

Chablis Vaillons 2008

Premier Cru

Grape Variety :
 Chardonnay.

Vineyard

Site: very close to the village of Chablis, on the south west side. It is one of the 17 main Premiers Crus due to its excellent exposure and kimmeridge soil concentration, giving it the easily recognizable character of Chablis.

History & tradition: in the sixties, when the Chablis vineyards were all but abandoned, Robert Drouhin recognized the potential of this region which had been ravaged by the phylloxera disease a century before. He was one of the first Burgundy propriétaires who set about revitalizing the area.

Soil: the Kimmeridgian limestone contains millions of tiny marine fossils embedded in a kind of whitish mortar which may have been once the bottom of the sea...hundreds of million years ago. This marine origin gives the wines of Chablis their unique flavour.

Drouhin estate: 2.1 ha. (5.25 acres).

Average age of the vines: 30 years.

Viticulture

Biological cultivation since 1990 and **biodynamic cultivation** since 1999.

Soil maintenance: age-old methods. Ploughing: "buttage" (hilling up around the vine-stocks) in autumn; "débuttage" (ploughing back in spring); work between the rows and the vine stocks done with manual tools only.

Treatment: only authorized products for biological cultivation are used - infusions and macerations of plant materials, sulfur and copper, powdered rock. Natural predators are not eliminated.

Plantation density: 8,000 to 10,000 stocks/ha.

Pruning: double Guyot "Vallée de la Marne" (for its resistance to frost).

Yield: we aim for a lower yield, such as it existed before the new law. This yield is therefore the present maximum yield minus 20%.

Average yield at the Domaine: 56.82hl/ha (the yield currently authorized for the appellation is now 58hl/ha).

Vinification

Harvesting: by hand.

Pressing: very slow so as to respect the fruit. Juices from the last pressings are not retained.

Ageing

Type: stainless steel tank

Length: 7-8 months.

Throughout the ageing process, decisions are taken only after careful tasting evaluation. The data obtained is completed through technical analysis. As with every other Joseph Drouhin wine, absolute priority is given to the true expression of terroir and character of the vintage.

Tasting note by Véronique Boss-Drouhin

"A dry and brisk wine, typical of Chablis. Brilliant yellow-green colour with green reflections. On the nose mineral and complex aromas are reminiscent of lemon and white flower, together with vegetal hints such as asparagus or artichoke and marine notes. On the palate, the first impression is clear-cut and sharp. Long on the aftertaste, with fruity as well as mineral flavours; becomes slightly honey-scented when the wine is more evolved".

Vintage

It is an exceptional crop. Picking lasted from September 25th to October 4th. We were few to harvest so early, but low yields meant precocious maturity... the sanitary state, acidity and sugar levels were excellent. The year was difficult but the biological culture proved to be successful.





Chablis Vaillons 2008

Premier Cru

We are quite confident to say that 2008 is one of the greatest vintages of the past 25 years. All the wines from the village Chablis to the Grand Crus, depending on their level of appellation, show concentration, richness, freshness, minerality and intense aromas. It could be interesting to lay down these Chablis as their aromatic potential is important. Although very pleasant and seductive when young, you could also keep these Chablis up to 4 or 5 more years, the Premier Crus from 7 to 8 and the Grand Crus to drink from 2011 and the next 12 years.

Serving

Temperature: 13°C (53°F).

Cellaring: 3 to 8 years.

DOMAINE DROUHIN VAUDON

The Moulin de Vaudon, the property of Joseph Drouhin, is an 18th Century watermill straddling the Serein River, close to the Grand Cru vineyards of Chablis. Flowing gently past hillsides covered with vineyards, the river has always been closely identified with Chablis and its region. Because of its unique location at the heart of their 38 hectare vineyard estate (95 acres), this historical mill is the headquarters of the Drouhin Domaine in Chablis.

Joseph Drouhin, a precursor and pioneer in this great wine region for 40 years, will strengthen the identity of their prestigious Chablis Domaine. With this in mind, and starting with the vintage 2008, the name "Vaudon" will be associated with Joseph Drouhin for all its Chablis wines as a sign of the firm's allegiance to this historical terroir.