Harvest 2026 - Domaine Rolet – Arbois - Jura

The 2026 vintage in the Jura has been marked by an unusual combination of excellent growing conditions on the one hand and extreme drought on the other. At Domaine Rolet, the result is a modest harvest, but one of exceptional quality.

The 2025–2026 winter was milder than usual and particularly wet, with abundant rainfall. In hindsight, these winter water reserves proved crucial: after several months of almost uninterrupted dry weather, the region's waterways and soils were severely depleted as summer approached—and they remain so until end of september.

The first significant risk of the season came during the final week of March, when temperatures fell to around –2°C. Fortunately, frost damage was minimal. During spring, the vines developed under remarkably favourable conditions: the weather was dry and sunny, disease pressure remained very low, and flowering took place in near-perfect weather conditions.

The weather then became increasingly dry, and for approximately four months rainfall was extremely limited while temperatures remained high. Potential yields, assessed after flowering, rapidly declined as water stress intensified. The severity of the 2026 drought in the Jura has been exceptional, and the rains needed to restore the region's greenery have still not arrived.

The impact varied considerably according to the age of the vines. Older vines, with their deeper root systems, demonstrated remarkable resilience and suffered somewhat less from the drought. Younger vines, particularly those between five and eight years old, required greater vigilance, with vineyard practices adapted to help them through this period of climatic stress. All of these vineyards have been organically farmed since they were first planted.

Among the different grape varieties, Poulsard proved to be a particularly pleasant surprise, adapting remarkably well to these extreme conditions. Despite its usual sensitivity, the variety appears to have withstood not only the intense heat but also the lack of water. The 2026 Poulsards are exceptional.

One significant advantage of such a dry growing season was the impeccable health of the vineyards and the extremely low pressure from fungal diseases. The bunches arrived at the winery in perfect sanitary condition. As usual, everything passed over the sorting table, but the grapes were remarkably uniform and healthy. In practice, we only needed to remove the occasional small piece of leaf that had inadvertently found its way into the harvest buckets.

Harvest began exceptionally early, on **August 17**, immediately following the heatwave. It lasted two and a half weeks, finishing on **September 3**. As always, every grape variety and each of the different terroirs was harvested entirely by hand.

The consequences of the drought were, however, dramatic in terms of volume. The estate estimates yields at around **28 hl/ha**, comparable to the small 2019 harvest. This represents approximately half of a "normal" crop, with losses even greater in certain sectors. The fact that the estate's vineyards are spread across all four Jura appellations and over a range of different slopes provided an additional advantage, helping to spread the risks associated with these climatic extremes.

From a qualitative perspective, however, expectations are extremely high. **2026 is a concentrated, sun-filled vintage, with fruit that achieved complete and optimal ripeness.** The berries were small and yields were low, but the wines combine the concentration of a warm year with the characteristic freshness of Jura wines, resulting in beautiful balance rather than simple richness.

Given the excellent balance and level of ripeness achieved, this is a vintage naturally better suited to the production of still white and red wines. As a result, there will be **no Crémant production from the 2026 harvest**. This decision, made in order to respect the character of the vintage, will not affect the availability of our **Crémant Blanc Brut** or **Cœur de Chardonnay** cuvées, thanks to their extended ageing on the lees and the regular disgorgement of individual batches.

For Domaine Rolet, the paradox of 2026 can therefore be summed up quite simply: **a very small harvest of outstanding quality**. It is a warm, concentrated vintage with remarkable fruit quality and a clearly defined freshness, producing wines that will offer pleasure both in their youth and after further ageing.