

Domaine J.A. Ferret

CUVÉE HORS CLASSE "TOURNANT DE POUILLY"

2019



Region

Mâconnais

Appellation

Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru "Les Reisses"

Grape variety

Chardonnay

Situation

Based in the northern part of Fuissé, just on the borders of the hamlet of Pouilly, the « Tournant de Pouilly » is a vineyard of one hectare in area, split between two parcels, planted on a gentle slope that faces north-east.

Age of the vines

Planted by Jean-Alfred Ferret in 1995, 1963 and 1964, the vines from this parcel are, on average, a little bit older than 60 years old, one of the oldest vineyards owned by the Domaine. A small parcel of 15 "ares" was replanted in the spring of 2018 after having lain fallow for several years. This particular parcel of young vines won't make it into the cuvee for several years to come.

Soil

This deep clay loam soil contains lots of limestone, but little in the way of stones. It is derived from the pale loams of the Dogger.

Vinification

Fermentations and ageing take place in casks: 25% of new cask, 75% of cask from 1 to 3 wines for 10 months. The ageing continued in stainless steel tanks, always with all their lees for another 7 months. Bottled just like the Ménétrières, on a beautiful winter morning, February 2, 2021.

Vintage

The mild conditions that prevailed throughout January and temperatures that reached more than 20°C by mid-February were the earliest hints that this was going to be an unusually challenging vintage. No one mastered nature's trials in 2019. And, unlike the prevailing conditions in 2018, water reserves at the end of winter were already low, so there was already a noticeable water deficit by the time the vegetative growth kicked off.

The somewhat scary mildness of winter was followed by a painfully cold spring. In April frost ravaged some of the budding vines at the heart of the village of Fuissé. Luckily, however, the vines planted on the slopes were spared. As in April, the temperatures in May were below the seasonal norms. Any precocity shown by the vines as a result of winter's gentleness melted away like a snowdrift on a sunny day. By the end of May, we were looking at some 13 days of delay relative to the previous year.

At the start of June the first flowers brought great promise. The number of incipient bunches seemed almost abundant... But our hopes were dashed by poor fruit set, in Fuissé at least. Harsh winds gusted across the amphitheatre of vines, reducing some of the promised generosity, then the bunches had to survive an unprecedented early heatwave. But all was not lost. June also saw some rainfall that was more abundant than the average for the decade. This gave us a glimmer of hope. There were no surprises in store for us in July - it's warm, dry conditions were pretty much in line with current norms. We had no need to fear the development of downy mildew this year, although powdery mildew was pretty aggressive.

Amazingly, veraison rolled out fairly homogeneously around 5 August. Several rainy episodes brought us both water and hope. Towards the end of August, the bunches in the Tournant de Pouilly weighed less than 50 grams. Skins were still very hard. We waited. We waited for ripening to proceed, we waited for the skins to soften, we waited for the grapes to reveal their flavours.

Despite the quasi-Mediterranean conditions, we began picking on 10 September, scarcely earlier than in the Côte d'Or, or even Chablis.

We struggled to fill the picking bins, even though we continued to cut. The musts were both pure and concentrated, with elevated sugar levels and unexpectedly high acidity.

On 23 September, the winery doors closed on our modest harvest.

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Tasting

The discreet nose at first glance opens on an aromatic palette ranging from the nut shell to the fresh almond. In the mouth an expression is long and mineral. It is a precise and delicate wine.

Food pairing

Scallop ravioli in a mild curry sauce, turbot with hollandaise sauce, John Dory with Szechuan pepper, chicken with a creamy morel sauce, aged Comté.

