



2015 PORT HARVEST REPORT - PORTGUAL

The Fladgate Partnership, owners of Taylor's, Croft, and Fonseca Ports outline conditions in the Douro leading to the end of the Port harvest on 3 October.



“Picking started at Quinta de Vargellas and Quinta da Roêda on 7 September and finished in warm dry conditions on 3 October,” reported David Guimaraens, Head Winemaker at The Fladgate Partnership. “Despite a break in the harvest on 15 and 16 September, which delayed the start of harvest at our quintas in the Pinhão Valley, the weather remained warm and dry, providing ideal picking conditions.”

The winter period was extremely dry. Rainfall at Quinta da Roêda represented 66% of the average recorded over the last decade. However, without the wet months of October and November, there might have been more serious consequences for the vines. Rainfall was also well below average, bringing little relief from dry conditions.

Temperatures between April and June were higher than normal with average temperatures +1.6C above a ten year average. Temperatures over 40C were recorded on several days during the last week of June and early July. Véraison arrived particularly early across all The Fladgate Partnership vineyards during the week beginning 29 June, setting the scene for an early harvest.

Dry, hot conditions resulted in low vigour and, apart from a small risk of downy mildew following rain during the last week of April and the first week of May, Guimaraens reported that the rest of the season had a relatively low threat of disease. “These favourable conditions ensured the grapes were extremely healthy right up to the end of the harvest,” he said.