



The 2019 vintage : A VINTAGE IN 9?

If winter comes slowly, it comes to Saint Vincent.

And indeed on January 22, 2019, the weather was overcast, cold, it snowed at midday, then the temperatures slowly rose. Winter was in a way over. A few cold days at the end of January, and February was already returning to an exceptional springtime mildness. The cheerful yellow tips of the first cuckoos were already brightening up the edges of the vineyards. In the vineyard, we are pruning. The last parcel, more frosty, waited until the end of March to take on its spring appearance : a stick folded along the wire, a courson and the wood pulled, well arranged in the row which already awaited the shredder.

Just out of winter, there was already talk of drought: the rainfall in recent months had been very low. But everyone appreciated the April sun, its pleasant softness and still no water ... Little by little, the vines were waking up and with it, the grower's fears. For Palm Sunday, then a few days later after Easter, the temperatures at sunrise were negative. Each time, we passed by the frost: one morning, we were delighted with the clouds that protected the vines, another morning, we appreciated that on this plot, the buds are surprisingly late, we congratulated ourselves on having stretched the grass that was already proliferating in the inter row ...

At the beginning of May, these precautions were no longer sufficient: the least frost-resistant plots had to be protected. The candles installed in the vines at night, we were watching the temperatures change,



and then, at four o'clock there was 2°C, it continued to go down ...

A team went to light the candles, creating a small haven of sweetness right at the buds. And this for 2 nights, then the cold left, the harvest saved and the winegrower relieved of these efforts rewarded!

The vineyard came alive : we were budding under the sun. The output of clusters was more reasonable than in 2018 : the work was made easier. Even if the sky was cloudy, even if the temperatures in the beginning of June made the yoyo, the rain did not come and the vines bloomed slowly thus favoring a little millerandage. The heatwave was gradually settling on the vineyard.

Not a drop of rain all summer. The winegrower was hot, but the vines did not seem to suffer from water stress. Only the heat-sensitive grape varieties which had been stripped at the beginning of August showed a few grains that were already dry. The harvest promised to be early. We expected a small harvest.

A saving rain of around ten millimeters revitalized the vines and each berry of grapes. The first dumpster was harvested in the early hours of September 8th. So everything went very quickly : the potential degrees were high, the acidities low. The rain finally arrived on September 24, but the grapes were already ripe, the berries were in danger of bursting: the harvest was then quickly completed.

First tastings

From this sunny vintage, we expected round juices, a little heavy, sometimes hot or scorching. But what a nice surprise in fact that this vintage! The wines are spontaneously supple and pleasant, but we also appreciate freshness supported by notes of tangy fruit (citrus for the whites, currants for the reds).