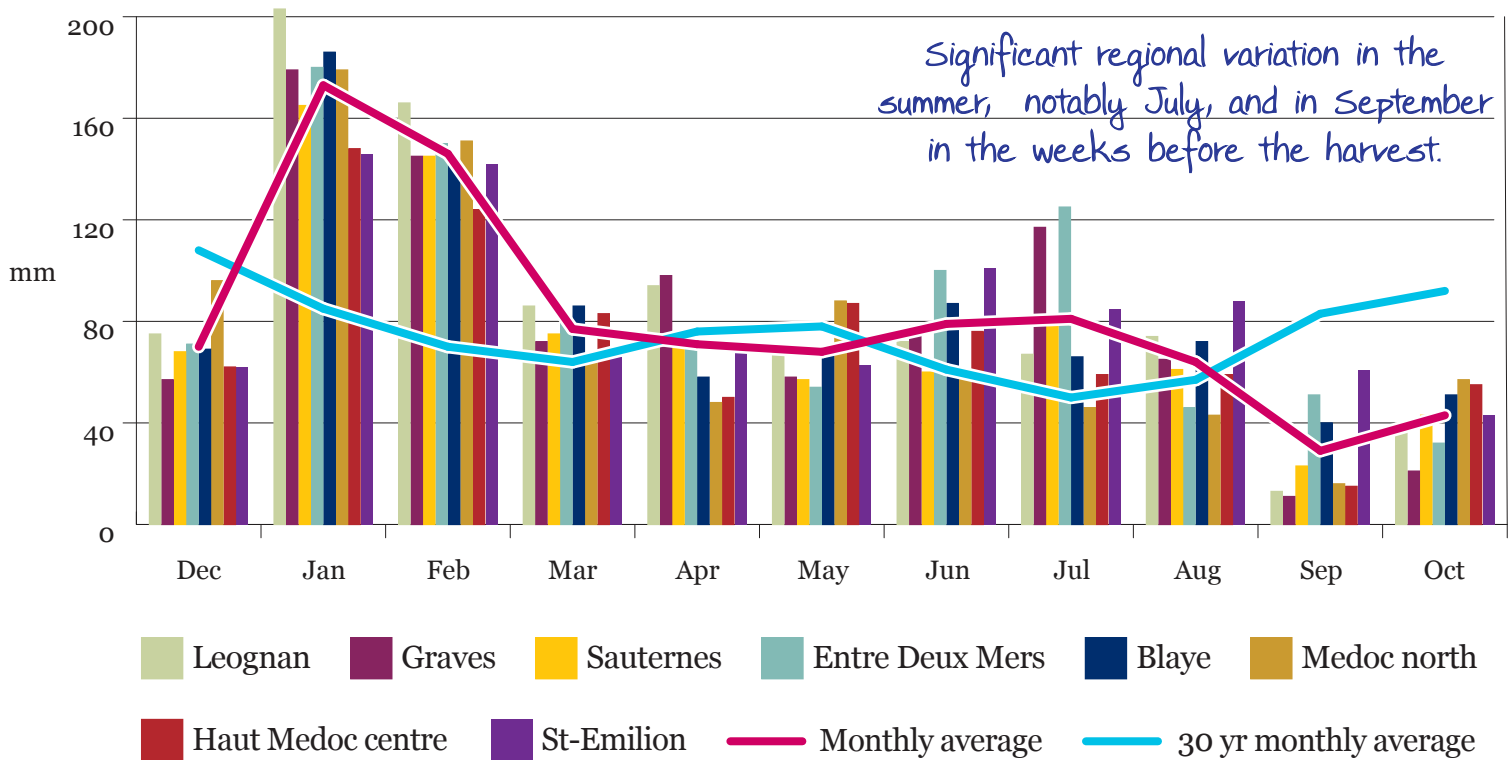
## Bordeaux Yields 2006 - 2014



Source: CIVB/Douane

@GavinQuinney

# Bordeaux Rainfall by Region 2014



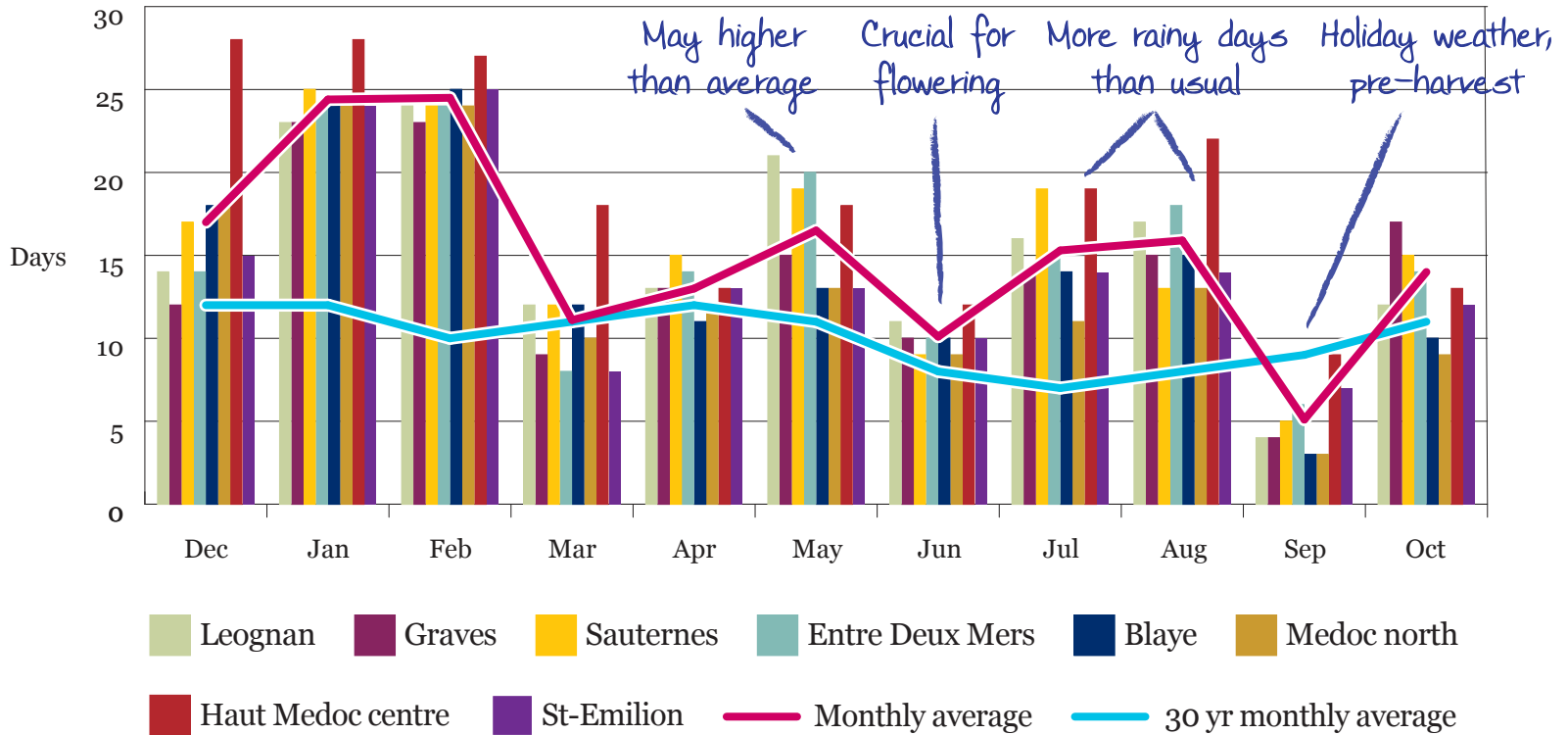
▲ Avg. rain for above regions Oct 13-Mar 2014 - 692 mm. 30 yr avg - 527 mm

▼ April-Sept 2014 - 391 mm. 30 yr avg 405 mm

Source: @GavinQuinney

NB about average

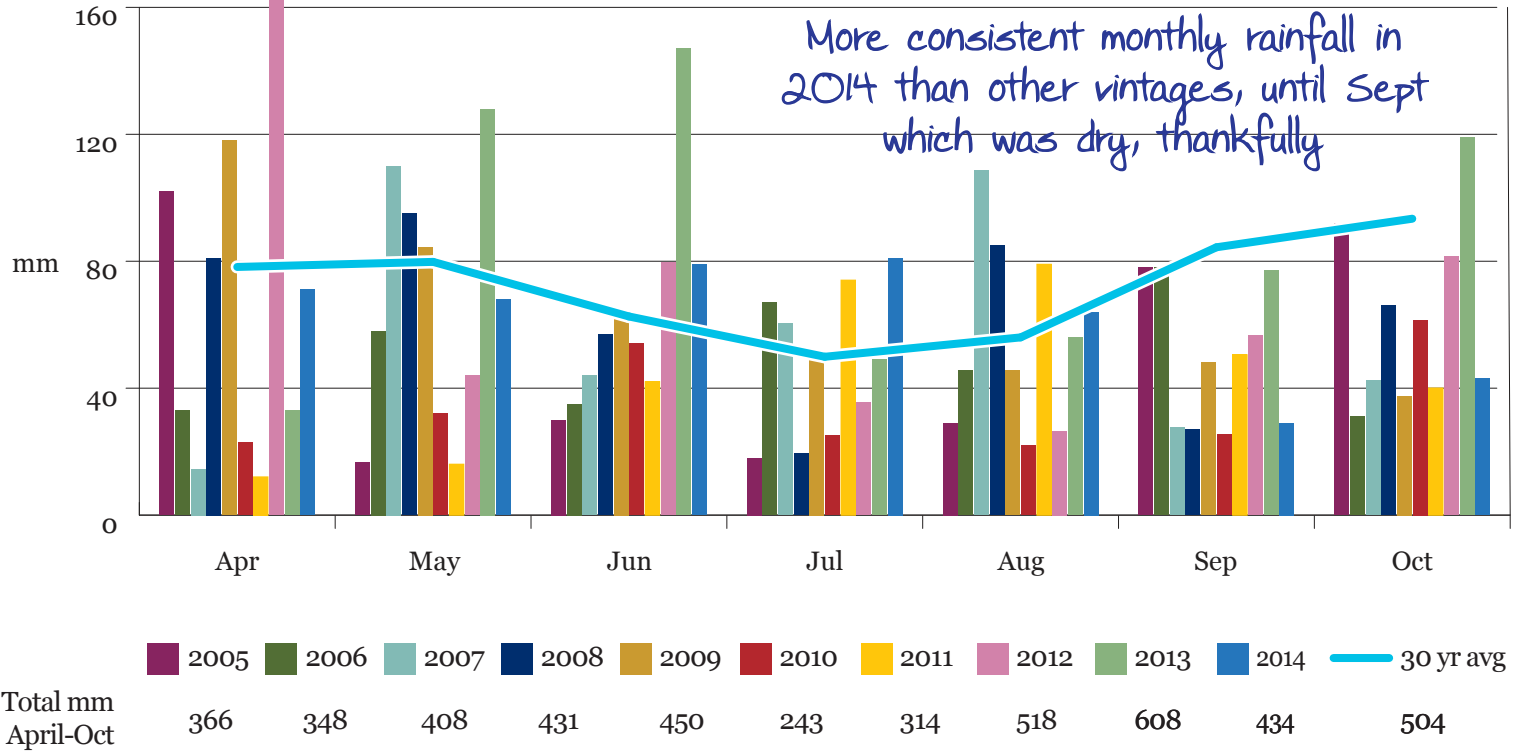
# Bordeaux Rainfall (No. of days of rain) 2014



Source: @GavinQuinney



## Bordeaux Rainfall Comparison 2005 - 2014



Source: @GavinQuinney

## The same vine in St-Emilion during veraison, or colour change (%)



23 Aug 2011 (100%)



21 Aug 2012 (90%)

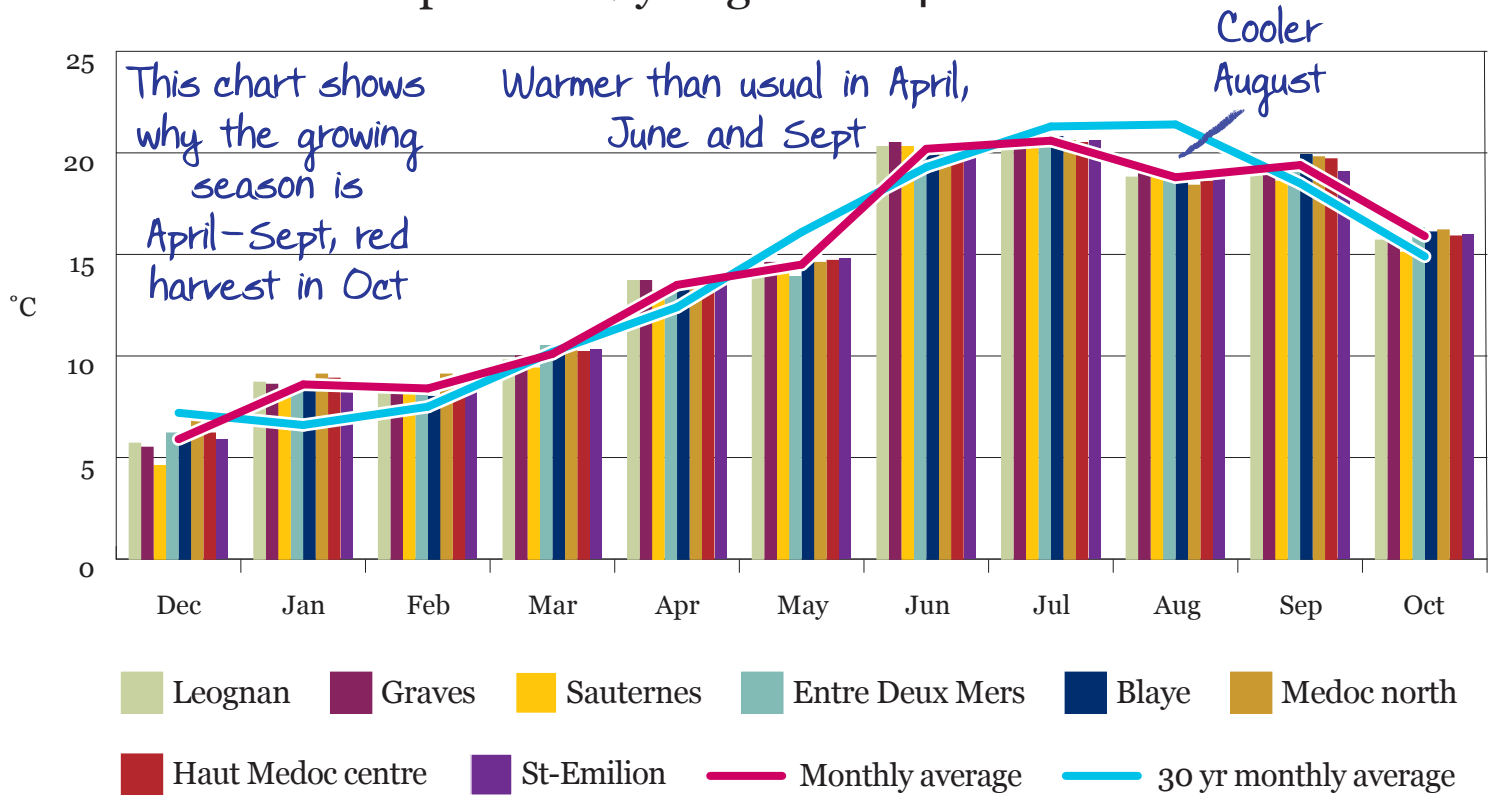


22 Aug 2013 (20%)



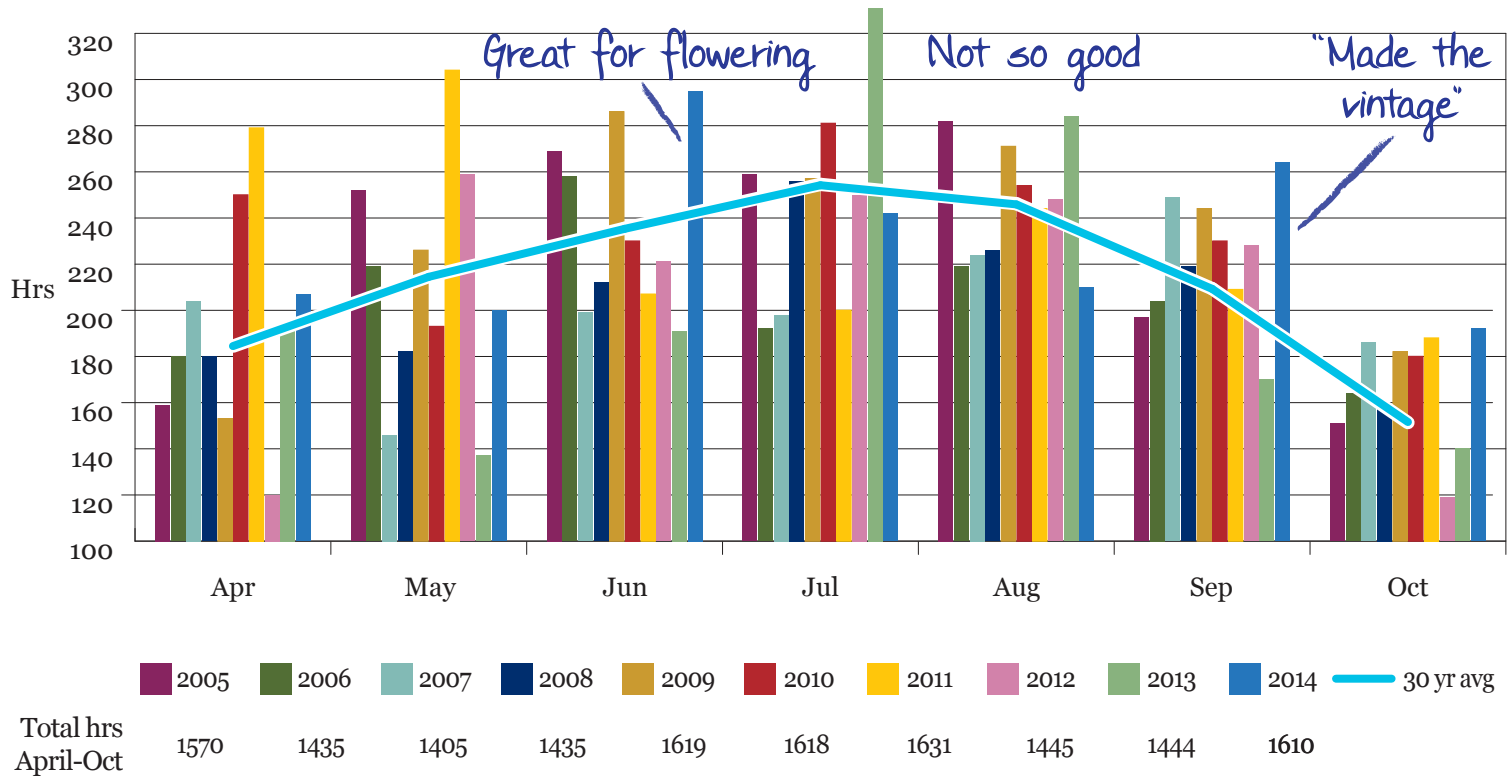
21 Aug 2014 (99%)

# Bordeaux Temperature by Region 2014



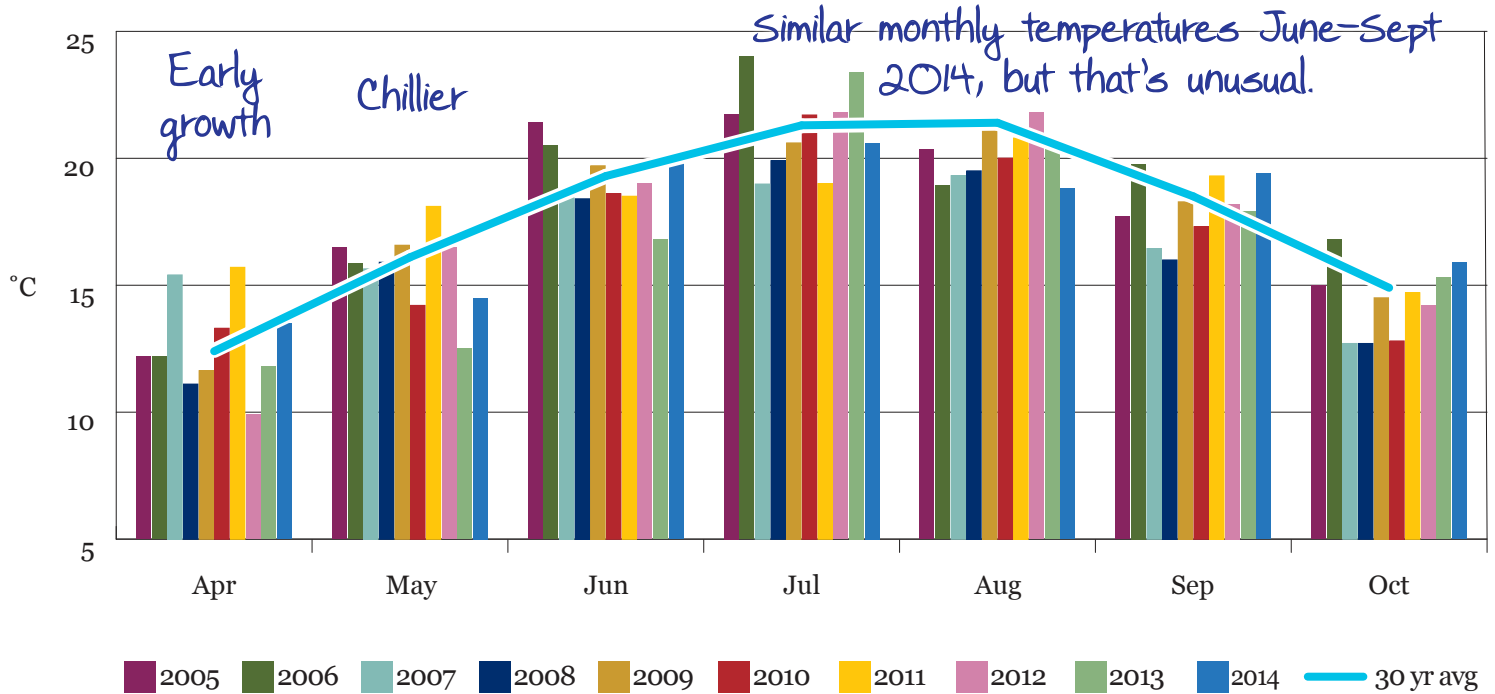
Source: Gavin Quinney

# Bordeaux Sunshine Hours Comparison 2005 - 2014



Source: @GavinQuinney

## Bordeaux Temperature Comparison 2005 - 2014



Source: @GavinQuinney

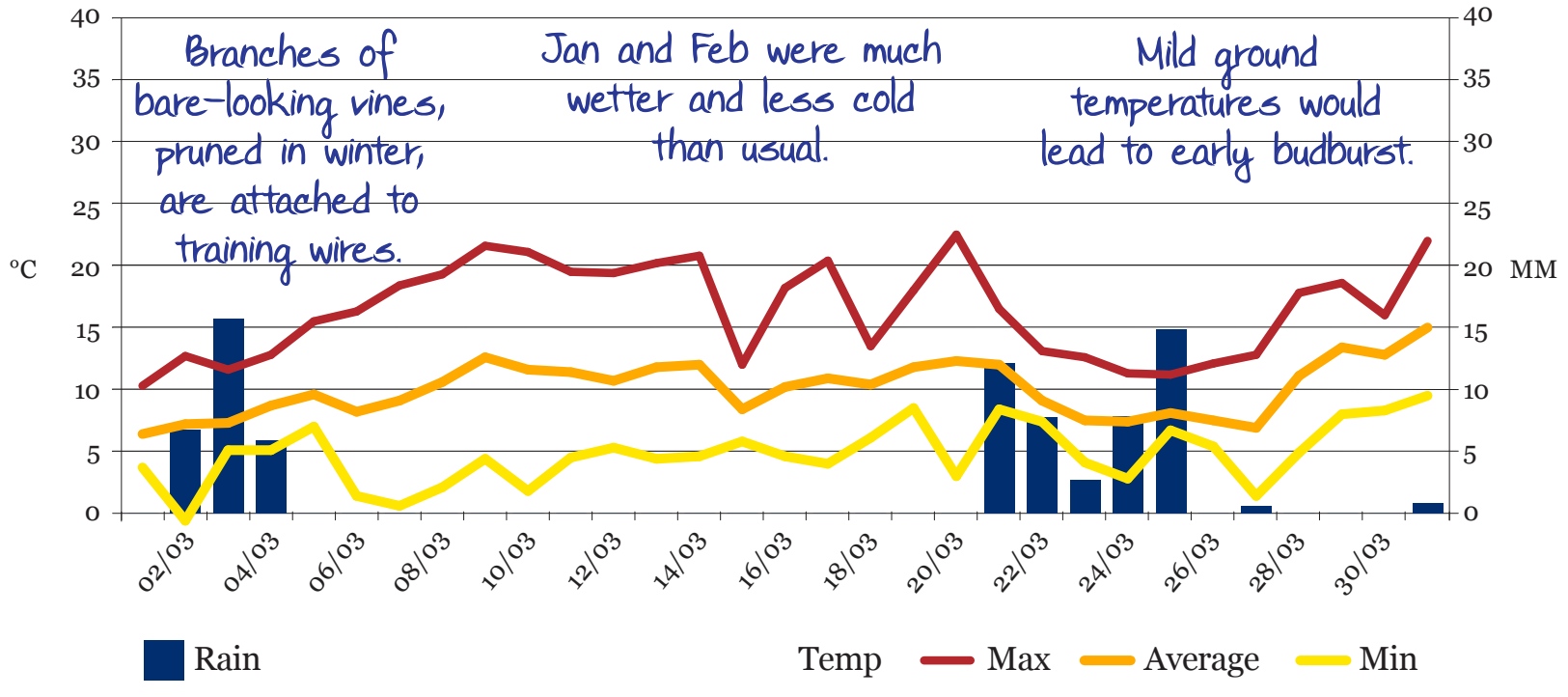


March 2014



Château Lafleur, Pomerol

# Bordeaux Weather March 2014



Total rainfall: **75.3 mm** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **64 mm**

Average temperature: **10.1 °C** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **10.2 °C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney

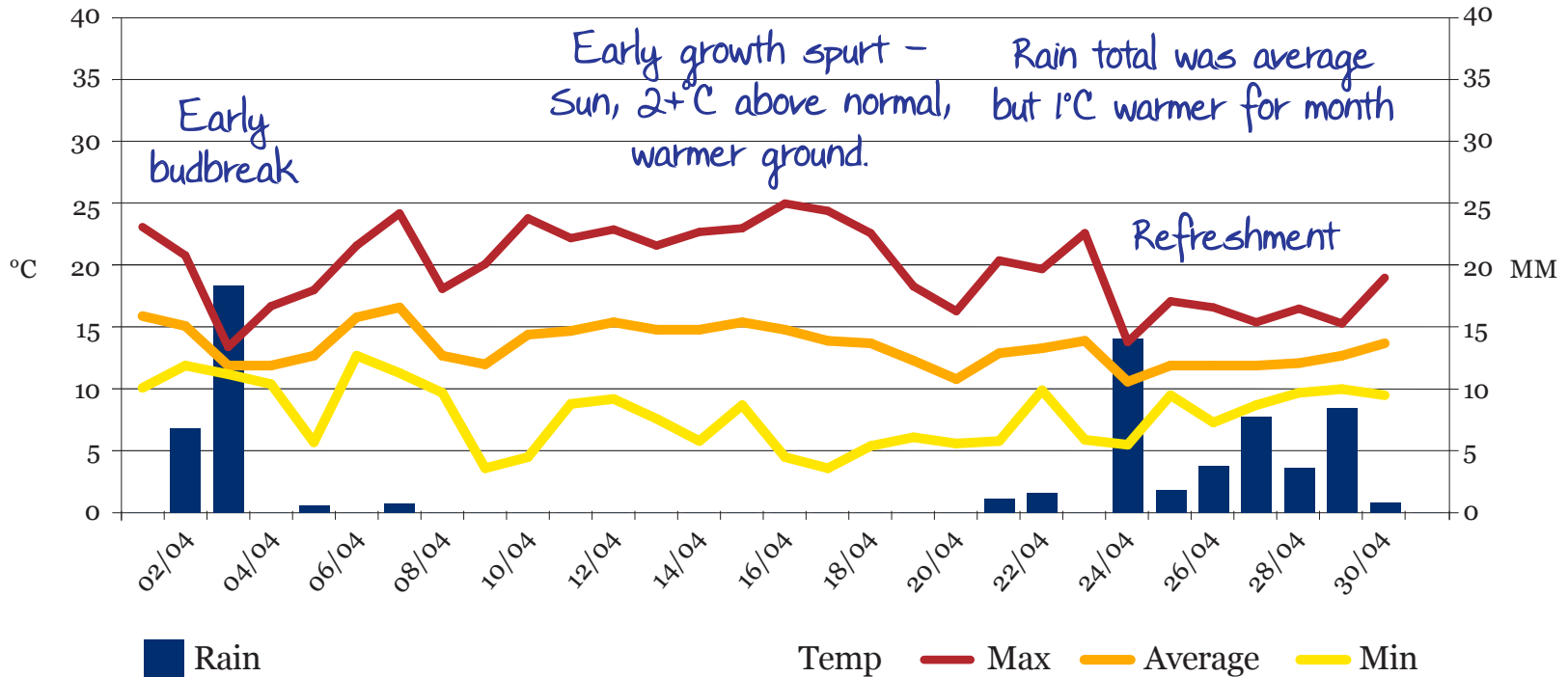
April 2014



**Merlot emerging**



# Bordeaux Weather April 2014



Total rainfall: **69.4 mm** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **76 mm**

Average temperature: **13.5°C** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **12.4°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

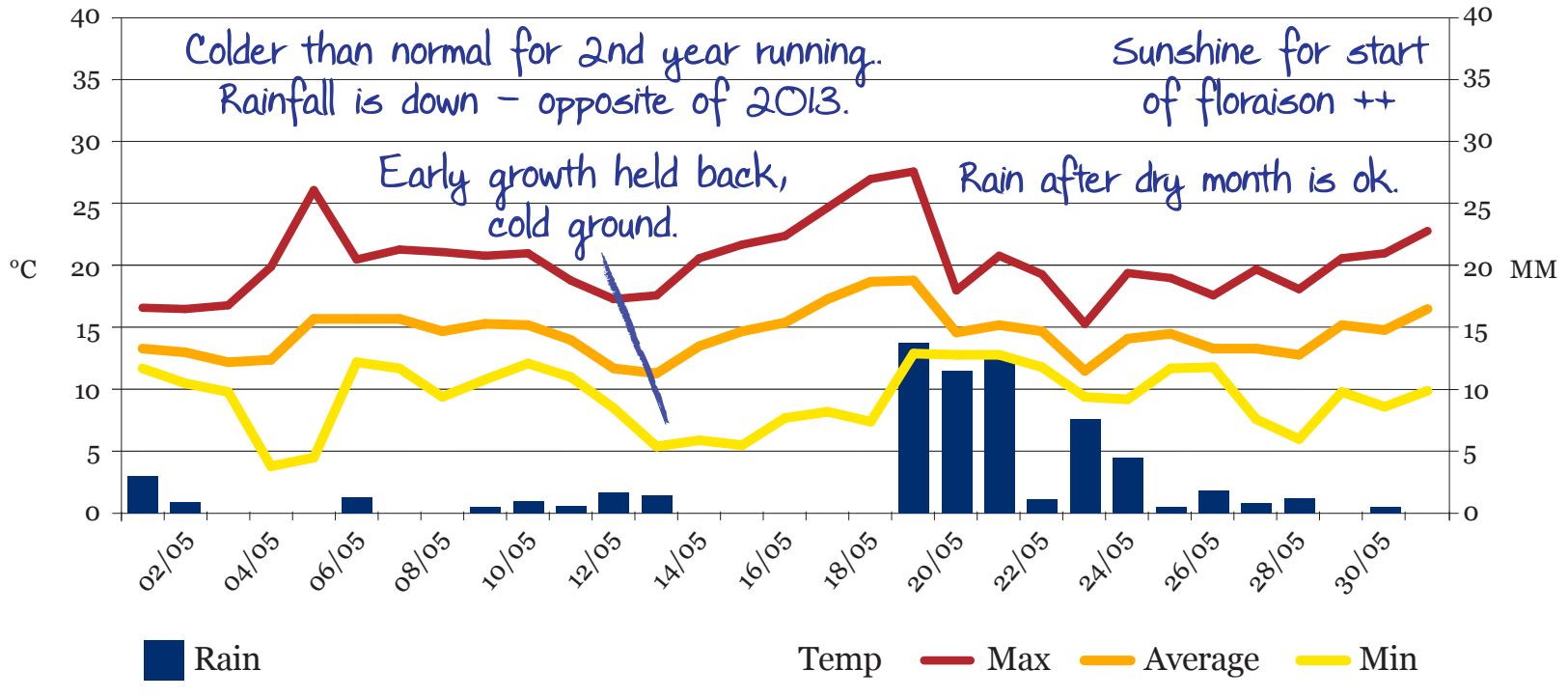
Source: @GavinQuinney

May 2014

Merlot, before flowering



# Bordeaux Weather May 2014



Total rainfall: **66.4 mm** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **78 mm**

Average temperature: **14.5°C** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **16.1°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney

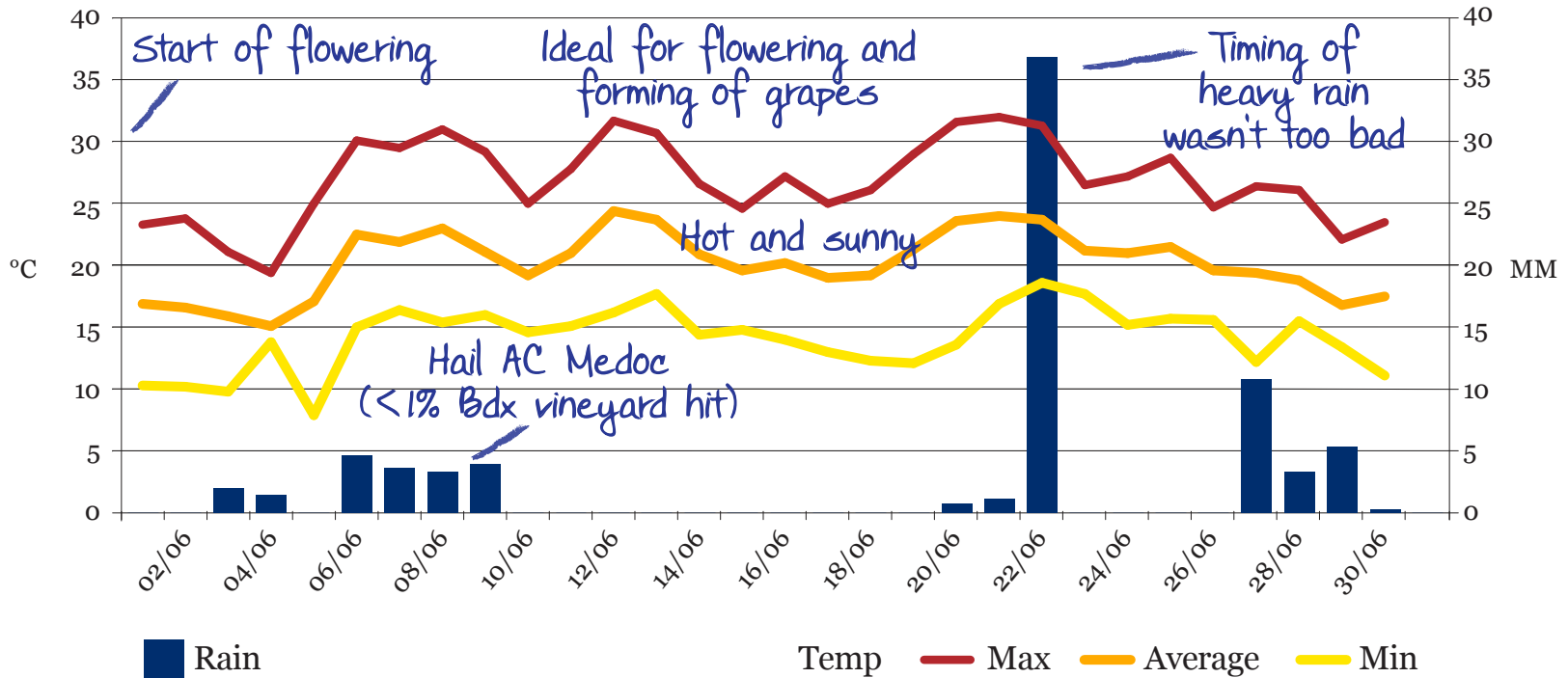


June 2014

Cabernet Sauvignon, in flower



# Bordeaux Weather June 2014



Total rainfall: **76.7 mm** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **61 mm**

Average temperature: **20.2°C** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **19.3°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney

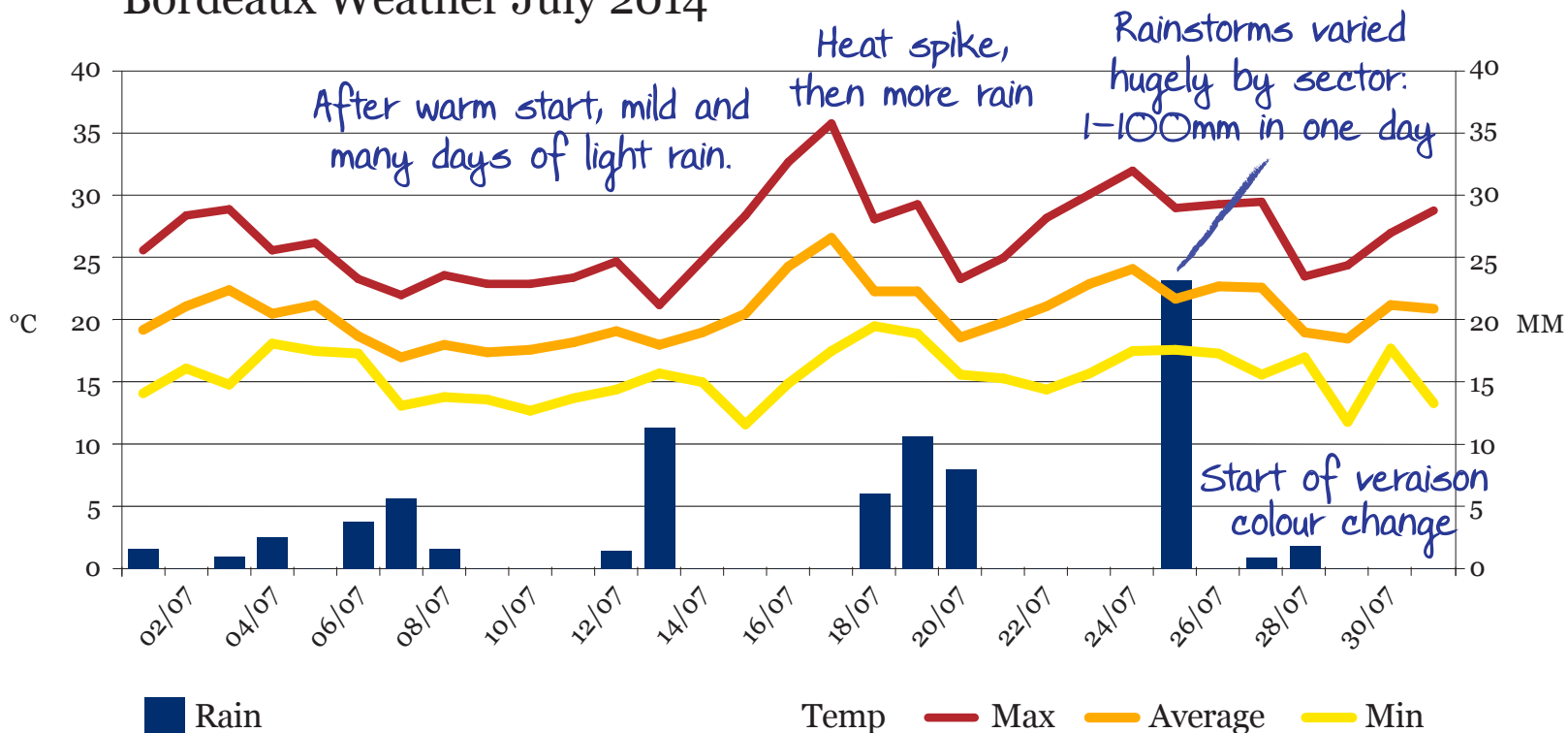




July 2014

**Cabernet Sauvignon, before colour change**

# Bordeaux Weather July 2014



Total rainfall: **80.3 mm** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **50 mm**

Average temperature: **20.5°C** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **21.3°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney



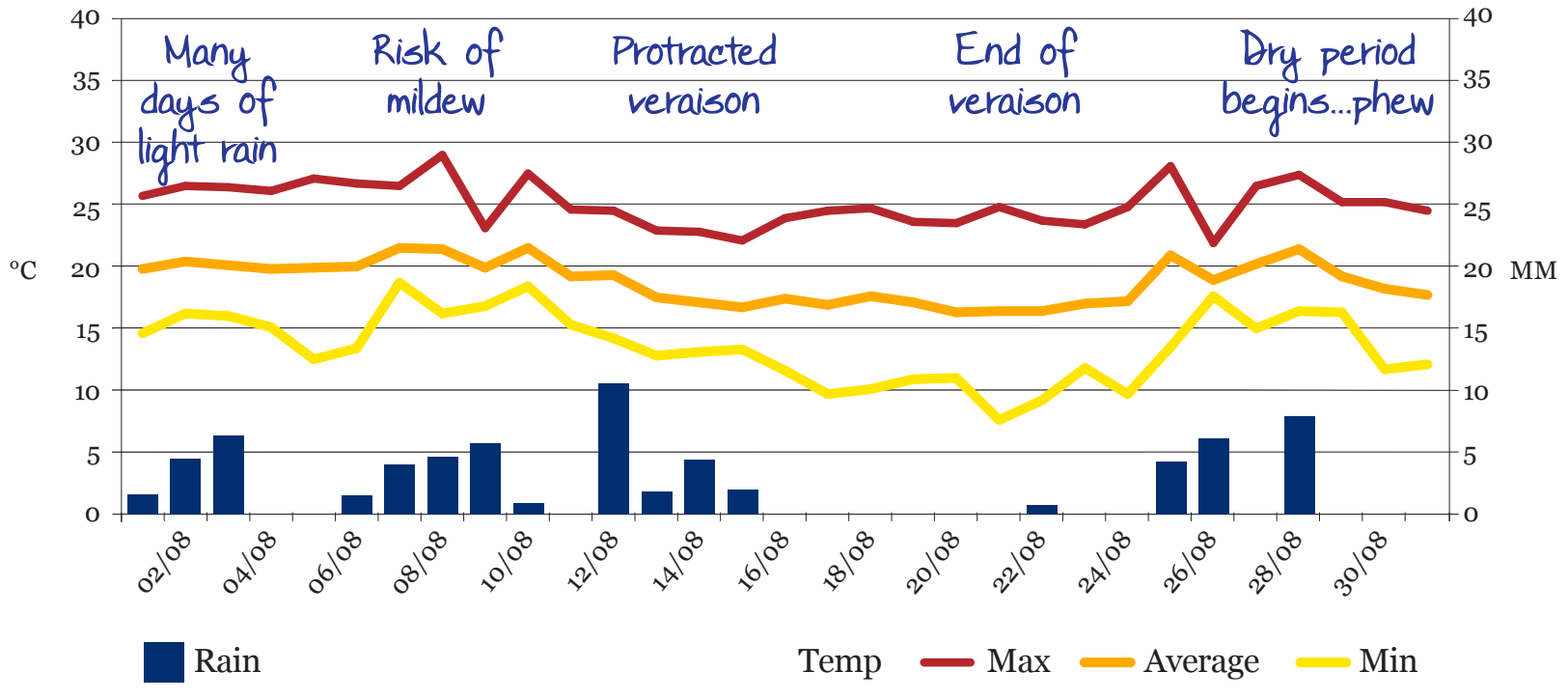
August 2014



Merlot, excess bunches removed



# Bordeaux Weather August 2014



Total rainfall: **66.6 mm** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **57 mm**

Temp Max Average Min

Average temperature: **18.8°C** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **21.4°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

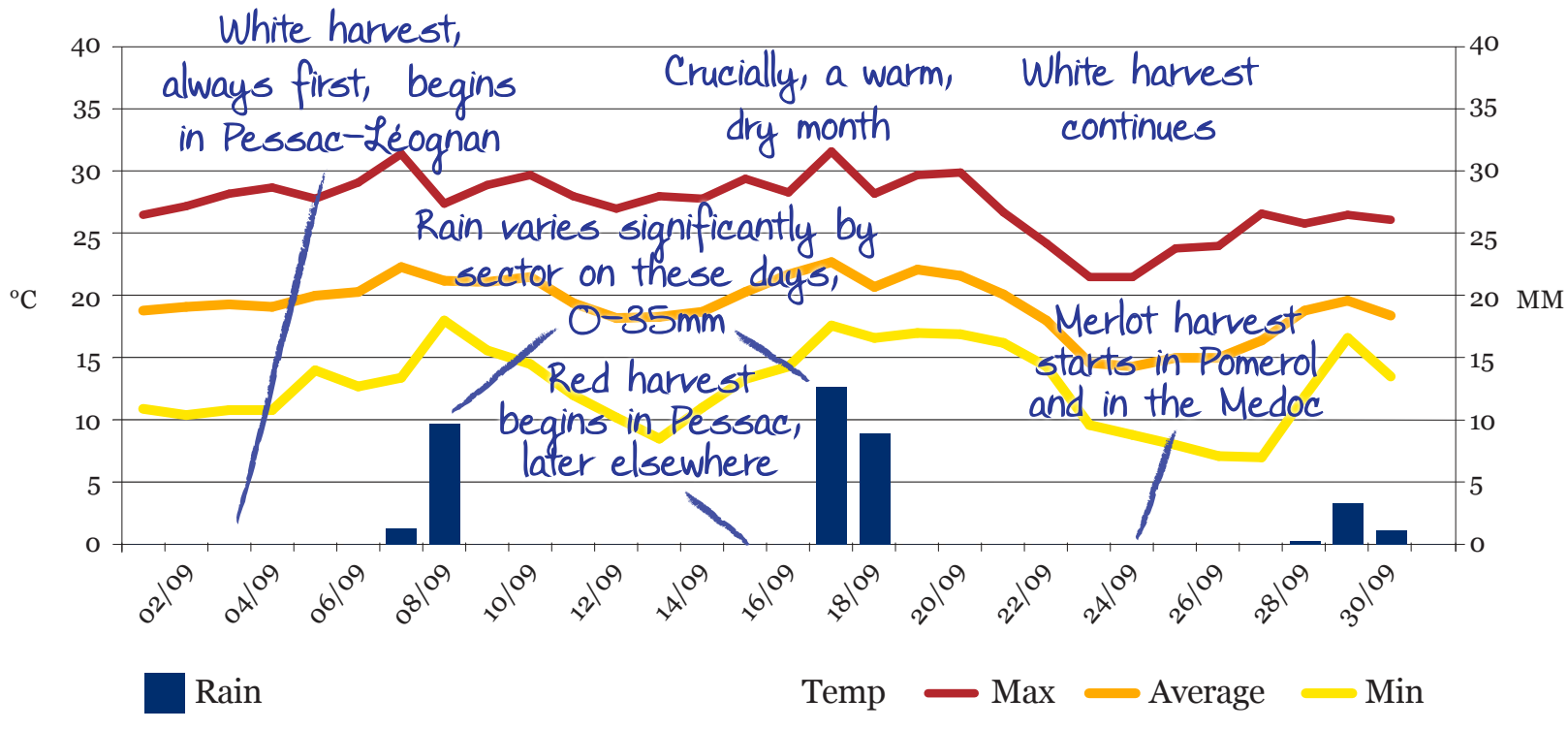
Source: @GavinQuinney

September 2014



**Château Lafite-Rothschild, Merlot harvest**

# Bordeaux Weather September 2014



Total rainfall: **37.6 mm** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **83 mm**

Average temperature: **19.2°C** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **18.5°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney

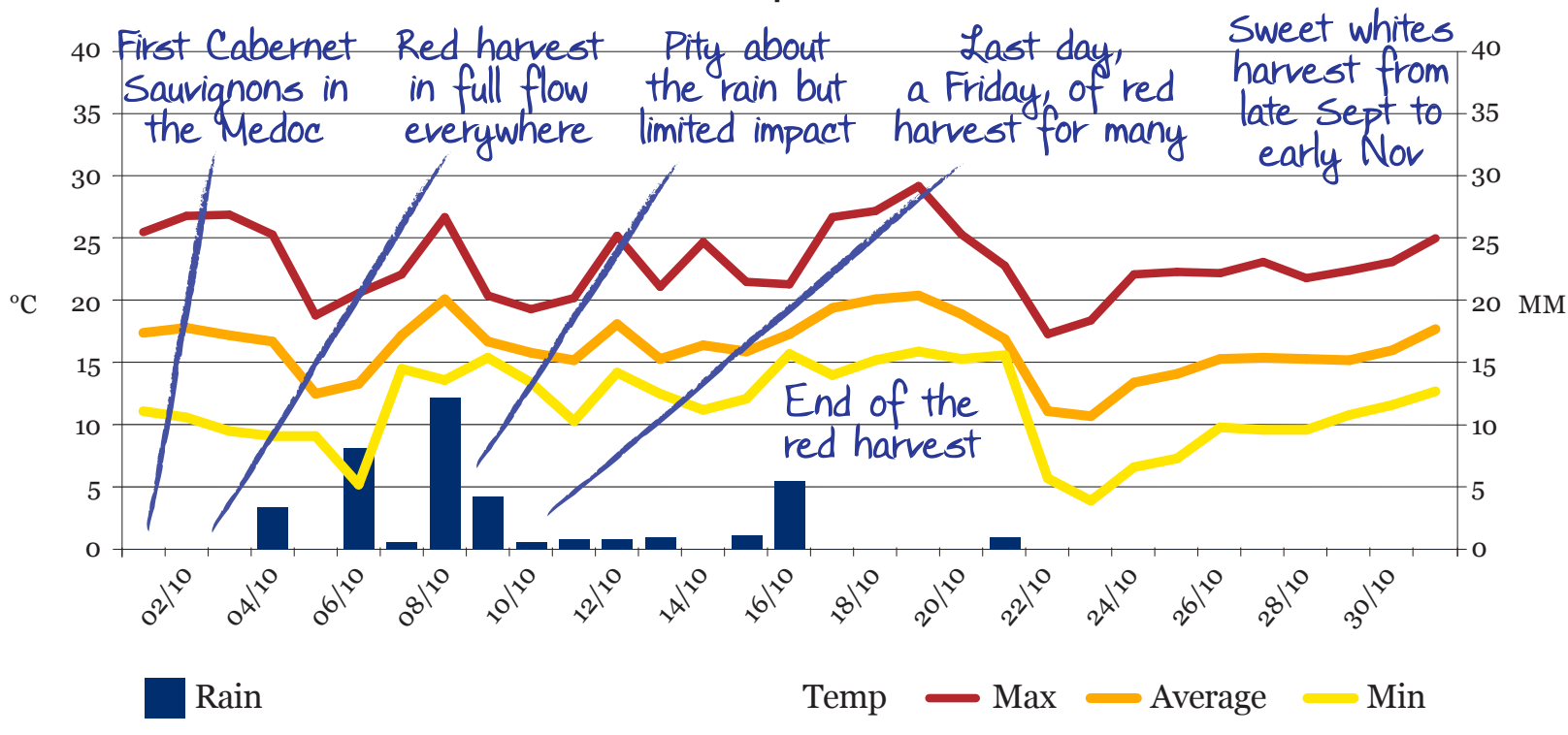


October 2014



Château Cos d'Estournel, Cabernet Sauvignon

# Bordeaux Weather October 2014



Total rainfall: **39.3 mm** ↓

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **92 mm**

Average temperature: **16.2°C** ↑

Bordeaux average 1982-2011: **14.9°C**

Each day is the average of 6 sub-regions:

Medoc, Margaux, Leognan, Sauternes, St-Emilion & Entre Deux Mers.

Source: @GavinQuinney



# The End

---

My harvest reports from 2014, by the way, can be found on [JancisRobinson.com](http://JancisRobinson.com) and the Liv-ex blog by searching my surname or Bordeaux 2014.

**Gavin Quinney**  
Twitter **@GavinQuinney**

