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The confluence of scholarly prediction and popular experience related to global climate change in the wine producing region of Burgundy, France

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Burgundy is one of the major wine producing regions of France with more than 31,000 hectares covered in vines. For the past two decades, reports about climate change and the effects it has or may have on viticulture have been published. Because the grape's cycle of budding, veraison, and maturation is precisely regulated by temperature, Burgundy's wine growers have clear evidence of the reality of the warming trend climate change scientists have reported; harvest dates are now significantly earlier than in previous years (13 days in Beaune and 12 days in La Rochepot in the Hautes Cotes). This discussion will examine how the confluence of scholarly prediction and popular experience has had an interesting but unfortunate impact on the risk management strategies of many small-scale growers, whose equation of climate and weather has led to an unwarranted assumption of the predictable regularity of destructive environmental events.

Biography

Denyse Lemaire completed her PhD in 1992 from the University of Brussels, Belgium. Having retired as a Full Professor in the Environment and Geography Department at Rowan University in New Jersey, she currently teaches online classes for Thomas Edison University. She served two terms as the President of the Wine Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. She is a member of the American Geophysical Union, of the Association of American Geographers, and of the American Wine Society.

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