

Domaine Roulot

Meursault

VINTAGE 2012

The description of the 2012 growing season resembles a list of a vigneron's worst fears: a rather mild winter, early budbreak followed by cold weather and above average rainfall in April, May and June (300mm instead of the usual 200mm), a chaotic flowering resulting in shot berries and millerandage, an extremely high outbreak of mildew at the end of May, followed by an onset of oïdium in July, a violent hail storm on the 30th of June with yet another on the 1st of August, and all of this ending with hot August temperatures that scorched any exposed berries.

As a result of these challenging weather conditions production at the domaine was down an average of 60% when compared to a normal year. Losses due to the hail storms alone were estimated at 35% in the southern part of the village and up to 80% in the northern end. Both parcels of Monthelie were completely wiped out.

Needless to say, moral was not at its highest when the harvest got underway on September 15th, though thankfully weather conditions were good. We found the ratio of juice to organic matter to be different than usual and therefore paid a great deal of attention to the press cycles, adjusting our press programs accordingly.

In the cellar we needed to show patience and try to forget the growing conditions that brought this vintage to life. At first, the 2012s were not very expressive and the malos took some time to finish. It was not until they were racked and had spent several months in tank that the wines began showing some finesse, density and concentration. The presence of a nice acidity helps carry the richness of the wine and a purity is present thanks to the meticulous attention given to sorting and managing the presses (thank goodness for pneumatics!).

2012 does not "sing" like 2011. It is a more cerebral vintage that exhibits a great deal of character and intensity and which will benefit from the passage of time. A lovely vintage in the end, but one that made us work for it!

Jean-Marc Roulot