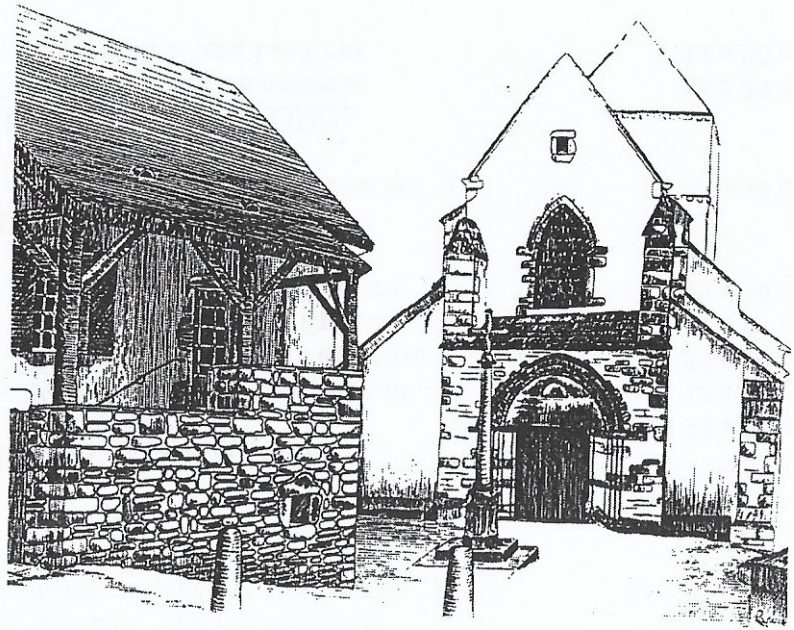


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Millesime 2020

The 2020 vintage is the early vintage that we were offered to work and harvest in the Voillot family.

Winter 2020 was relatively mild with an average temperature above normal values. The break-up was therefore very early and occurs at the beginning of April. The Ice Saint of the month of May (11, 12 and 13 May) goes without major problems, the temperatures remain positive and leaves no risk of frost.

The flowering will take place during the third week of the month of May 15 days ahead of the average of the last 20 years. Ideal weather conditions will predict a promising harvest volume.

The disease pressure for this vintage was practically non-existent and we did not observe any mildew symptoms and almost no powdery mildew symptoms. This low pressure allowed us to use only certified products in organic viticulture while redoubling our vigilance regarding the appearance of the first symptoms. We have also maximized the ventilation of the clusters by stripping on the surfaces least exposed to the sun's rays.

Until the end of July, we can say that the season was perfect: a moderate pace of growth, the absence of disease, weekly rainfall meeting the needs of the vine.

A first episode of heat wave mid-July, allows to see appear the first veraisons in the earliest sectors. Despite the absence of rains since the beginning of July, water supplies are sufficient at this stage, and despite a large number of clusters to feed, the vine continues its cycle. There are some burning symptoms on the bunches directly exposed to the setting sun, but nothing catastrophic.

At the beginning of August, the vines are magnificent. Each plot is a showcase and nature shows us all its know-how when the conditions are perfect. At the end of each row, you can see the clusters protruding from the foliage, which announces a great promise to the harvest. At this point, the harvest was planned for the end of August.

During the second week of August, we suffered a second heat wave episode. This second heat wave lasted longer than the first one, between 6 and 7 days, and was more intense with maximum temperatures exceeding 38°C. Nature suffered during this second wave, and more in my opinion by high temperatures than by the lack of water.

We could see here and there, the leaves of the treetops, directly exposed to the sun's rays, dehydrate while the base kept a beautiful green color.

The vines suffered from these high temperatures and in the space of two days we could see the volume of the clusters shrinking significantly. The grapes that passed rows at the end of July took refuge in the foliage to protect themselves from the sun's rays. It was during this episode that we lost about a third of the crop.

The temperatures became more acceptable from August 15th, the end of the maturation took place in a more normal way but unfortunately without precipitation.

We started the harvest on August 22. The 2020 harvest is the earliest ever recorded in the Voillot family, in 2003 we started on August 23.

Early harvest coupled with strong heat made us fear a lower quality, it will be nothing. The harvested grapes bear no symptoms of disease, the berries toasted by the sun are spread by the sorting when they did not fall to the ground before harvest. The first musts tasted present an unexpected balance for such an early vintage.

Our greatest fear was to obtain wines with too ripe fruit, jam, or cooked, mixed with hard tannins, it will be nothing. The freshness of the fruit and the finesse of the tannins shows us once again that nature has been able to adapt.

We took a lot of pleasure in growing, vinifying, and growing this vintage. I hope you will find as many as we do at your next tastings.