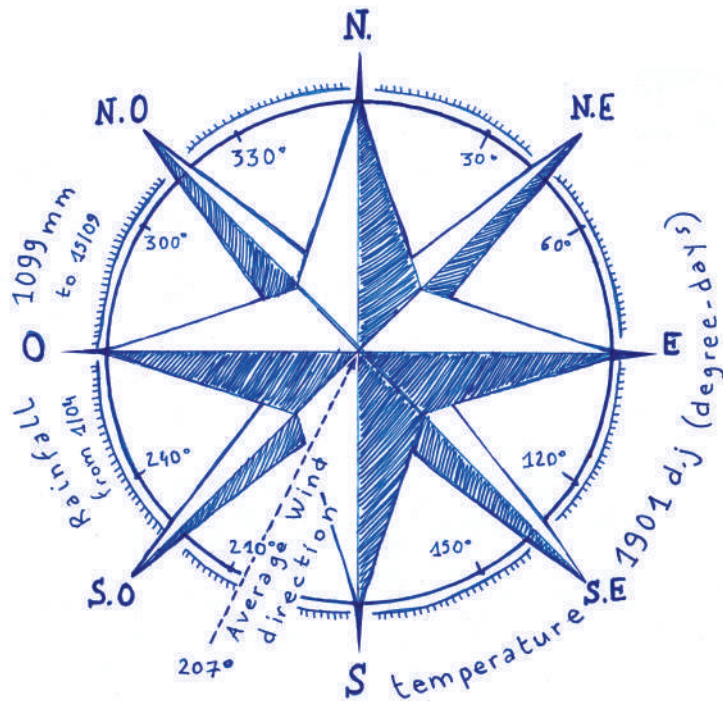


ALL HANDS ON DECK



STAY ON COURSE

TASTE and SAIL

Weather Report

From the start, 2024 had us sailing in heavy seas, taking on more than 1000 millimetres from the end of the previous harvest until April. Fortunately, the crew remained united: this was not their first crossing. We communicated instinctively, we had the right reflexes, guided by our experiences of working organically, and we protected our vines very early on.

We soon reached open seas: the watch rotation was intense, to leave no window of opportunity. We had to stay the course in the face of unprecedented mildew pressure on the first leaves. At the end of May, the hint of a high-pressure system arrived and promised fine conditions for blossom, but coulure sneaked in - not only on the Merlot, but also on the Cabernet. The lull finally came in July-August, with ideal conditions - at last - after the heavy spring weather.

Those two months were the trade winds of our crossing. The measured winds blew steadily, neither too much nor too little. That summer was so mild: nothing to stop the vine from growing, the right level of stress to ripen our grapes and to push us all the way to the coast.

Downy mildew struck early, reducing our harvest, but was long forgotten by midsummer. Let's not forget that mildew pressure is not necessarily synonymous with lower quality. Think back to 2020, 2018, 2000 or 1988...

The harvest was only a few miles away, but showers returned between late August and September. We reefed the boat for the last few tacks, and the grapes held out to the end, finally arriving safely into port!