

BAY OF BISCAY or L'ÉVANGILE 2024

Wet 'AtmoMetaphoric' conditions!

The vineyard is ready, provisioning is done, the boat is in order.

We were waiting for the start of the Transgascogne 'La Barquera' (Pornichet - Gijon). The weather window was not favourable, but we had to make a start. March was wet, and the forecast was heavy seas.

Aboard our Muscadet, a 6.40 m cruising sailboat - a real cruiser despite its size - we knew we were in for a bumpy ride. Juliette and I glanced at each other a little fearfully; what did this new vintage have in store for us? This new crossing? It's true this isn't our first, we've lived through others in the China Sea, in the Gulf of Bohai!

The first few nights set the tone, sailing was tough, and we had to keep reefing. Why do the most difficult watches always fall on weekends? There's no autopilot on a Muscadet, it's all to play at the helm, and the team took turns, determined. April, May and June were wet, making for a complicated flowering period, and coulure was just around the corner. Team spirit enabled us to stay the course, and for a while there was no damage from mildew. The weather calmed, July was cool, and the sea became gentler. 10 knots with the boat, not bad, we dried off! August brought high pressure conditions – the kind that favours that infamous agricultural tan.

Could we start to dream of a podium finish in our category? As we approached the Basque coast and San Vicente de la Barquera, the squalls returned and we had to adjust our course, tacking for the last time. We were through, and we maintained our position! Exhausted but smiling, we'd arrived! It was a colourful crossing, with lots to talk about, and lots to enjoy!

And what if we set sail again?

Blend :

Château L'Évangile :

80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet franc, 1% Cabernet-Sauvignon

Blason de L'Évangile :

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet franc

Budburst : 28th March

Mid-Flowering : 6th June

Mid-Véraison : 1st August

Harvest :

18th September to 2nd October

