

Domaine J.A. Ferret

TÊTE DE CRU "CLOS DE JEANNE"

2019



Region

Mâconnais

Appellation

Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru "Les Perrières"

Grape variety

Chardonnay

Situation

Le Clos is a gently sloping single parcel that faces east. It is located between the house of Domaine Ferret and the village church. This parcel, the smallest among those that produce the Têtes de Cru and Hors Classe cuvées, covers 0.69 hectares right next to the domaine's buildings.

Age of the vines

Half the vines just reach 35 years old, while the rest just turn their 50th birthday.

Soil

These deep sandy loams are derived from sedimentary clays and don't contain any stony material. The bedrock features seams of limestone and marl-limestone.

Vinification

Fermentations and ageing take place in casks of which 25% of cask new, 75% of cask from 1 to 3 wines for 10 months. Then the ageing ends in stainless steel tank always with all their lees for another 7 months. Bottling took place on February 2, 2021, on a descending moon, root day.

Tasting

Of a rather gourmet and charming nature, «Le Clos» presents this vintage a more delicate expression than usual. Mineral and ripe at the same time, it is a wine remarkable for its energy.

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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Food pairing

Grilled or poached fish with creamy sauces, lobster, crayfish, snails in puff pastry, chicken with truffles and creamy cheeses.

