



# DOMAINE J.A. FERRET

## 2024 VINTAGE

**U**nlike other recent vintages, 2024 got off to a start with an abundance of water reserves thanks to daily rainfall in winter, replenishing the shortfall that dated back to 2022 and 2023. 'At long last, a normal year,' we thought towards the end of January, after a month in which we saw neither a lack of water nor an overabundance. Then February arrived. The rains continued to fall and temperatures were exceptionally mild, which spurred the vines on to begin their annual awakening, with all the signs that budbreak would be early. The next month, also mild, didn't exactly put the brakes on the fast pace of growth, and some of the buds were therefore unable to stand up to the frosts we saw towards the end of March. In addition, the rains continued to fall, and by the end of March rainfall levels had reached three times the norm.

The growth of the vines - and the plants that grew between the rows - accelerated during the first fortnight of April, while the weather remained extremely mild and humid, but a brutal drop in temperature put an immediate stop to the frenetic growth. Mowers and strimmers were immediately called into action to restrict the inter-row grasses, which had gorged themselves on the abundant water (as had the vines). Downy mildew was a bigger challenge than ever, turbo-charged by the rains, which still had ceased falling by the end of May.

The weather improved somewhat in June, with a few bright spells, even though showers continued to fall, promoting the ideal conditions for the fungus to continue its propagation throughout the vineyard.

Burgundy has never before experienced fungal pressure on quite the same scale. As the temperatures began to climb above 30°C, without any respite from the rains, the climate became tropical. Summer conditions didn't really begin to gain the upper hand until the end of July, which allowed the grapes to begin the process of veraison around the 10th of August.

After a challenging season and a fierce battle against disease, the growth of the mildew was curbed in most sectors of the vineyard. Sadly poor fruit set, the inevitable outcome of a tumultuous flowering, had a massive impact on yields, and resulted in the appearance of tiny golden bunches.

We began picking in Fuissé on 12 September. The grapes were ripe and the juices were perfectly balanced. A north wind blew in all of a sudden, helping to improve both the health of the bunches and their concentration, and this allowed us to await the optimal picking date for each parcel. The minuscule bunches that comprised the majority of the harvest required careful attention during pressing, but gave us both density and concentration. The last parcel was picked at midday on 23 September, two hours before the rain began falling once again - and continued to do so for the next fortnight.

The outcome of the extreme weather conditions that prevailed this year has been a classic vintage, with wines that we love and believe will age for many years to come. This very 'Burgundian' vintage brings to mind that of 2014, which is widely considered to be among the best ever produced at the domaine.

Clément Robinet

*Domaine J.A. Ferret*