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2014 Vintage Report

After three challenging years, the start of the 2014 vintage remained just as challenging for winemakers, but surprisingly nice weather conditions paired with the winemakers' expertise allowed for a bountiful harvest and a promising vintage in terms of quality.

First, a warm and dry spring, which benefits the vines and preserves their good sanitary condition, led us to expect an abundant and early harvest. However, the harvest's expected volume was affected by a few occurrences of "coulure" (failure of grapes to develop after flowering).

But Mother Nature, along with variable weather conditions, put a damper on these positive perspectives in nearly all of France's winemaking regions. Again, Burgundy was hit in 2014 by a serious hailstorm on June 28th in the Côte de Beaune, which decimated - for the third consecutive year - the vineyards of Beaune, Pommard, and Volnay; nearby villages and a part of the vines in Côte de Nuits next to Vosne-Romanée also having been affected.

The summer was characterized by a lack of sunshine, so much so that the head start acquired at the beginning of the cycle was no longer relevant. A regular rain pattern settled in during July and August, postponing the onset of ripening which usually takes place by the end of July and beginning of August, and fueling the development of various diseases.

Thankfully by August 20th, and with the changing phase of the moon, a miracle came - along with the return of beautiful weather. The sun, and the northern wind, made its appearance in the first days of September. This created ideal conditions for optimal maturation of the grapes and maintained their good sanitary condition.

In mid-September, the winemakers regained their optimism and the harvest began under the sun's warm rays. The harvested grapes already fulfilled some of their early promises by showing very nice balance and exhibiting intense colors. The vatting process took place unhindered and the alcoholic fermentation began spontaneously. The start of autumn, very mild, allowed for the malolactic fermentations to trigger quickly.

The 2014 vintage appears very promising and the volumes are relatively good, even if they do not quite compensate for the lack of quantity. It remains an example of the winemakers' savoir-faire and their fight to face the whims of Mother Nature.