

DOMAINE

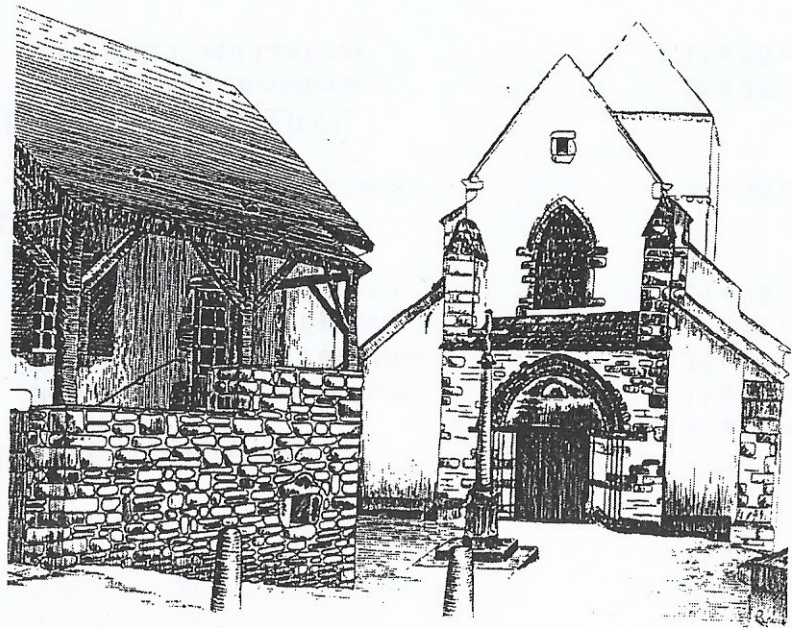
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Millesime 2019

The clement weather at the beginning of spring favoured the outset of the growing season that started at the end of March. The budbreak of the 2019 vintage could be defined as relatively early. The month of April soon slowed the efforts of the vines with a very cold first 15 days. The vines suffered noticeably on the morning of 5th April with temperatures dropping to -3°C in the coldest sectors of the vineyards. This bout of frost was far from being comparable to the 2016 frost, but in certain more sensitive vines, the yields were penalised, specifically in the Bourgne.

The growth of the vines continued in a calmer fashion; and allowed us to observe the vegetation developing rather than running after it. The vine flowered in unfavourable conditions of rain and low temperatures. Thus, the pollination of the grapes was very complicated provoking a lot of shatter / flower abortion, that again, penalised the yields, mainly for the 1^{er} Crus. The flowering in the vineyards in lower areas, on the slopes that flower slightly later, occurred in more favourable but not ideal conditions.

Mildew barely occurred in this vintage. We found hardly any symptoms of this disease. Oidium, (downy mildew) however, was notably present and we struggled to fight the symptoms, mainly evident on the white grapes. We used leaf-stripping (effeuillage) and powdering (poudrage) as our main tools. "Effeillage" is a method where the leaves are removed from near the grapes to allow for better ventilation. "Poudrage" means blowing vast volumes of air mixed with powdered natural sulphites onto the vine. These two methods enabled us a control the development of oidium and there was therefore no reduction of the harvest yields.

At the beginning of July we experienced the first heat wave. Nothing out of the ordinary for the season. The water reserves were sufficient, and the vines did not suffer. A second heat wave followed in mid-August. With very little rainfall between the two droughts, the vines, this time suffered. First, the vines fought the dry conditions by dropping the oldest leaves from the lowest branches. When this was not enough, some of the vines started to drop some grapes. Therefore, we could see certain vines/grapes wither at the end of August.

You will see how all these factors, frost at budbreak, difficult flowering, heatwaves causing drought in August, will have reduced the yields of this harvest.

The end of the maturation period carried on without any particular problems, bar the lack of water that had an impact on the juiciness of the remaining/surviving fruit, we were able to expect ideal phenolic maturity in the grapes.

We began the harvest on the 13th September in ideal weather conditions that lasted throughout the 5 days of harvesting. Without being catastrophic, the volume of this harvest is very average. One third less than the 2018; the 2019 are close to the yields of 2015.

We have taken great pleasure in cultivating, vinifying and ageing this vintage. I hope that the 2019 wines will be at the height of your expectations.