STAINLESS STEEL WIRE FOR VINEYARDS

SADEVINOX, the largest specialized distributor of stainless steel wire in Europe, offers an extensive range of stainless steel wires for use in vineyard applications, under its proprietary “Austinox” brand. These stainless steel wires are guaranteed to be austenitic Chromium-Nickel alloyed, typically 18% Cr -8 % Ni. By contrast to most other vineyard wires, “Austinox” wires are not coated wires, such as the various types of galvanized steel wires, but «stainless in depth» as they are often qualified: they offer thus a higher and much more sustained resistance to corrosion over time. “Austinox” stainless steel wires exhibit a good corrosion resistance to most acids, to sulfates (such as Cu sulfate) and to the various vine treatment products in use nowadays. Moreover, they provide the very useful combination of mechanical properties specific of austenitic stainless steels, as illustrated hereafter:

Trellising wire (1.2 to 2.0 mm):
The stainless steel vineyard wires are often used in trellising: mostly 1.6 mm wire for top and bottom lead wires and 1.4 mm for tying-up wire sets. These wires exhibit a high tensile strength level of the order of 1400N/mm², with still a residual elongation potential sufficient to allow their tying on the posts or the joining of wires end to end…

When compared to galvanized steel wires, the stainless steel wires are:
- much easier to handle, since they are 2 to 3 times lighter per linear meter: as an example, the stainless 1.6 mm wire advantageously replaces the galvanized 2.7mm wire with its low tensile strength of 480 N/mm²
- they do not loosen
- their “stainless in depth” quality guarantees a corrosion resistance much superior to that of coated galvanized steel wires.

Trellising stainless steel wire is typically supplied on 13 to 15 Kg basket spools.
**Anchoring wire (3.0 mm):**

The “Austinox” stainless steel wires are also more and more used to “anchor” the stakes at the ends of vine rows. The wires are typically supplied in 20 to 25 Kg coils of 3 mm annealed wire. This annealed wire exhibits a tensile strength of the order of 700 to 750 N/mm², with a large elongation potential which makes its usage very easy and efficient: easy twisting due to the ductility and good consolidation of the mechanical resistance under stress. Thus a 3 mm stainless steel wire frequently replaces a 6 mm galvanized steel for anchor wire: easiness of use and efficiency over time.

Contributed by Philippe Maitrepierre – Doctor of Science (PhD) in Materials