A long period of hot weather threatens to hit the wine harvest in France’s famous Burgundy and Beaujolais regions, experts told AFP on Tuesday.

Production could be down, although quality will remain high, they said.

Output could fall by as much as a third in Beaujolais, said Florence Hertaut, wine expert at the agricultural chamber of commerce in the Rhone region.

"The dryness has meant that the grapes, the fruit, are especially small," she told AFP.

Christine Monany, from an association representing wine-growers in Burgundy, said a "small decline in quantity can be expected due to the heat."

"When the vine lacks water, this limits how long it can grow," she said.

France has just sweltered through its third-hottest July since 1900 with less than half the amount of rain than usual, according to French meteorologists.

"In terms of the dryness on the ground, the situation remains tense over a large part of the country," said Francois Vinit from Meteo France, the national weather forecaster.

This has also had an impact on other French food production. Cabbage and corn crops could be down as much as 50 percent, according to local producers.

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