



THE VEGETATIVE REST

The Dormancy

Period: Mid-October - End of February



In mid-October, the leaves turn red or yellow, dry up and start to fall off, a phenomenon known as senescence.

The plant enters a vegetative rest, the vineyard takes on an autumnal colour.

A new cycle is coming to an end.

The sap reaches the roots, it no longer circulates in the plant and the winemaker takes advantage of this to prune it. The vine will hibernate until March.



Pruning in champagne

NOVEMBER - MARCH

The precise gestures of pruning are not left to the initiative of each individual, but have been **regulated since 1938**. It is the only AOC that regulates this field in such a rigorous, detailed and complete way.

Pruning is the most important work in the vineyard, because **the quality of the harvest depends on it**, on its precision and intelligence. It determines the vigour, fertility and maturity of the vine. It conditions its development and blossoming. It is the first operation after the harvest.

The vine is by definition a liana, its nature is to spread out as much as possible, thanks to a high production of wood. Consequently, an abandoned vine produces a lot of wood but gives few grapes, of small size and irregular maturity.

Pruning must be disciplined and the shoots must be judiciously cut so that they provide sufficient fruit without compromising the vitality of the plant.

Pruning is thus **a crucial stage which allows us to obtain fruit with a good balance of sugar and acidity, a quality factor in future champagnes**.

Pruning gives the vines a certain shape and prolongs their life.

It begins in mid-November after the leaves have fallen and ends at the end of March before the first buds appear.

Pruning is a reasoned act, it requires a lot of thought for the future silhouette of the vine. In Champagne, in order to practice it, we have to pass the pruning competition.





The different types of pruning in Champagne

NOVEMBER - MARCH

The regulations provide for the authorisation of 4 types of pruning

- *Chablis Pruning* : short pruning on long frames.
- *Cordon et Cordon permanent Pruning* : short pruning on a single long frame.
- *Guyot Pruning* : long pruning on a short frame, which can be single, double or asymmetric.
- *Vallée de la Marne Pruning* (only for the Meunier) : Long pruning on a short frame.

