

## 2021 Growing Year in Italy: What to expect

*The life-force of the vine vs climate changes*

*High quality anticipated in the wine-cellar*

Harvest is literally upon us with some white grapes already safely in the cellar and several red grape varieties being picked at this very moment. But it's still too early to draw any definitive conclusions about the 2021 harvest, since producers up and down the peninsula are still relying on predictions. Which, however, are encouragingly positive.

Let's give a brief overview of the growing season. The weather brought three distinctive phenomena that had critical impacts. A spring freeze plunged temperatures that delayed bud-break and shoot growth by some 10 days, whose effects are still being felt in the current ripening stage, while the south suffered under water deprivation and the north was hit by torrential rains. The common thread that emerged from these challenges, though, was the current outstanding health status and overall quality of the fruit, a situation that augurs well for fine wines from 2021. Delivering the best results seem to have been the most ecologically-sensitive vineyard operations and precision agricultural practices, approaches that protect and express terroir in the face of increasingly threatening climate changes.

We asked producers from north to south what they thought and how they were managing to transform climate threats into quality outcomes.

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In the Val d'Orcia, finally, with benchmark operation **Tenuta di Trinoro**, a textbook-perfect vintage is expected. Here, too, the difficult weather brought challenges, but director Calogero Portannese expresses strong confidence in those "significant day-night temperature variations, which encouraged impressively-high quality in the fruit. Still, the harvest is a ways off yet, and we have to wait to see what autumn will finally bring us."

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And now, there's nothing we can do but wait.