



HARVEST 2021

Francesca's word to describe the harvest: "Harvest in reverse!"

"This year's harvest began, as usual, with the Trebbiano harvest to produce our Sottofondo vintage, more or less at the same time, on August 24. The big difference was the end date of the harvest, since we usually harvest until mid-October and finish with a small amount of late harvest Trebbiano in November for our Chiarofiore vintage.

This year, we had completely finished harvesting on September 26!

The quantity of grapes was lower due to the frost at the end of April and the great heat and dryness over the following months.

The ripening was also abnormal: at first very slow (the veraison started 10-15 days later than usual) and then very fast.

Even the order in which the vines were ready for harvest was absurd: we had never harvested the Cabernet Sauvignon before the Sangiovese, and had never started so early (September 8)!

The low quantity of grapes was compensated by the quality: bunches were very healthy with excellent ripeness, good acidity, not excessive structure.

Unfortunately, the starlings also noticed: they ate half of the Vermentino crop and, unfortunately, because of them, we could not leave the part of the Trebbiano that we usually leave standing for the late harvest. We certainly would not have found anything!

Why did the birds eat the grapes this year? Because of the severe drought, they didn't have much else to eat and the grapes were taken by storm.

However, like every year, we will try to make the most of the harvest that we were able to bring to the winery after so much effort and that will express the vintage."

Francesca De Benedetto

