Domaine J.A. Ferret

SAINT-VÉRAN

2023

Region
Mâconnais

Appellation
Saint-Véran

Grape variety
Chardonnay

Situation
This cuvée is based on grapes grown on a small parcel of 35 'ares' located in the commune of Davayé, a lieu-dit known as les Plantés. It has belonged to the domain for several decades.

Age of the vines
The vines were planted in 1991.

Soil
The parcel is situated on limestone outcrop of the upper Jurassic (Argovian). These are whiteish-beige limestone with some seams of marl.

Vinification
The fermentation and maturation of this cuvée takes place in oak on the lees, in much the same way as the domaine's Pouilly-Fuissé cuvées. Light batonnage takes place towards the end of fermentation and at the start of the maturation period.
Bottled in January 2024.

Tasting
This wine has an elegant nose with understated oak and notes of brioche and yellow fruit. The palate is fresh, rounded and balanced, with plenty of fruit.

Food pairing
This is a wine that will enhance a dish of roast cod, bread crumbled scallops, a roast loin of veal or a Comté that has been aged for 18 months.

Vintage
Once again, the 2023 vintage in the Mâconnais kicked off with a winter and spring that were both warmer and drier than the average, and this followed on from an end to the growing season in 2022 that was notably deficient in rainfall. We will easily forget the exceptionally dry conditions in February, which only delivered 2mm of rain.

Abundant spring showers in March and the mild conditions that prevailed in spring precipitated a relatively early budbreak which was, thankfully, spared from frost. Flowering, which took place in May, was perfectly homogenous, and this led to the development of well-formed bunches. June, on the other hand, was notable for the way it alternated between thunderstorms, some of them violent, and periods of hot, dry weather, leading to some hail damage and which allowed for attacks by downy mildew, which set in across the region. In contrast to the northern part of Burgundy, the south saw levels of rainfall in June that were almost twice the norm. July brought summery weather, encouraging the bunches to close up and veraison to begin, even though powdery mildew was making its presence felt in the vineyards. The hard work of our vineyard teams meant that we managed to preserve the health of our grapes, and we headed into the harvest season with perfectly healthy grapes.

Just as we thought we were heading for another early harvest, a wave of cool weather set in during the last week of August, creating a cessation of hostilities and allowing the vines some respite as they emerged from a week of heatwave.

On the 3rd of September, we were hit with another, unexpected spike in temperatures - a historic first at this time of year. This late heatwave only came to an end a fortnight later. The following day our picking team set off on a race against time, aiming to preserve as much freshness as possible in our lovely grapes. We picked our parcel selections first, and only in the mornings, in order to benefit from the relatively cool conditions. On the 16th of September, after 11 days of hard work under the blazing sun, our team made their last cuts of the secateur while admiring the spectacular panorama they could see from the vineyards of the Vergisson Rock.

The generosity of the yields, a key factor in creating balance, has allowed us to retain freshness in the finished wines, despite the warm vintage. With the benefit of very gentle pressing, we have made wines that show great purity of fruit, as well as density, complexity and vibrancy.