

**SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE
DU
DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI**

2021 harvest report

The winter 2020/2021 was mild. In February the cold weather came back, which delayed the sap rising. In the vineyards, a beautiful dry weather set in that allowed us to carry out quietly and perfectly all the winter works: first pruning, ploughing, tying-down. We were in advance everywhere. Bud-burst started at the end of March, a little later than these past years. Everything was going well at the beginning of the season. But we had reckoned without nature that was once again preparing one of the lessons it is used to giving us.

On the nights of the 6th, 7th and 8th of April, a winter-like frost hit the vineyards. In addition, a heavy snowfall occurred during the night of the 7th which wetted the buds and gave them up to the frost. Damages were severe everywhere in Burgundy.

In Vosne-Romanée, we lost half of the crop. Our vineyards in Côte de Beaune were more severely affected: in Corton (red) we have lost 4/5 of a normal crop and 90% in Montrachet and in Corton-Charlemagne.

The rest of the season was not better. Spring was extremely rainy and quite hot. As a result the vines grew in a way never seen before. All the works (tying-up, de-budding, tying-down), were extremely disrupted. Our team had difficulty in keeping the pace imposed by these unusual weather conditions.

Diseases (mildew and especially oidium) did not fail to appear as early as May until the harvest in an unusually aggressive manner.

Botrytis was not left behind. It appeared in July, fortunately contained by rather low temperatures.

In September, the rainy weather went on, but became progressively better and we were lucky to get in the harvest in fine weather, from 23 September to 2 October. Of course the harvest had been damaged by the frost and diseases and the usual « haute couture » sorting was necessary, but maturity was in the end satisfactory.

As a result, yields are among the lowest we have had for half a century:

- in Vosne-Romanée: around 15hl/ha, but with differences depending on the vineyards: in Romanée-Conti for instance or in Grands-Echezeaux yields are of 22/23 hl/ha, far less in other vineyards.

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- in Corton (red): yields are around 4,5 hl/ha, exactly the same in Corton Charlemagne.
- in Montrachet instead of the usual 10 barrels, we have only 4 with a yield of around 7hl/ha.

As a conclusion, this vintage has required as much work and effort as any other one, if not more, considering the three nights that we spent lighting candles and fighting against the frost, but this is part of the winegrower's life. We are however quite satisfied: the quality of the wines is good. Their style can be compared to the wines we produced in the 70/80s: less powerful, but rich and opulent due to the very ripe harvest. We hope that the vines that have produced little quantity, with pain we must admit, will recover next year and give us one of these beautiful harvests that makes the winegrower happy.
