

DOMAINE CHANSON

BURGUNDY, FRANCE – DOMAINE CHANSON

This was a challenging vintage due to complicated weather conditions, however, thanks to the hard work and talent of the winemakers, good quality wines have been produced.

Both autumn and winter saw wet and cold conditions, which continued through into spring with 30% more rain than the seasonal average.

The budburst was late, and the very wet weather led to flooding in some villages including Savigny and also affecting some parts of Beaune. This impacted on the work conducted in the vineyards. Difficulties did not stop there, the weather was gloomy in May which really slowed down the growth of the vines. The flowering was disturbed by storms which reduced the effectiveness of pollens and the cool weather brought 'shatter' and 'millerandage' to the Chardonnay and Pinot noir grapes. The winemakers had to be very careful as diseases could have appeared in these conditions.

The sun finally arrived with a heat wave from the 14th of July and everybody then thought that Mother Nature was back on track with the seasons. Unfortunately, on the 23rd of July, a violent hail storm destroyed 2,000 ha of vineyards in 20 minutes, with particular damage caused in Pernand, Savigny, Beaune, Pommard, Volnay and Meursault. Domaine Chanson was badly hit.

Summer eventually returned and the sun shone from the end of July through into August. Almost no rainfall left the grapes in very good health. September, however, saw some small storms. The harvest started on the 1st of October with a small team. The Chardonnay was picked first, with Pinot Noir only starting to be harvested on the 5th of October. The very precise work at the sorting table allowed us to only select the very best grapes, untouched by hail.

The vintage will provide well-structured whites with citrusy notes and good acidity on the finish which will give longevity to the wines. For the reds, volumes are low because of the hail but thanks to the good weather in August and our desire to harvest as late as possible, the grapes showed great maturity therefore enabling us to make wines of good quality.

Yields at Domaine Chanson were highly affected by hail; 14hl/ha for reds and 15hl/ha for whites - slightly below the average trend in Burgundy for this vintage.

