

## Newsletter 2022

First of all, we hope that these Christmas celebrations went well for you all, in kindness and joy. We also know that for some of yours the absence of a loved one around the festive table dulled that Christmas atmosphere somewhat. We have known them, we have thought of them, we have thought of you ...

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As you already know, this newsletters starts the reservation schedule for Emmanuelle. I know you will be forgiving and accommodating because every year it is a real headache for her to place you in the best possible way and according to your wishes. As you also know, the priority of dates and places goes to our regulars, this is the way we have chosen to thank you for your loyalty and your friendship. This priority does not apply to the two new lodges installed on the campsite and I explain it below.

This 2021 season has gone quite well. We opened the campsite on June 15th. We will keep this opening date in the coming years except for the lodges and gîtes which can be rented a little earlier.

Between June the 15th and 24th, when France was still in orange for our Dutch friends, we recorded some cancellations. Indeed, some of yours played it safe and preferred to cancel or postpone their stay. This was perfectly understandable because, as in 2020 and despite the vaccination already advanced, uncertainty was on everyone's mind about the summer vacation and the notorious delta virus.

From June the 24th, the campsite has filled up and until September the 12th, Emmanuelle and I were very active and busy. We had great pleasure this year to receive some, unfortunately not all, of our English friends.

Conclusion: a good season, with and always, a rich and beautiful theme week to end summer 2021

Health is good for our families. Everyone is vaccinated 3 times and no one has contracted Covid 19 yet, but the noose is tightening and the Delta variant or / and the new Omicron are present all around us (Charolles, La Clayette, etc.). We are not worried about ourselves or the children but rather about my parents and Emmanuelle's parents.

### What's new in the campsite?

As explained in my introduction, Emmanuelle and I have decided to buy and set up our own lodges to replace the aging large lodges of our partner Rent a Tent.

Indeed, it was time to change these accommodations which had aged badly and whose terraces, which had become fragile, were breaking in many places.

Two new accommodations will therefore be installed on the two most remote pitches of the campsite, which have been enlarged for the occasion. On the number **10** (at the bottom left) and on the number **25** (at the bottom right). We have left the number **15** to our tour operator where a glamlodge-tent will be set up and we have kept the number **24** to rent for you.

The models, Emmanuelle and I have chosen are manufactured by the Dutch company YALA .

They are called : Dreamer 40, you will find photos at the end of this letter. These lodges are particularly cozy with a practical and functional bathroom (90 by 110 cm shower), a well equipped kitchen plan and comfortable bedrooms.

The investment is heavy for a small campsite like us. You should not therefore lose the slightest rental opportunity. This is why we will not give the usual reservation and confirmation deadlines which give priority to our regulars. But, always in this spirit of thanks for your loyalty and to stay on this line which makes the success of Montrouant, we have decided to offer a reduction of 1% on the rental price of a lodge for each stay spent in our small campsite.

Example:

If you came to the campsite in 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2010 and 2009 you will be entitled to a 6% discount on the rental price which will be 1000 euros per week (from Sunday to Sunday).

**So this is an annual statement.** If you came 6 years with Tentsetter (now Rent a Tent) and 6 years with your own tent or caravan you will receive a 12% discount. If you've been coming to see us for thirty years, your discount on lodge rentals will be 30% !

But beware, I am rewriting it here, when you read this newsletter which starts our reservations, the first to react will be the first served!

**For the two lodges there will not be this waiting period which allows booking priority according to your number of stays in Montrouant.**

And now, the productions of this year 2021?

Not very good ...

Most of yours know that the beer was a failure and I didn't want to market it last summer.

What I don't like, I don't sell !

I had produced 800 liters of beer or 2400 bottles but a bacterium, certainly lactic (they are good for wine not for beer), made the beverage acidic and bitter ... it looks like a stung old cider ... it's drinkable but I'm not sure it's good for the stomach. The only one who feasts on and who drinks it every day ... is ... my mother !

But soon to be 90 years old, I don't know if her palate discerns the flavors well... but she is in perfect health... anyway, she is indestructible...

As you know, you learn more from failures than from successes ... and that's what have I learned in my life !!!

On the advice of my friends who are more qualified than me, I made new resolutions for 2022 ...

- 1) Purchase of a new fermentation tank reserved exclusively for beer
- 2) Manufacture and fermentation of the beer in a different place from the fermentation of the wine
- 3) Purchase of specific hygiene products for cleaning tools and tanks

The motivation is still there, and even stronger because, if I have the time, I am thinking of making two beers in 2022, one blonde and one amber.

This will compensate for the lack of wine ...

Ah yes, the wine production ?

Not good either because... no harvest!

The frost in May (-8 ° for 3 days) burned all the buds of the vines of the chapel and of Amanzé. The only plots unharmed, because they were pruned late, were the Auxerrois and the Pinot Noir from St. Julien de Civry. I was relieved because I was still going to make wine for the 2022 season.

But nature has decided otherwise ...

At the end of May, a big hailstorm hit St. Julien, just above my vines, destroying 80% of the future harvest!

And the mildew, helped by the particularly wet summer, devoured the rest ...

The little wine left over from the past season will only be drunk on special evenings, like the chicken evenings, the rest of the time my friends, we will drink beer ...

What about the fish?

A small production ... again.

All the spawning black-bass and small white fish have been devoured by the large numbers of ducks this year on the pond. These palmipeds feast on fish eggs and small fry when they are within reach. This is the case with black-bass and roaches, which leave their eggs at shallow depths. One in a nest on a sandy bottom, the other in the grasses or branches on the banks of the pond.

Zander spawning is also done on nests, prepared and maintained by males, but generally in deeper areas. These nests are usually out of reach of ducks. However, production remains low this year with only 800 pieces!

Of good size, it is true (15 to 17 cm). But some years we have captured more than 10,000 !

Carp and tench are beautiful and have grown even bigger. The two sturgeons and the three grass carpe are still present and are growing slowly.

So ? the year 2021? Annus horribilis?

No, of course not, beautiful things have taken place. I wrote above the good season that we spent with you ... I must add, to be complete, that 2021 is also the year where Emmanuelle and I became owners of Montrouant following a deed signed at the notary by the whole family.

This is an important step for us, it is the culmination of 40 years of work, hope and motivation ... The second step will be to transmit Montrouant to the children, it will be done soon ...

I was going to forget the truffle trees !

We still have planted a few hundred trees in 2021 and I must say that if the frequent rains have damaged the grapes by promoting mildew, they have helped a lot in the recovery of the truffle plants which are all alive and well as I write these lines.

We will continue to plant in the years to come... a day will come when, in Montrouant, we will taste pizzas, quiches and chickens with Burgundy truffles!

Before closing this letter, Emmanuelle and I would like to thank those of yours who send us these kind messages and these lovely cards that are so pleasant to read. Small attentions and gifts given during the summer are always special moments for us when we look at them or taste them, in autumn and in winter, because they remind us your faces, your kindness and the good times spent together.

We hope to see you all again in 2022. Perhaps we will have to resume the barrier gestures that we had partially abandoned last summer... This new Omicron variant does not seem very nice to me... if it is not more dangerous, it is a lot more contagious. We hope that the mask will not be compulsory, we'll see...

Let us remain optimistic but remain cautious.

Here, we want to wish you a beautiful, sweet and happy New Year's Eve and above all, **above all**, excellent health throughout the New Year.

With love,

Emmanuelle et Jean Mi



