

2021

Vintage Report



CHAMPAGNE
TAITTINGER
Reims

The years roll by and no two are ever the same. 2021 will be the benchmark year for mildew for an entire generation. We all hold the same opinion: 'we'll not forget 2021!'

A wine-growing year that was historic, demanding, challenging and at times discouraging with the final analysis indicating quality for our harvest and optimism for our wines. What a year for winegrowers in a northern climate! The permitted yield for the sector was set at 10,000 kg/hectare. Since the start of the wine-growing year, weather conditions have been against us. 2021 is also a benchmark year for frost, after 2003 and 1991. Between the frosts of early April and early May, champagne potential was drastically reduced by about 30%. In the Aube region, the Côte des Bar area was hit hard: 100% of the buds that came out froze; only the ones that came out later were spared. Harvest potential has fallen by over 60% on average. In other terroirs, we recorded losses of 15% to 30% (Reims, Sézanne and Mailly, for example). The Côte des Blancs was spared by the skin of its teeth. From May onwards, rainfall levels were above yearly averages. A cold spell delayed growth which did not get going again until the start of June with the return of warm weather. With strong vegetative growth and the arrival of storms, downy mildew and powdery mildew pressure was high.

From May to July, we recorded the equivalent of five months of rain. This continual rain, which was torrential at times, meant that mildew was able to develop on the leaves and especially on the bunches of grapes. Champagne potential was once again slashed by 30% on average. Some growers and plots lost their crop. In our vineyard, frost-sensitive plots in the Montagne de Reims and Marne Valley, and biocontrol areas were particularly affected despite round-the-clock work from everyone to aerate the bunches, help humidity to evaporate, protect our vines and so on.

Frost and mildew affect the quantity of the harvest but not the quality of the grapes which survived this disheartening summer. Everything will be done to ensure this year ends on a positive note.

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