



SCARBOLLO

Spring equinox 2026: the debt of patience

This will be a much briefer chapter than usual.

In our last notes, we anticipated the intention to postpone pruning to the latter part of winter, hoping for drier and warmer conditions, more favorable to Trichoderma (a beneficial fungus aiding us against trunk diseases). Unfortunately, weather had other plans: the volume of rain was roughly the same as last year, with 314 mm, but scattered across 20% more days, dismantling the rhythm of our work.

Winter and Spring pruning operations are the most delicate and consequential operations of the year - decisive both for current production and for the long-term structural health of the plants. For this reason, we are adamant in keeping this an exclusively in-house business, with Shkelzen, Ziri, and myself at the forefront: we have developed a rigorous set of practices over the years and we care for them to be followed to the letter.

In a year such as this one, though, rigidity carries a price.

We found ourselves finishing pruning only on the 28th of February. With Spring quivering to ring in its triumphant wake up call, we decided to call an external team to help us at least clear the shoots. Despite that catapult forward, bending and tying of the fruit canes began only on March 18th, with buds already turgid and on the verge of opening (we should be done by the end of next week). These delays, moreover, resulted in our missing the window to diffuse Trichoderma this year.

If nothing else, one previous decision proved, fortuitously, doubly worthwhile: cutting the canes to their final bud load already at pruning, rather than leaving them long to trim now. The plants bleed less during weeping (the original intent) and, without the need to constrict the nodes to slow sap flow (a time-consuming procedure), the bending and tying process is faster (the fortuitous outcome). A meaningful gain, given the circumstances.

Still, working at these paces and having to postpone / forgo some works is, in all honesty, frustrating. We will have to wait and substitute vineyard poles and start the Spring care of the other greenery in only a few weeks.

This all led us to reflect on the cost-to-benefit ratio of rigidly standing by self-imposed principles. Still, it is a way we cannot do without, otherwise fearing the shadow of always lingering tempting compromises. So, a life of black and white (ironic, for people working with a “grey” variety..). We rather work more now, absorb the stress, stay patient, and trust that these choices are building the conditions to grow the team and make the work more sustainable over time.



We are faithful of a chiller and brighter Spring. And the start is quite the cheerful one as we are about to introduce our third vintage (the 2024s): at SUMMA for the first time, and at Vinitaly. We hope to see you soon and share the fruits of our labor!

“Always remember, your focus determines your reality.” (Qui-Gon Jinn)

Mandi,

Mattia, Lara, Valter, Maria Grazia, Shkelzen, Ziri, and Annalisa