

Bouzeron, January 02, 2018

VINTAGE 2016

The 2016 vintage will really have put us to the test as well as rewarded us as the next lines will explain.

When I say “we”, I talk about the men and the women on the team whose experience has been more important than ever to implore the unwanted effects of certain climatic hazards, and of course that some vines from the Domaine cultivated since the 80s in organic farming with biodynamic practices, may have been better able to resist than others.

2016 is a vintage that allowed us to find the still fragile balance between the spirit that never comes alive as well as each new thought, idea or original reflection, and the simple life of the vine-grower, his gestures that are on the contrary part of the repetition each year.

This is why this vintage will have rewarded us so much, because besides the difficulties that we were subjected to and the adaptation we had to invent, nature has offered us in the end, magnificent wines that have nothing to envy the already mythical 2015s. The loss of yield due to frost is a loss in quantity that heavily penalises the vine grower, but it doesn't touch at all the quality, which on the contrary, can be magnified by the resulting concentration.

WEATHER FORECAST

You have to breakdown the weather forecast for the 2016 vintage in two phases: the first one extremely chaotic and the second from the summer solstice, much more harmonious.

The first phase began with a very mild winter during which January and February were marked with particularly high temperatures.

In addition to the mildness, an excess of precipitations correlated with sunshine and luminosity rather deficient.

Only March sees wintery temperatures. From April, they increased above average, forcing the vine to start its vegetative cycle with a bang (budburst), resulting in its exceptional exposition to frost risks. This much dreaded frost episode came the night of 27th to 28th April, hitting more particularly our vineyard of Aligoté Doré grape located for most at the top of the hillside as well as our Rully Les Saint Jacques and our Saint Aubin Les Perrières. These vineyards grew unevenly, multiplying the work of the vine grower and the passages in the vineyards in order to “tie down” as cleanly as possible (tying down: fix the shoot between the wire to protect from wind and to ensure a better distribution of the heat and light).

The second phase started on summer solstice (June 21st). The weather forecast changed radically with the arrival of the summer. The return of heat allows the vine to start again its normal vegetative cycle, as if after losing its track after the frost, it found once again the rhythm to harmonised growth. Flowering, started mid-June, was fast and happened good climatic conditions.

Even if the pressure of disease (mildew) remained particularly intense and was asking of the team at the domaine to remain on hand a good part of the summer, the weather became more lenient, offering not only a good luminosity and rather cool nights, but also the return to a more homogenous growth of the berries in particular on the frosted vines. These were finally able to catch up due to the very small amount of berries on the plant.

Harvest started on 23rd September 2016 and we benefited from a dry and bright late season which allowed us to harvest our grapes in very good conditions.

The biggest difficulty will have been this year for us (because of the frost) to adapt to an order of picking in the vineyards different to what we usually have, in order to pick the grapes at the optimal moment of maturity. We had to taste lots of berries in order to find this order! The Chardonnay and the Aligoté were pressed according to very specific programmes due to the thickness of the skin being different from one grape variety to the next.

We thank you in advance for the trust that you give our wines, please accept our warmest regards,