2023 Volnay Growing Season & Harvest Report from Frédéric Weber, Head Winemaker, Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2023 growing season in Burgundy was marked by warm temperatures and frequent storms throughout the spring and summer. Fortunately, the rainfall provided sufficient moisture to prevent drought stress, allowing the grapes to ripen gradually and evenly. This resulted in excellent maturity, with a beautiful balance of ripeness and freshness.

Two defining moments shaped the vintage. The first was an exceptional fruit set following ideal flowering conditions at the end of May. It was the most abundant crop potential I had seen since 1999. To ensure concentration and preserve the expression of each vineyard, we organized an extensive green harvest at the end of June. A team of 40 people carefully removed approximately half the crop, leaving no more than six clusters per vine.

The second came in late August, when a small amount of rain just before harvest was followed by ideal sunny weather. These conditions allowed the grapes to achieve excellent phenolic ripeness, developing soft, supple tannins while maintaining balance. We harvested the Beaux Frères parcels on September 11.

Overall, I consider 2023 an excellent vintage for Burgundy. The wines are remarkably approachable, with beautiful balance and a classic character. Despite the warmth of the growing season, they show no sense of excessive ripeness, instead offering elegance, freshness, and a clear expression of terroir.