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Millésime 2021

Despite a cold, dry winter, we observed a relatively early break-up following a week of high temperature between 15 and 18°C in early March. The earliest vines were heavily impacted by 3 consecutive days of frost on 5, 6 and 7 April, with temperatures around -7°C and snow on the morning of 6 April.

For our Domain, the damage is significant. On the vines of Meursault the losses approach 80%, we lose at least 70% on the Volnay 1er cru les Caillerets, 70% in Volnay 1er cru les Champans, 60% Pommard 1er cru les Rugiens, Pézerolles, 70% on the Epenots, certainly 80% in Beaune 1er cru les Coucherias, and 70% in Volnay 1st the Fremiets.

The vines located in the appellations Bourgogne, Volnay and Pommard old vines have, it seems, been less severely affected because of the mismatch at bud break, and therefore of a less sensitivity to negative temperatures.

To cope with the shock, the vines affected by this frost episode vegetated for a long time. We had to wait 10 to 15 days and a more favorable weather before seeing a vegetative restart, while the vines located in the lower ones continued to grow.

June was a very challenging month for teams and organizations. As to catch up with the delays, the vine deprived of most of these inflorescences pushed at a very fast and very intense pace, we had to redouble our effort to contain and try to organize the branches in our training system. The flowering of the 1er cru took place in mid-June, thanks to a mild weather, which was not the case a week later on the vines located further down the coast where cooler temperatures caused a lot of leakage.

This year was also for us and a good part of Eastern France very wet, we record an increase of more than 60% in the volume of precipitation compared to an average year.

This moisture has been very favorable to the appearance of diseases, including the return of mildew after several years of absence. The pressure of mildew and powdery mildew was very intense this year, with repetitions of almost daily rains, we had to use strategy to fight against these diseases before they settle down, and slow their development once present.

The mid-veraison stage was observed around 15 August, accompanied by brief but strong heat, causing damage to the fence.

Veraison was completed in early September for the later sectors. The first samples used to monitor maturities were encouraging. The weather before the harvest certainly saved the little that remained of this 2021 vintage.

Our attention also focused on the few foci of botrytis that we were able to observe in the vineyard. The impact, although limited, could have been catastrophic if we had delayed harvesting.

We started the harvest on September 18th. Our concerns about the sectors affected by the freeze have proven to be valid and the loss values set out in the previous rows have been confirmed. The volumes collected on the appellations classified in 1st vintage are the lowest ever recorded on the domain, leaving us totally disconcerted in front of these losses, despite the work provided throughout the year.

The game was never won, and we really felt like we were playing vintage at every moment.

The first must tasted are very promising, it is the least consolation that we find with this vintage with such low volumes.

We will have learned a great deal from this year, and we will come out of it with great humility. Once again, nature shows us that it is she who decides what happens to us and that we can only try to follow her as best we can.