



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES



Despite a few very cold days in January, the overall temperature in winter was well above the seasonal average - as has often been the case in recent years. In fact, the winter of 2018-2019 was among the 10 mildest on record since the start of the 20th century. The other notable characteristic of the season was the drought, which followed on after an already dry second half of 2018.

Without having had any real rest period, the vine began its growth cycle very early, starting in late March in some sheltered areas, and a few leaves were already clearly visible in early April. Although Beaujolais has been spared the extensive spring frosts that have devastated Burgundy and Bordeaux in recent years, this time the region was badly hit during the night of 4th-5th April, and again - more mildly on this occasion - on the 14th, particularly in the vineyards planted on the lower slopes of Morgon and Moulin-à-Vent. Our Clos de Loyse Chardonnays were the most profoundly affected, with nearly 70% of losses. The rest of the month, and spring in general, saw fairly precocious growth: conditions were relatively cool and rainy, although May was dry, and this helped to replenish the water table to an acceptable level. Under these conditions, the first flowers only appeared at the start of June, and flowering took place over the course of ten days.

The coming of summer coincided with a radical change in the weather: heat and drought conditions were established in Beaujolais, with two successive heat spikes, one running from the 24th of June to 9 July, then from the 17th to the 26th of that month. Records were broken in Romanèche-Thorins on the 24th, when temperatures reached 41.4°C in the shade! Without the necessary water reserves, our granitic soils put the gamay vines to the test, and the heavy rains that fell towards the end of the month brought true relief to the vineyards.

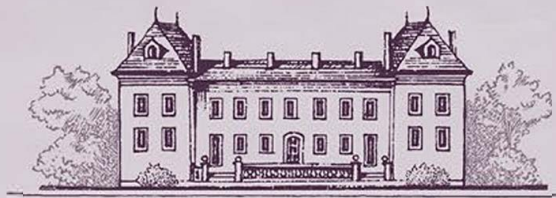
After a hot start to the month of August, the weather changed brutally again, with cool temperatures and stormy conditions the hallmark of the veraison period. Tension was palpable in the vineyards due to some very real concerns for the health of the bunches. Hailstorms - particularly violent in the south of Beaujolais - swept through on the 18th of August, but the cru zones were spared. Salvation arrived towards the end of August and the beginning of September with the return of sunny, warm and dry weather, ideal conditions in which to ripen the grapes. On the 20th of September, picking began in Carquelin and Champ de Cour, and finished three weeks later on the heights of Corcelette.

Our gamays, currently still maturing in our cellars, are already showing both an evident delicacy of texture and sheer deliciousness, allowing us to predict a glorious future for the 2019 vintage. Taking everything into account, it's fairly astonishing to realise that, for a number of key measures - most notably average rainfall levels and temperatures - this latest vintage has more or less hit seasonal norms. The statistics simply don't reveal how challenging this growing season has been for both the vineyards and the growers. Our average yields - 33 hl/ha - fell short of the norm established during the past 20 years. This was a year of paradoxes, one in which frosts, heat spikes, droughts and humidity threatened our grapes. 2019, in short, is a vintage of our age - one in which the unexpected was almost bound to happen.

CYRIL CHIROUZE

VINTAGE
2019





CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES

PARCELS SELECTIONS



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES
La Roche
MOULIN-À-VENT
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

MOULIN À VENT LA ROCHE

Situated on the heights of the slope, just beneath the famous windmill, our parcel faces south-east. Its soil is sandy, very shallow, pushing the gamay to dig in when water is lacking, as was sometimes the case in 2019. The wine shows nothing of this struggle. On the contrary it's showing notable freshness and generous amounts of fruit that drape around elegant tannins.



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES
Clos du Grand Carquelin
MOULIN-À-VENT
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

MOULIN À VENT CLOS DU GRAND CARQUELIN

A stone's throw away from the windmill, separated from la Roche only by a road, the Clos du Grand Carquelin faces more towards the south, and has soils of medium depth and richness. The wine is already revealing a lovely ruby colour, dense fruit and, as is typical of the wines from this vineyard, delicate, silky tannins.



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES
Clos des Thorins
MOULIN-À-VENT
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

MOULIN À VENT CLOS DES THORINS

History doesn't reveal, alas, whether the name of this parcel was derived from Thor - the god of thunder in Norse mythology - or from the Latin word for a bull, Taurus - but either of these etymologies would be appropriate given the typical style of wines made from the grapes grown here. Here, the gamay spreads out over granitic soils that are both deep and rich and whose southerly exposition is optimal: the benefits of this terroir in this vintage are already clearly evident in the wine, which although still relatively restrained has the breadth and power to allow it to age well.



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES
Clos de Rochegrès
MOULIN-À-VENT
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

MOULIN À VENT CLOS DE ROCHEGRÈS

Rising to a peak of 361 metres, Rochegrès is usually the last of our vineyards to be picked in Moulin-à-Vent. But, spared by the frosts in 2019, this parcel suffered less from the prevailing conditions than the others. The soils may be shallow, but they're richer in clay than those closer to the windmill, allowing us to produce a wine with great aromatic freshness, and whose tannins, while present, are notably supple and fine-grained.



CHÂTEAU DES JACQUES
Côte du Py
MORGON
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

MORGON CÔTE DU PY

Planted at a similar altitude to Rochegrès, this climat is notable for its more generous soils, rich in dionite, a bluish rock derived from an earlier volcanic seam than the one that created the area's granites. The Côte du Py benefitted this year from the fact that its terroir causes the vines less hydric stress in drought conditions than might otherwise be the case. In this vintage, the Côte du Py shows more elegance than power, albeit without losing its typically spicy notes and its long finish.