Harvest 2026 – Un Saumon Dans La Loire – Touraine – Loire

Fall and winter have been reasonably humid and mild with very few cold days, thus budbreak occurred exceptionally early in March across both vineyard areas : Azay le Rideau where Marie Thibault has her vineyard and Montlouis, where Frantz's vineyards are located.
Both winegrowers were afraid of potential late frost, and frost protection measures were deployed as early as March. Overall, the vineyards escaped frost damage.

Several minor hailstorms affected Montlouis, but fortunately caused no significant damage.

From May, the weather that was already dry turned into very dry :

- on Montlouis 5 days of rain in May then 2 main rainfalls occured mid July then mid August.
- on Azay le Rideau, situation became even more critical as no rain fall in July.

On one hand, disease pressure was virtually non-existent throughout the growing season, with no outbreaks recorded in the vineyards.
On the other hand, the extreme summer temperatures placed considerable stress on vines under 10 years old in Azay, particularly Chenin Blanc. Menu Pineau proved somewhat more resilient to these challenging conditions.

Picking began on August 14 becoming the earliest ever. Nearly the entire crop was harvested within just 10 days, in order to avoid too high alcoholic degree potential.

The harvest was exceptionally small in Azay, particularly for the white varieties. Red wine yields barely reached 30 hl/ha, while white wine yields fell below 20 hl/ha.
Montlouis fared somewhat better, benefiting from greater rainfall throughout the growing season and achieving an average yield of 35 hl/ha.