



FRITZ HAAG

2020 VINTAGE – AN IDEAL YEAR WITH A CHALLENGING FINALE

2020 began mild as usual, albeit with more precipitation than in recent years. This weather pattern held throughout February, but by early March the temperatures had begun to rise noticeably. April dawned warm, dry and sunny, with the mercury hovering around 20°C. These outstanding conditions encouraged bud break in our vineyards by mid-April, moving smoothly in just a few days across all our sites.

May remained free of late frost. Drawing on the strong supply of water that collected in spring, the vine shoots grew wonderfully. By May 28, flowering was observed in our top Juffer and Juffer Sonnenuhr parcels. The sites on the village side of the Brauneberg followed a few days later. Fruit set arrived in line with the historical average and remained stable until harvest. High temperatures returned in June, as did the rains. It would prove a welcome event, since the summer months thereafter were marked by almost unbroken high-pressure systems.

Our young vineyards showed some visible signs of stress during high summer in July and August. Fortunately, we came nowhere near the peak temperatures from 2018 or 2019. One almost gets the impression that the vines are slowly adjusting and adapting year after year to the hot months. We were relieved to see the vines taking advantage of their deep roots to maintain reliable access to water. Throughout the summer, the growing cycle remained two to three weeks ahead of the historical average. Before all was said and done, this was proved to be a good thing.

By mid-August, all signs pointed towards an extremely early start to the harvest. Our team went to work on September 16 with the first healthy and fully ripe grapes from the Brauneberger Juffer. For two-and-a-half straight weeks there wasn't a cloud in the sky during this final phase of the 2020 wine year. By early October the weather turned changeable and forced us to pause our picking several times. The cool temperatures that accompanied this also kept the grapes healthy even as must weights plateaued, with alcohol levels remaining at a moderate level. As such, the early maturation of the grapes was a boost, not a problem.

We are very much looking forward to producing elegant, classically styled Kabinett and Spätlese this year! The young wines are already attesting to a remarkably high quality across the entire program. To our great delight, as the finest residually sweet predicates remain a rarity and source of tremendous prestige.

Oliver Haag

