



Dear camper friends ,

This little newsletter starts our booking for next summer 2020 and bring you a few news about the family Gruel and Montrouant.

Emmanuelle and I, hope that 2019 was a good year for you and your family. Here, everybody is fine. Camille is now a school-teacher and she works in a little village at 9 km from Montrouant ! You can imagine how happy we are, Emmanuelle and I.

Pierre-Emile is still living with his girl-friend, Inès, on the island of La Réunion in the middle of the indian ocean. He is actually with us,, so the family is complete and ready to spend a happy and relaxing Xmas time.

Dad and mum (89 and 87 years old) are also well, the parents of Emmanuelle too.

What's new about the campsite : we are going to work on two or three pitches for making them a bit bigger or more flat. Little arrangements here and there but nothing really important.

The wines :

It was a difficult year. The morning of the 5 of April, minus 6 in the two vineyards of Montrouant and it started again few weeks later ... result : no grappes around the chapelle and only few in the other vineyards.

At Saint Julien the Auxerrois (white bunches) that we picked up with my group during the themeweek, gave us 17 boxes which is half the quantity we normally collect. We have collected also 50 % of the normal crop of Pinot noir. Let's say that, in total, it's 30 – 35 % of the usual crop, but it's nature and I don't complain at all. So the quantity is short for 2020 but the quality looks there. Nice aromas everywhere especially in the white.

And the beer ?

We have prepared, nearby the “cuvage”, the room where I'll settle the professional equipment that I'm still waiting for making the beer. It's coming from Italie, it's cheaper for the same quality, but it takes time to arrive ! They said end of November, then middle of December and now, the third week of January ...

The malt is already done, the hop which was collected in September is in the freezer. I've already planted for the next winter the wheat in the fields above the château. The barley will be planted end of February, beginning of March..

With Marco (my dutch friend who teached me the secret of the beer !) we've planned to make it in February.

Two times 400 liters so, more or less, 2500 bottles of 33 cl.

The fishing period is over (you know that selling little fish is a part of our income) and it was really quick this year. We've started end of October, because of not much water coming in the lake. It meant too much risk for the fish, they could have died by a lack of oxygen. We've finished middle of November. It was not a exceptional “crop”. Not enough little sander and black-bass, more little white fish and little carp. It will be better in 2020...

As you understood the climatic conditions were not so good for us this end of 2019, but Jean-Mi is fortunately very enthusiastic, so let's see what 2020 will bring and hopefully the social climate will change quickly, at least before the summer....

We have decided to make only one theme week in september, from the 5th to the 12th, don't wait too long for booking as this week is very popular and as we have already our usual participants who have already booked. We keep more or less the same program as last years.

We have also received a few bookings for the camping, as you know we wait a month for making the booking planning and then we confirm the possibilities, please try to give us few options in dates and emplacements, we'd like to give a chance to everybody, and don't forget to complete all the requests which are on the form.

Thank you for the lovely cards and e-cards, wishes ,we have received.

We both look forward the pleasure to welcoming you at Montrouant in a few months, take care of yourself and those dear to you.

We wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Emmanuelle et Jean-Michel

