Harvest report: The harvest is the culmination of a year’s work and the careful and constant monitoring of the vineyards, dependent to a large extent on climatic factors that have an effect on their quality. The rainfall in winter was low and less than average. In January, the rainfall increased and was very heavy, with an average ambient temperature that was also higher than usual. Overall, the winter was hot, which led to a slightly early budburst with regular flushing. The spring was rainy and cold, basically in the months of March, April and May, which resulted in irregularity and delay in the vegetative cycle. Flowering took place around two weeks late, which reduced setting, allowing for better distribution of production over each vine, with the resulting increase in quality.

From June onwards, the rainfall reduced drastically and average temperatures rose. The months of July and August were hot and very dry, with high average temperatures and practically no rainfall. September followed this trend, contributing to an early harvest, starting in its first week, showing a clear recovery from the delay observed in spring. This climate characteristic during ripening is frequently associated with the microclimate of Monção and Melgaço, where hot days alternate with cold nights, allowing for the maintenance of a fresh and fruity aroma with an acidity that is present but moderate, just the way we like it for the Soalheiro.

It is not normal to have two consecutive perfect harvests. 2015 was exceptional, but 2016 may follow on the same path – we remain optimistic and we will be keeping you updated on the development of the wines...

For more information on the Soalheiro, you can check out our virtual estate on www.soalheiro.com.

See you soon!
Soalheiro Team
October’16