



A MEMBER OF
THE WINEBOW GROUP

PORTFOLIO BOOK



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Australia

2UP

2up

WINERY OVERVIEW

2Up Shiraz is the latest creation of Kevin and Helen O'Brien, proprietors of the well-known Kangarilla Road winery. Handcrafted from a blend of grapes specifically selected by Kevin from highly prized local vineyards, the skilled craftsmanship in both the vineyard and the winery results in a complex, delicious, high-quality Shiraz.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

2Up is handcrafted using a blend of Shiraz grapes exclusively from highly prized vineyards in the McLaren Vale. Thin soil, limited water, and warm summers produce small berries with intense fruit flavor creating wines that are dark violet in color with excellent depth and complexity.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

O'Brien has been making wine for more than 20 years. His approach is simple: to produce wines to enjoy drinking with or without food and with good friends. O'Brien has earned a reputation for crafting well balanced wines rich in intensity that consistently earn critical acclaim.

Owned by: Kevin O'Brien
Winemaker: Kevin O'Brien
Founded in: N/A
Region: South Australia
Country: Australia
Wines: 2 UP, Shiraz

WINERY OVERVIEW

Campbells Wines was established by Scotsman John Campbell in 1870 and is one of the oldest family-owned wineries in Australia. The company is currently managed by the 4th and 5th generation of the Campbell family.

4th generation brothers Malcolm Campbell (viticulturist) and Colin (winemaker) have proven the perfect team, ensuring quality control at every stage of the winemaking process. They have a hands-on approach and an uncompromising commitment to quality. They have been joined by the fifth generation who are adding their ideas and skills, providing the perfect blend of the wisdom of age and the exuberance of youth.

Campbells is a founding member of Australia's First Families of Wine, a group of twelve likeminded and respected generational winemaking families, who have come together to take the message to the world of the heart and soul behind Australian wine.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Campbells winery and vineyards are located in the historic Rutherglen region of North East Victoria, Australia, one of the first Australian wine-growing regions. At the heart of the region is the picturesque village of Rutherglen, which is located 186 miles north east of Melbourne and just west of the Victorian alps.

The Campbell family vineyards total 161 acres (65 hectares). Varietal and clonal selection criteria are based on suitability to the region, and the vineyards are blessed with a climate that is mellow and predictable. In winter and spring, soaking rains provide excellent moisture reserves, while in summer months, Rutherglen experiences warm, sunny days and cool, clear nights. The extended mild and dry fall allows the grapes to achieve slow, even-ripening and abundant fruit flavors.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The Campbell family's wines spring from the unique qualities of the Rutherglen wine region, 5 generations of knowledge, and dedication to innovation. Their philosophy is to capture the full flavors of Rutherglen into wines of complexity and elegance. They are highly regarded for their full-flavored vibrant red wines, including Shiraz and Durif (Petite Sirah).

Campbells also produce the luscious Rutherglen Muscats and Topaques, which are considered to be amongst the world's richest wines. These are unique wines in the world, a combination of the region's climate and soil plus the generations of experience and the old vine stocks preserved by generations past. Each vintage the grapes are left on the vines until fully raisinated and laden with natural sugar. The resulting wine is then blended with previous vintages using a solera method to produce a consistent house style: rich, high quality wines that are quite rare and unique.

Owned by: Colin and Malcolm Campbell

Winemaker: Colin Campbell

Founded in: 1870

Region: Rutherglen, Victoria

Country: Australia

Wines: Campbells, Bobby Burns Shiraz

Campbells, Isabella Rare Rutherglen Topaque

Campbells, Merchant Prince Rare Rutherglen Muscat

Campbells, Rutherglen Durif

Campbells, Rutherglen Muscat

Campbells, Rutherglen Topaque



Howard Park

HOWARD PARK
WINES OF MARGARET RIVER
AND GREAT SOUTHERN

WINERY OVERVIEW

Howard Park Wines, by Burch Family Wines, is Western Australia's largest boutique family-owned winery. Howard Park produces a range of handcrafted, fine Australian wines from the premier grape-growing regions of Margaret River and the Great Southern. Owners Jeff and Amy Burch are deeply committed to wine excellence and embrace a mantra of "no compromise" when it comes to all ingredients that make-up the final glass of Howard Park. In 2009, Howard Park was asked to join Australia's First Families of Wine (AFFW), a collective of twelve multi-generational family-owned wine producers. Together representing seventeen wine-growing regions across Australia and forty-eight generations of winemakers.

LOCATION OF VINEYARDS

Named after Jeff's father and mentor, Leston Burch, the 'Leston Vineyard' is the vine-producing property and home of Howard Park Wines in the Wilyabrup region of Margaret River. It currently consists of about 157 acres (64 hectares) of vines including Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Carnelian varieties. Soil types vary from gravely loams over clay along ridge tops to heavier textured and higher potential soils on lower ground.

The Scotsdale Vineyard, established in 1997, is located at the foothills of the Porongurup range. At 650 to 1,245 feet (200 to 380 meters) above sea level, it is among the highest vineyard sites within the Great Southern. The Porongurup ranges are a large ancient rocky outcrop jutting up from the surrounding farmlands and give their name to a small sub-region of cool climate, elevated vineyards. The winters here are bitterly cold, and the soils are

extremely ancient, producing low yielding vines.

Howard Park Continued

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Burch Family Wines has a very simple mantra when it comes to the production of their wines: premium wine can only come from excellent fruit. Over the past 30 years, the Burch family has exerted considerable effort defining and classifying the vineyards in the Margaret River and the Great Southern regions by variety to ensure the quality levels demanded are continually upheld and improved, matching each variety to its best-suited climates and soil types.

Protection and enhancement of the environment is also a high priority for the winery and biodynamic practices have been adopted to further minimize or replace the use of agrochemicals and unsustainable practices.

Owned by: Jeff and Amy Burch

Winemaker: Janice McDonald

Founded in: 1986

Region: Margaret River and Great Southern, Western Australia

Country: Australia

Wines: Howard Park, Leston Shiraz

Howard Park, Scotsdale Cabernet Sauvignon

Howard Park, Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon

Howard Park, Miamup Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon

Howard Park, Miamup Chardonnay

Howard Park, Miamup Cabernet Sauvignon

Howard Park, Flint Rock Shiraz

MadFish

WINERY OVERVIEW

Picturesque Madfish Bay is located in the remote southern corner of Western Australia, and according to local folklore, the bay's tranquility is broken when two tides meet. The fish, confused by this natural phenomenon, can be observed leaping in the air as if in a state of complete madness. The MadFish wine range and label, first released in 1992, was named as an homage to this unique geographical occurrence. The superb climate of South West Australia has always been conducive to the cultivation of healthy wine grapes with attractive and vibrant fruit flavors.

MadFish wines are made by the same award-winning family behind Howard Park Wines and Marchand & Burch, the Burch Family.

LOCATION OF WINERY

The MadFish range of fine West Australian wines are produced from grapes grown in the cool South West regions of Margaret River and the Great Southern.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

MadFish wines are easy drinking wines that capture the purity and freshness of the Margaret River and Great Southern regions. They consistently over-deliver on quality, year after year.

Owned by: Burch Family
Winemaker: Janice McDonald
Founded in: 1992
Region: Margaret River and Great Southern, Western Australia
Country: Australia
Wines: MadFish, Chardonnay
MadFish, Shiraz
MadFish, Cabernet Sauvignon
MadFish, Vera's Cuvee Sparkling



Marchand & Burch Wines

WINERY OVERVIEW

Marchand & Burch is an international partnership between Pascal Marchand and Jeff Burch, connected through their passion for Pinot Noir. Jeff Burch is a vigneron and owner of Howard Park & MadFish Wines, and Pascal Marchand, a Burgundian winemaker from Montréal, has worked with Château de Chorey Les Beaune, Comte Armand, and Domaine de la Vougeraie. He is also a self-described “Biodynamic Ambassador.” This friendship has bloomed into a partnership producing a collection of both fine West Australian and Burgundian wines.

LOCATION OF WINERY

The Marchand & Burch wines are traditionally sourced from two of the oldest vineyard plantings in the Porongurup sub-region of the Great Southern in Western Australia. This region takes its name from the ancient, granitic boulder-like land formation that rises from the surrounding landscape. Each vineyard sits high on opposing shoulders of this volcanic outcrop, on soils formed by the weathering of the softer rocks surrounding the range.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Biodynamic practices underpin the viticulture and winemaking practices for these wines. Burgundian viticultural techniques have also been adopted through implementation of narrow rows, high-density plantings, Guyot pruning, vertical shoot positioning, and leaf and lateral shoot removal.

Owned by: Jeff and Amy Burch

Winemaker: Janice McDonald

Founded in: 2007

Region: Margaret River and Great Southern, Western Australia

Country: Australia

Wines: Marchand & Burch, Villages Chardonnay
Marchand & Burch, Porongurup Chardonnay

Pikes



WINERY OVERVIEW

The Pikes estate is situated in the picturesque Polish Hill sub region of South Australia's beautiful Clare Valley. Brothers Andrew and Neil Pike established Pikes Wines in 1984 and continue to manage every aspect of the business today. They take great pride in producing quality handcrafted wines that reflect vintage, variety and region. Pikes flagship wine is Riesling Traditionale which has gained an international cult-like following as Australia's best dry Riesling.

The Pikes story in South Australia is one rich in history dating back to 1878 when Englishman Henry Pike, Andrew and Neil's great-great grandfather, immigrated to South Australia and established the family brewing business called H. Pike & Co. The company used the English Pike fish on the label, which remains to this day a symbol of Pike's long heritage, now spanning three centuries.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Pikes is situated in the North West section of the Clare Valley, in a sub-region known as Polish Hill River. The vines enjoy east to southeast exposure and for the most part are ungrafted, with just a small percentage planted on rootstock. The soils are red brown earth over clay, with slate and broken bluestone subsoil. The property is 240 acres (97 hectares), of which 200 are under vine. The region of Polish Hill is renowned for its black slate, which runs underneath the Pikes vineyards.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Pikes aims to produce wines that reflect their varietal, regional, and vintage conditions. They are quite happy to watch over the wines during their formative stage and intervene only when necessary.

Owned by: Andrew Pike and Neil Pike

Winemaker: Neil Pike

Founded in: 1984

Region: Clare Valley, South Australia

Country: Australia

Wines: Pikes, Clare Valley Dry Riesling "Traditionale"

Pikes, Eastside Shiraz

Pikes, Los Companeros Shiraz/Tempranillo

Pikes, Riesling Hills and Valleys

Pikes, Riesling Reserve The Merle

Shaw + Smith

WINERY OVERVIEW

Shaw + Smith was established in 1989 by the current owners, cousins Martin Shaw and Michael Hill Smith. Michael had just completed his Master of Wine in the UK, and Martin was running a “flying winemaker” business in Europe when they decided— somewhat on a whim—to make wine together. While a family business, Shaw + Smith is more about a partnership of two cousins with a unified vision and complimentary skills, now joined by a small team of bright talented wine people who are dedicated to taking the business forward.

Shaw + Smith aims to make exciting, refined wines exclusively from the Adelaide Hills that rank amongst Australia’s best. They specialize in varieties suited to the cooler climate region, namely Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Shiraz.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Shaw + Smith own two vineyards in the Adelaide Hills, at Balhannah and Lenswood, with a total of 136 acres (55 hectares) under vine.

The Balhannah vineyard, which surrounds the winery, was planted in 2000 with Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, and Shiraz. The soil is free-draining sandy loam over red clay, with underlying quartzite and shale. The average altitude is 1,375 feet (420 meters).

The Lenswood vineyard was planted in 1999 primarily with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, with a small amount of Sauvignon Blanc. The soil is brown loam over clay, as well as thinner topsoil areas on the ridges with broken shale and stone. The property is undulating with some very steep areas that provide east and west facing orientation and aspect. The property stands at 1,640 feet (500 meters) at its highest.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Growing outstanding grapes, working with the best growers, and using minimal intervention to make exciting wines with a strong sense of place is the core philosophy of Shaw + Smith.

Stylistically, a slow evolution of the wines over time has occurred. Sauvignon Blanc winemaking has changed little, although the quality of fruit has improved significantly as the plantings have gone higher and cooler. Chardonnay continues to refine and evolve due to access to better vineyards, earlier picking to protect valuable acidity, whole bunch pressing, a preference for wild yeasts, less malolactic, and less battonage. Pinot Noir has improved as the vines have aged, and as they move to more whole-bunch and whole-berry in fermentations. The refinements for Shiraz are ongoing: better vineyards and a move to whole-bunch and whole-berry, along with less reliance on new oak.

Owned by: Martin Shaw & Michael Hill Smith MW

Winemaker: Martin Shaw & Adam Wadewitz

Founded in: 1989

Region: Adelaide Hills, South Australia

Country: Australia

Wines: Shaw & Smith, M3 Chardonnay

Shaw & Smith, Pinot Noir

Shaw & Smith, Sauvignon Blanc

Shaw & Smith, Shiraz

St. Kilda



WINERY OVERVIEW

St. Kilda wines are produced by De Bortoli Wines, based in Bibul in the Riverina region of New South Wales. The DeBortoli family first established their operation in 1928 and since has grown the business into the largest family-owned winery in Australia, now in its 3rd generation. The St. Kilda brand was founded on the premise of producing wines of incredible value from premium Southeast Australian fruit. On the label, the iconic entrance of Luna Adventure Park located in the center of St. Kilda is depicted, a nod to the spirit of the place and the style of the wines.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Southeastern Australia, rather than being classified as a wine region in the traditional sense, is officially classified as a 'viticultural super zone.' It measures some 1,250 miles (2,011 km) and reaches from the Pacific coast in Queensland to the Indian Ocean. The sheer scale of this zone and the diversity of its climates, zones, and latitudes make it a virtual spice market for winemakers to choose from when selecting their vineyards and their grapes.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The winemaking philosophy is that great wine begins in the vineyard. The belief is that sustainable vineyard practices will deliver exceptional fruit quality to the winery as well as real environmental benefits.

The focus is on careful site selection, vine maturity, and high input viticulture, with a move towards biological farming principles.

Owned by: De Bortoli
Winemaker: Julie Mortlock
Founded in: 1928
Region: Southeast Australia
Country: Australia
Wines: St. Kilda, Chardonnay
St. Kilda, Shiraz



TOLPUDDLE
VINEYARD

Tolpuddle Vineyard

WINERY OVERVIEW

Tolpuddle Vineyard is an outstanding vineyard established in 1988 and takes its name from the Tolpuddle Martyrs, a group of 19th century agricultural laborers, some of whom were transported to Tasmania as convicts to work on a farm in the Coal River Valley, part of which is now Tolpuddle Vineyard.

Martin Shaw and Michael Hill Smith MW purchased the vineyard in 2011 and now make two wines - Tolpuddle Vineyard Chardonnay and Tolpuddle Vineyard Pinot Noir. They believe Tolpuddle is one of Australia's great single vineyards, with plantings of 50% Chardonnay and 50% Pinot Noir.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Located about 20 minutes drive from Hobart, in Tasmania's southeast, the Coal River Valley has established a reputation for growing exceptional quality grapes. With a climate at the cool extremes for viticulture in Australia, it is no surprise that Chardonnay and Pinot Noir perform so splendidly.

An anomaly for such a cool climate, the rainfall is significantly lower than many of Australia's other cool climate regions, with an average of approximately 500mm of rain per year. This cool but relatively dry climate allows the grapes to ripen slowly in autumn, without the disease pressure that heavy rainfall can bring.

The vineyard is planted with mature Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vines, facing northeast and sloping gently up from Back Tea Tree Road. The soil is light silica over sandstone and of moderate vigor, ensuring well-balanced vines producing grapes of great flavor and intensity.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Tolpuddle Vineyard has a unique, strong, and expressive character. Commitment in the vineyard, with an emphasis on working by hand, augments the site's natural character at its best, while also ensuring that the best from each set of vintage conditions are captured in the wines. The wines are made in a respectful way, using traditional, low intervention winemaking methods.

Owned by: Martin Shaw and Michael Hill Smith MW

Winemaker: Martin Shaw and Adam Wadewitz

Founded in: 2011 (Vineyard founded in 1988)

Region: Coal River Valley, Tasmania

Country: Australia

Wines: Tolpuddle Vineyard, Chardonnay
Tolpuddle Vineyard, Pinot Noir

TOURNON

Tournon

WINERY OVERVIEW

In 2009 Michel Chapoutier purchased two Australian vineyards: Shays Flat Estate and Landsborough Valley Estate in the Victorian Pyrenees. He recognized that the cool weather patterns and remarkable diversity of soil and exposures in this region would allow him to make distinctive wines from the Syrah/Shiraz grape of his homeland, utilizing his biodynamic winegrowing philosophy.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

A southern extension of the Great Dividing Range, the Victorian Pyrenees foothills and ranges create a remarkable diversity of microclimates and soils that provide a wealth of variety for winemakers. The vineyards consist of ancient soils and exposures, resulting in low cropping vines ideal for intensely flavorful wines. Soils range from highly draining quartz laden to red ferruginous schist, shale, and clay. The vineyards are farmed with a focus on maintaining a good balance with the natural environment, while working where necessary and appropriate to improve soil and vineyards conditions.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Named after the Hermitage commune, Tournon leads the movement in Australia towards elegant, balanced wines. The philosophy centers on respect – respect for the terroir, the fruit, and the consumer. The focus is on maintaining good balance in the vineyard's natural environment while working where appropriate and necessary to improve soil and vineyard conditions. The same dedication is given to the entry-level wines as is given to the more prestigious ones.

Owned by: Michel Chapoutier

Winemaker: Various

Founded in: 2009

Region: Victorian Pyrenees

Country: Australia

Wines: Tournon, Mathilda White

Tournon, Mathilda Rosé

Tournon, Mathilda Shiraz

Tournon, Shays Flat Vineyard Shiraz

Tournon, Lady's Lane Vineyard Shiraz



Vinaceous

WINERY OVERVIEW

As Australia is a huge landmass, not all varieties grow in one place, so the Vinaceous concept is to think very carefully about the variety or style of wine desired, and then to make the wines in the best-suited region.

Vinaceous Wines also looks to the future with new and emerging varieties grown in Australia, such as Vermentino, Pinot Grigio, Malbec and Tempranillo, to complement the more traditional offering of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Shiraz, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vinaceous labels and marketing reflect a philosophy of a travelling theatrical winemaking company. Each label represents one of nine personalities: men, women, angels, demons, mermaids, and other creatures of mythology, as a way of visually bringing this concept to life.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Vinaceous champions single varietal wines (making only one red blend) from key maritime climates: Margaret River, Adelaide Hills, and McLaren Vale, the most noted wine regions of Australia. Some vineyards are Vinaceous-owned, while others are contracted, but all are subjected to the same standards across all aspects, from growing to harvest, winemaking to bottling.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The Vinaceous philosophy on winemaking is simple: to produce the best varietal wines from the best vineyards, from the best regions in Australia.

Owned by: Nick Stacy and Michael Kerrigan

Winemaker: Michael Kerrigan

Founded in: 2007

Region: Margaret River, Adelaide Hills, and McLaren Vale

Country: Australia

Wines: Vinaceous, Raconteur Cabernet Sauvignon
Vinaceous, Shakre Chardonnay
Vinaceous, Voodoo Moon Malbec
Vinaceous, Red Right Hand Shiraz/Grenache
Vinaceous, Sirenya Pinot Grigio
Vinaceous, Snake Charmer Shiraz



Austria

WINERY OVERVIEW

Gernot and Heike Heinrich founded their winery in 1990 with 2.5 acres (1 hectare) of vineyard purchased from Gernot's family. His early work in the family winery, like most of that generation, was purely an agricultural pursuit with goals more related to quantity production. Just over a decade later, the Heinrich's were recognized with the prestigious Falstaff "Winemaker of the Year" award.

The philosophy at the winery is as transparent and pure as their wines: to make a fresh start for the area. The joy and bravery that helped them to get started still drives them both today, as they look across Lake Neusiedl to Leithaberg for their next challenge.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The province of Burgenland lies on Austria's central, eastern border. The climate is regulated by the last fingers of the Alps, which extend to the top of Lake Neusiedl, the other major influence in the area. It is in the two wine growing regions of Neusiedlersee-Hugelland, located on both sides of the lake, that most of the province's wine is grown.

Three main vineyard areas comprise the Heinrich vineyard land: the Heideboden (gravel soils that stretch from Gols toward the shores of Lake Neusiedl); the cru sites of Parndorfer Platte (the last vestige of the Wagram ridge that extends from the Danube valley through Vienna ending near the Hungarian border); and the vineyards of the Leitha range (new to Heinrich, on the northwestern edge of the lake.)

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Early vintages were powerful and boldly tannic, aged primarily in new barriques. However, over the past decade, implementation of organic philosophies in the vineyards as well as a natural winemaking approach in the cellar, has become critical to the development of the wines. The new, ultra-modern winery, completed in 2002, provides the freedom of space and the tools to ensure that the fruit is translated into wines that are powerful, yet without hard edges — complex, yet delicate.

The winery is dedicated to promoting elite examples of classic varieties from the area like Zweigelt, St. Laurent, and Blaufränkisch. As each year passes, the red wines of Austria become more refined, and the winemakers more adept. They may still be foreign-sounding to the US market, but the quality of the wines produced here is quite clear.

Owned by: Gernot and Heike Heinrich

Winemaker: Gernot Heinrich

Founded in: 1990

Region: Burgenland

Country: Austria

Wines: Heinrich, Beerenauslese
Heinrich, Blaufränkisch
Heinrich, Blaufränkisch Alterberg
Heinrich, Blaufränkisch Leithaberg
Heinrich, Gabarinza
Heinrich, Chardonnay Leithaberg
Heinrich, Pannobile
Heinrich, Red
Heinrich, Pinot Noir Dorflagen
Heinrich, Salzberg
Heinrich, St. Laurent
Heinrich, Weissburgunder Leithaberg
Heinrich, Zweigelt

WINERY OVERVIEW

Born into a winemaking family, Fred Loimer Jr. realized early on that he would have a future in the winemaking business. Following his formal education and experiences abroad working for other wineries, he returned to his family's winery in Langenlois, where he utilized his newly gained experience.

In 1998, one year after the winery was handed over from father to son, Loimer bought a historical vaulted brick cellar, a former cellar of the Haindorf Castle, in the middle of the grapevines between Langenlois and Zöbing. With the help of the architect Andreas Burghardt, he renovated the cellar, adding a minimalist building above to serve as the tasting room and office. Since 1999, the wines have been vinified and stored in the historic cellar under perfect, natural temperature conditions.

LOCATION OF VINEYARDS

The vineyards owned and managed by Loimer comprise a variety of the Kamptal region's soils: loess, loam, gneiss, and gravel. The single vineyard estate wines, marked by their unadorned white linen labels, are sourced from older vineyards that have been tended under biodynamic principles since 2006.

The Loimer winery is located in the Kamptal's largest and most important village, Langenlois. This village, Loimer's hometown, gave its name to his most well known wine, the Grüner Veltliner Lois (rhymes with choice).

Loimer Continued

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

“Sustainability without sacrifice” is the philosophy that Loimer lives by. His passion for renewal and vitality in the vineyards has led him to first experiment with and eventually embrace principles of biodynamic agriculture and winemaking.

His priorities lie firmly in the crafting of honest and pleasurable wines, raising his family, and protecting and preserving the land that provides his livelihood. The small Polynesian fertility symbol that seems to dance on each Loimer label signifies both a respect for ancient, natural traditions and an embrace of the playful and modern.

The Grüners and Rieslings from Loimer’s single vineyard sites are ranked amongst the best wines of Austria and the wine world.

Owned by: Fred Loimer

Winemaker: Fred Loimer

Founded in: 1962

Region: Kamptal-Niederösterreich

Country: Austria

Wines: Loimer, Achtung Gemischter Satz
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Käferberg
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Langenlois
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Lois Kamptal
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Loiserberg
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Spiegel
Loimer, Grüner Veltliner Terrassen
Loimer, Muskateller
Loimer, Pinot Noir Anning
Loimer, Pinot Noir Dechant
Loimer, Pinot Noir Gumpoldskirchen
Loimer, Pinot Noir Langenlois
Loimer, Riesling Heiligenstein
Loimer, Riesling Langenlois
Loimer, Riesling Lenz
Loimer, Riesling Loiserberg
Loimer, Riesling Seeberg
Loimer, Riesling Steinmassl
Loimer, Riesling Terrassen
Loimer, Rosé

WINERY OVERVIEW

Paul Achs returned to the family winery in Gols in 1991 after spending time in California where he learned to produce red wines at the highest level of quality. Achs transformed the estate from white wine production to red in the mid-1990s and was essential in the formation of several growers associations, raising the profile of wines produced in the area. Today, Achs grows 90% red grapes from 61.8 acres (25 hectares) of biodynamically farmed vineyards. He is considered an expert with Blaufränkisch which represents over half of his production and is known for wines characterized by elegance and finesse. Paul Achs was awarded Falstaff's "Winemaker of the Year" in 1994.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Gols is a small winemaking village located in the Neusiedlersee district of Austria's Burgenland region. The vineyards of Paul Achs are situated in two main areas around Gols. Heideboden, a flat and gravelly area between Gols and the lake, is a consistent source of fresh and easy drinking red wines. The second area is the Parndorfer Platte, a south-facing escarpment of complex soils situated near the villages of Gols and Mönchoff. The Parndorfer Platte is the source of Achs' three single vineyard Blaufränkisch: Ungerberg, Altenberg and Spiegel. Here, the diversity of soil combines with a southern exposure to give wines of profound expression and longevity.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Paul Achs joined the Respekt biodynamic group in 2006 and all 25 hectares are farmed biodynamically. Yields are limited to 35 hectoliters per hectare and the wines are aged in small and large oak barrels. Heideboden, the basic Blaufränkisch, and Edelgrund, a single-vineyard Blaufränkisch from the Heideboden area with 30 year old vines, are aged in old oak barrels. The Blaufränkisch single vineyards typically see between 10-30% new oak. Ungerberg is a 3 hectare site on sandy loam. Altenberg is made only in top vintages and is from gravel and fossil limestone. Spiegel, a flatter vineyard with chalky soils, gives a particularly powerful Blaufränkisch.

Owned by: Paul and Elfriede Achs

Winemaker: Paul Achs

Founded in: 1952

Region: Neusiedlersee

Country: Austria

Wines: Paul Achs, Blaufränkisch Heideboden

Paul Achs, Lust & Leben

Paul Achs, Blaufränkisch Edelgrund

Paul Achs, Zweigelt

Paul Achs, Sankt Laurent

Paul Achs, Blaufränkisch Altenberg

Paul Achs, Blaufränkisch Spiegel

Paul Achs, Blaufränkisch Ungerberg

Paul Achs, Pannobile

Paul Achs, Chardonnay

Prager

WINERY OVERVIEW

In 1983, the now retired Franz Prager cofounded the Vinea Wachau association, an organization dedicated to preserving the quality and culture of Wachau wines, while promoting Wachau's image beyond Austrian borders.

The marriage of Vienna-born Toni Bodenstein to Franz's daughter Ilse ushered in a sweeping renaissance at the Prager winery. These changes not only affected Prager's philosophy, but also how Wachauers thought about their vineyards and their work as winemakers.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

In the 1980s, Prager's holdings included production of some of the top crus of the region including Steinriegl and Achleiten, as well as of some of the best examples of traditionally crafted Wachau wine. However, there was little understanding at that time regarding the respective potential these special vineyards had and what distinguished one from another.

Bodenstein, a biologist, geologist, historian, and then-aspiring winemaker determined there was more to learn about the vineyards in relation to the effects of different soil conditions and climates on the vines. He used this approach to analyze terraces across the zone and became enamored of the varied terroirs. Based on Bodenstein's findings, Prager purchased parcels within certain vineyards, which at the time was a very complicated task.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

As a result of this work, Bodenstein now vinifies Riesling from 8 different vineyards and Grüner Veltliner from 7 different vineyards, all contained within a total production of less than 10,000 cases. Each bottling carries the hallmark terroir of its vineyard, and each is as distinctive in the bottle as Bodenstein predicted. The already stellar reputation of the winery has been further enhanced by Bodenstein's analysis, and the press has given him the moniker of "Mr. Terroir."

Owned by: Toni (Anton) and Ilse Bodenstein

Winemaker: Toni Bodenstein

Founded in: 1715

Region: Wachau-Niederösterreich

Country: Austria

Wines: Prager, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Achleiten

Stockkultur

Prager, Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Hinter der Burg

Prager, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Achleiten

Prager, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Wachstum

Bodenstein

Prager, Riesling Federspiel Steinriegl

Prager, Riesling Smaragd Achleiten

Prager, Riesling Smaragd Klaus

Prager, Riesling Smaragd Wachstum Bodenstein

Rudi Pichler

WINERY OVERVIEW

Rudi Pichler is among the elite growers of the Wachau producing wines of precision, power, and longevity. The cellar is based in the village of Wösendorf where generations of Pichlers have tended vines since 1731. Rudolph Pichler, III took over the winery in 1997 and has since expanded the vineyards and constructed a modern cellar in 2004. Grüner Veltliner and Riesling make up 95% of the production with the remaining 5% shared between Weißburgunder and Roter Veltliner. Rudi Pichler belongs to the prestigious Vinea Wachau and vinifies under the strict parameters of their codex. He was awarded Falstaff's Vintner of the Year in 2010.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Weingut Rudi Pichler consists of 37 acres (15 hectares) spread between Wösendorf, Joching, Weißenkirchen, and Mautern. Wösendorf and Joching lie in the heart of the Wachau Valley where south-facing terraces look down at the Danube River. Here, rieden such as Kirchweg, Hochrain, and Kollmütz are marked by occasional deposits of loess over base rock. Rudi produces crystal-clear expressions of Grüner Veltliner, Riesling, and Weißburgunder from these sites. Directly east of Joching is Weißenkirchen, home to the famous rieden of Steinriegl and Achleithen, two distinctive Riesling sites with calcareous and weathered gneiss, respectively. Rudi also maintains a small vineyard of Roter Veltliner across the river in Mautern.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

“I’m a wine caretaker not a winemaker,” is Rudi’s credo, placing the intensity of work in the vineyards at the foundation of his philosophy. Rudi wants vineyard and varietal expression to be as clear as possible so yields are kept low between 30 and 35 hectoliters per hectare with harvest and botrytis carefully removed by hand. Grapes are crushed by foot and receive between three and 36 hours of maceration on the skins depending on the vintage and style. “The skin has information about the specific place where it is from,” says Rudi. Vinification is entirely in stainless-steel tanks and malolactic fermentation is avoided. The resulting wines are pure, dense, and taut with energy.

Owned by: Rudi Pichler

Winemaker: Rudi Pichler

Founded in: 1904

Region: Nederösterreich-Wachau

Country: Austria

Wines: Rudi Pichler, Grüner Veltliner Federspiel
Rudi Pichler, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Achleiten
Rudi Pichler, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Hochrain
Rudi Pichler, Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Kollmutz
Rudi Pichler, Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Terrassen
Rudi Pichler, Riesling Federspiel
Rudi Pichler, Riesling Smaragd Achleiten
Rudi Pichler, Riesling Smaragd Hochrain
Rudi Pichler, Riesling Smaragd Kirchweg
Rudi Pichler, Riesling Smaragd Terrassen
Rudi Pichler, Weissburgunder Smaragd Kollmutz

Stadt Krems

WINERY OVERVIEW

Established in 1452, the original purpose of this winery was to provide revenue for the hospital in Krems. The estate-bottled wines of the city's own winery have always been a source of pride for its residents, but over the years the winemaking itself became perfunctory and lacked distinction — until the arrival of the current team in charge of the winery.

Since 2003 many Stadt Krems vineyards have been replanted and revitalized, and the cellar has undergone a renovation and expansion. Fritz Miesbauer and his young, ambitious team now craft their wines in the stainless steel tanks of a pristine but technically simple cellar. With a compact range of six offerings sourced from a variety of soils, handled by careful and adept managers, the wines display both the minerality and the juiciness of the Kremstal.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

All 75 acres (30 hectares) of vineyards held by Weingut Stadt Krems are within the city limits. The Krems Valley is only a small winegrowing area, defined by two different soil profiles. The rolling highlands and the eastward falling slopes of the Bohemian Massif are some of the oldest formations in the world. In the Krems area, it is made up of various types of gneiss, whose weather-beaten forms make up the original Urgestein (primary rock) of the terraced vineyards to the west of the city. This is excellent soil for growing Riesling. But the loess soil is of particular importance for viticulture in Krems. Formed in the most recent Ice Age some 300,000 years ago, it is mainly found on the southern and southeastern slopes of the Krems vineyards. It provides optimal conditions for growing the famed Grüner Veltliner of Krems with a lot of spice and fine structure.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Fritz Miesbauer and his colleagues aim to produce wines with a clean, fresh profile that are enjoyable to drink and that are typical of the region. They start with great vineyard sites, planted with the correct varieties for their soil profiles. The grapes are selected without influence of botrytis, fully ripe but clean. Fermentations take place in stainless steel tanks. The classic wines are released in the late winter, and the reserve quality wines are released in May as regulations for the appellation dictate.

Owned by: City of Krems

Winemaker: Fritz Miesbauer

Founded in: 1452

Region: Kremstal-Niederösterreich

Country: Austria

Wines: Stadt Krems, Grüner Veltliner Kremstal
Stadt Krems, Grüner Veltliner Wachtberg Reserve
Stadt Krems, Grüner Veltliner Wienzierlberg
Stadt Krems, Riesling Grillenparz Reserve
Stadt Krems, Riesling Schieferterrassen Kremstal Reserve
Stadt Krems, Riesling Steinterrassen

WINERY OVERVIEW

Steinig is the brainchild of Fritz Miesbauer, whose aim is to deliver typical Austrian character in fresh, clean, easy-drinking wines for the international market. During the course of his illustrious career, Miesbauer has overseen a multitude of wine growers at the Wachau's famed Domäne Wachau cooperative. More recently, he revived the quality reputation of the historic City Winery of Krems, Weingut Stadt Krems. A master at finding good reliable source fruit; Miesbauer vinifies the grapes into the modern Steinig label offerings. The wines are finished and bottled at Weingut Stadt Krems, but the project is independent.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Grapes used for Steinig wine are supplied by a group of young vintners whose vineyards line the Danube River. It is important that the grapes are completely healthy and, above all, not overripe, so that they can fully express the coolness and freshness of the Austrian climate. Miesbauer handles the grapes in a traditionally gentle way, so the wine will reflect as much authenticity and origin possible.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Miesbauer seeks to create a true reflection of everyday Austrian wine culture in his wines, producing clean, easy drinking wines whose refreshing acidity is meant to quench the thirst. Depicted on the label is a stone wall, signifying the agrarian nature of the wine's roots.

Owned by: Stadt Krems GmbH
Winemaker: Fritz Miesbauer
Founded in: 2009
Region: Niederösterreich
Country: Austria
Wine: Steinig, Grüner Veltliner

Szigeti



WINERY OVERVIEW

Modern day Szigeti (pronounced ZIG-it-ee) was born in 1990, when brothers Norbert and Peter Szigeti returned to their hometown of Gols, Austria to take over the family business. Past generations had produced small quantities of wine in their village in a traditional mixed agriculture system.

Norbert trained in enology and worked in a large sparkling wine firm in Vienna, while Peter completed hotel management school and worked both in Austria and abroad. The brothers combined their skills and increased knowledge of the market beyond their village to open the Sektkellerei (“sparkling cellar.”) Through traditional bottle fermentation, Szigeti seeks to produce “unmistakable fizz” with unique character.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Szigeti produces wine from a number of small farms on both sides of Lake Neusiedl in Burgenland. They work closely with the growers to ensure reliable and quality grapes that have been grown without chemical interventions.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Szigeti’s approach to the production of high-quality, affordable sparkling wine is simple. First, they insist on using only the finest grapes from carefully tended vineyards. Next, they generate a firm bubble using the méthode traditionnelle. The wines acquire a distinctive mousseux due to the use of yeasts indigenous to the classical Champagne region in France. The dosages are typically prepared with local sweet wines.

For Szigeti, the bottle fermentation process must not hide the integrity of the fruit: the dominant perfumes and flavors of the wines should be of the variety and should not be masked at all by the yeasty notes of secondary fermentation in bottle. To showcase this philosophy, Szigeti crafts sparkling wines from a dozen different varietals, and the hallmark of each is varietal expression. There is no better example of the strength of this philosophy than the Grüner Veltliner Brut.

Owned by: Peter and Norbert Szigeti

Winemaker: Norbert Szigeti

Founded in: 1990

Region: Burgenland

Country: Austria

Wines: Szigeti, Cuvée Prestige Brut

Szigeti, Grüner Veltliner Brut

Szigeti, Grüner Veltliner Brut 2011 Special Release

Szigeti, Gustav Klimt Blanc de Blancs Brut

Szigeti, Pinot Noir Rosé Brut

Szigeti, Riesling Brut Spitzer Graben

WINERY OVERVIEW

Though Vienna is known for patisseries, opera, music, and glistening pedestrian shopping plazas, the city also maintains a viticultural focus. The Wieninger winery was founded as part of the traditional Viennese heurigen (wine bar) system established in the 18th century. Born in 1966 to this wine-growing family, Fritz Wieninger represents the 4th generation in the current house. Before him, his mother was the family winemaker—she was one of the first female graduates of the enology program at Klosterneuberg (Europe's oldest winemaking school).

Emerging from his own training in the wake of the Austrian Wine Scandal of 1985, Wieninger spent a year working vineyards in California. It was during this time that he was convinced that the future for Austria lay in making wines of great quality and distinction, and it was also his inspiration for making top quality wines at his own home from classic Burgundian varieties. Once returned from his travels, Wieninger took firm control of the family winery, and since then, the arc of success has been swift: his first exports in 1989, Falstaff's "Winzer der Jahr" (Winemaker of the Year) in 1990, and the first exports to the USA in 1995.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The soils of the region's vineyards are diverse, ranging from loess and sandy soils to limestone, slate and chalk. The climate is regulated quite closely by the Danube River and influenced by the winds of the Pannonian plains to the east. Average annual rainfall is about 26 inches, with dangerous hail a constant threat to the city's vintners.

Fritz has worked diligently to acquire and develop classical vineyard sites for Grüner and Riesling, while also carefully cultivating red wine vineyards planted with both native and international varieties. More recently he has led the revival of the Wiener Gemischter Satz tradition—mixed vineyards were the traditional way to plant when the main concern for the producer was to prevent crop damage or loss due to weather patterns or disease—and he has excelled in the production of these multi-variety field blends.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Geh-mish-ter Sah-ts: the “mixed set.” Today’s young inspired winemakers, led by Wieninger, have discovered in these old mixed plantings a taste and a wine that is, as Fritz puts it, “all of Vienna in one glass.” Now recognized by Slow Food International as a Presidio product, the Wiener Gemischter Satz represents both the past and the future of winemaking in Vienna: unique in its aspect and flavor, unique to the place from which it comes.

The Wieninger winery focuses on two different wines: a light style for everyday drinking and a complex version from old vines on the famous Nussberg hill overlooking the city’s skyline. The winery is also responsible for pioneering top-quality examples of French varieties in the region, such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

Owned by: Fritz Wieninger

Winemaker: Fritz Wieninger

Founded in: 1905

Region: Vienna

Country: Austria

Wines: Wieninger, Gemischter Satz Bisamberg
Wieninger, Grüner Veltliner Herrenholz
Wieninger, Grüner Veltliner Wien
Wieninger, Gemischter Satz Nussberg
Wieninger, Pinot Noir Grand Select
Wieninger, Pinot Noir Select
Wieninger, Wiener Riesling Wien Vienna Hills
Wieninger, Rosengartl Alte Reben
Wieninger, Wiener Gemischter Satz Rosengartl
Wieninger, Wiener Gemischter Satz
Wieninger, Wiener Trilogie



France

WINERY OVERVIEW

For more than 60 years, Beau-Rivage has been one of the hallmark Bordeaux brands and a reference point for quality from Borie-Manoux, a family-owned producer and negotiant founded in 1870. Beau-Rivage means “beautiful shore” and is a tribute to the picturesque landscape along the Gironde and the rivers that feed it, the Dordogne and the Garonne. Throughout geologic history, the influence of those rivers created the gravelly soils Bordeaux is famous for—soils that produce some of the world’s finest wine.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The vines producing Beau-Rivage come from top AC Bordeaux vineyards situated on slopes between the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers. The mix of clay, gravel, and sandy soils helps create the unique Bordeaux terroir, identifiable in Beau-Rivage. The Borie-Manoux enologists make strict selections from these vineyard sites to produce a very consistent and value driven Bordeaux wine.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Beau-Rivage wines are 100% tank fermented without the use of oak. The wines are made in a very fruit forward, easygoing style that is meant to drink now.

Owned by: Borie-Manoux/Philippe Castéja

Winemaker: Arnaud Durand

Founded in: 1950’s

Region: Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Beau-Rivage, Bordeaux Blanc

Beau-Rivage, Bordeaux Rouge

Château Batailley

CHATEAU BATAILLEY



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ
— PAUILLAC —

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Batailley, a 5th Growth Pauillac of the famed 1855 Classification, is Borie-Manoux's flagship property. The name is derived from the battle (bataille) that took place during the Hundred Years' War around 1453, designating where the chateau and vineyard are today. In this battle, the French reconquered the neighboring Château Latour from the English, a crucial point for ending the 300-year-long reign of the English in Aquitaine. The first record of vines planted on these historical grounds dates back to the 16th century. Château Batailley's 12-acre (5-hectare) gardens were originally designed by Barillet-Deschamps, Napoleon III's landscape architect, in 1850.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The vineyards spread out over 140 acres (57 hectares) with an average vine age of 40 years old. The soil is silica and gravel, but the heart of the vineyard is on a deep gravel bed over a subsoil of clay and sandstone. There are also some parcels located in between Château Latour and Pichon-Lalande.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After a brief cold soak and the use of selected yeasts, the musts are fermented in stainless steel vats with a very traditional vinification. The charming chai dates from 1840 and is lit by an impressive iron candelabra. It is here where the wine is aged for roughly 16 to 18 months in 50% new oak. Batailley is a classic and very typical Pauillac, with cassis and currant flavors and a very firm structure.

Owned by: Borie Manoux/Philippe Castéja

Winemaker: Arnaud Durand

Founded in: Late 18th Century

Region: Pauillac, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Château Batailley, Pauillac

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Beau-Site—whose meaning is ‘beautiful site’—was very highly regarded in the mid-19th century, but the owner never submitted samples to the brokers in charge of the classification of 1855, so the estate was overlooked. Owned by Borie-Manoux since 1955, considerable efforts and investments have been made in this Cru Bourgeois property. Beau-Site’s 18th century underground cellar is one of the oldest in the Médoc and presents the perfect maturing conditions for a wine that is vinified with the same care and technique as a Grand Cru Classé.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Château Beau-Site, located on stony soils close to Château Calon Ségur, lies on one of Médoc’s highest points and has a fantastic view over the Gironde River. Château Beau-Site is located outside the village of St. Corbian, which is at the northern extremity of the St. Estèphe appellation. There are nearly 86 acres (35 hectares) of vines with an average age of 35 years, and the plantings are comprised of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. The soil type is a mixture of gravel, clay and sand, and the climate is affected by the nearby Gironde, providing a more temperate growing season.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After manual harvesting, the wine is vinified traditionally and then matured in oak casks (50% new) for 12 - 15 months.

Owned by: Borie Manoux/Philippe Castéja

Winemaker: Arnaud Durand

Founded in: 19th Century

Region: Saint Estèphe, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Château Beau-Site, Saint Estèphe



CHATEAU DE FONTENILLE
GRAND VIN DE BORDEAUX

Château de Fontenille

WINERY OVERVIEW

Located in the Entre-Deux-Mers region of Bordeaux, the Château de Fontenille has a long history dating back to the 13th century. A pilgrimage route protected by UNESCO runs through the vineyards to the neighboring Abbey de la Sauve Majeure, whose monks tended the vines for hundreds of years. Current owner Stéphane Defraîne bought the estate in 1989, and through his technical experience, passion, and dedication, he has been producing wines of superb value for the category.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Château de Fontenille is comprised of 121 acres (49 hectares) of vineyards; 42 acres (17 hectares) are planted with white varieties and 79 acres (32 hectares) with red. The average age of the vines is 17 years for the whites (Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, Muscadelle and Sauvignon Gris) and 20 years for the reds (Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon). The soils are a mixture of clay, silica, and gravel.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After harvest, the white varieties are macerated on the skins for 10 to 24 hours. The wine is fermented in tank at approximately 60 to 64°F (16 to 18°C) and aged on the fine lees to give extra body and complexity to the blend. The reds undergo a 72-hour skin maceration at 77°F (25°C). The wine then spends 18 months in a combination of 50% vat and 50% oak (1/3 of the oak barrels are renewed each year).

Owned by: Stéphane Defraîne

Winemaker: Stéphane Defraîne

Founded in: 1524

Region: Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Château de Fontenille, Entre Deux Mers
Château de Fontenille, Bordeaux Rouge



Château de Parenchère

Château de Parenchère

WINERY OVERVIEW

The Château de Parenchère, whose foundations were laid in 1570 by Pierre de Parenchières (governor of Sainte-Foy-la-Grande), is situated at the easternmost edge of the Bordeaux appellation, next to Bergerac. Renovated by Raphaël Gazaniol in 1958, the estate consists of 378 unbroken acres (153 hectares), 156 (63 hectares) of which are under vine. In January of 2005, Mr. Per Landin took over as majority shareholder in the estate. Today, Raphaël's son Jean and granddaughter Julia strive to meet the challenge of producing fine Bordeaux wines, demonstrating that great wines can come from lesser-known terroirs.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The vineyards lie on the border of the Dordogne and Lot-et-Garonne departments and are classified to produce Bordeaux Supérieur, Bordeaux Clairnet, and Bordeaux Blanc Sec. 146 acres (59 hectares) are planted with red varieties (50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Malbec), while 10 acres (4 hectares) are planted with whites (70% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Sémillon, 10% Muscadelle). The average vine age is 25 years old, but certain parcels now exceed 40 years of age. Planting density is between 1,336 and 2,300 vines/acre (3,300 and 5,700 vines/ha), and the vineyard management is deeply rooted in the principles of sustainable agriculture.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

To respect the variety of soils and exposures at Parenchère, the 32 different plots that make up the vineyard are kept in separate vats, resulting in 32 distinct wines. Each one is then subjected to selection before final blending, with the ultimate goal of highlighting the fruit and enhancing the elegance of the wines.

Owned by: Per Landin

Winemaker: Richard Curty

Founded in: 1570

Region: Bordeaux Supérieur

Country: France

Wine: Château de Parenchère, Bordeaux Supérieur

Château de Parenchère, Bordeaux Supérieur "Cuvée Raphaël"

Château de Parenchère, Bordeaux Blanc

Château Fourcas-Borie



WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Fourcas-Borie was created when Bruno Borie (owner of Château Ducru-Beaucaillou) purchased Fourcas-Dumont in late 2008. The property originated from the union of the estates of Clos du Fourcas and Moulin du Bourg, which are among the oldest vineyards of the village located on the north end of Listrac-Médoc. Château Fourcas-Borie aims to produce an elegant top-quality wine, and great efforts are made regarding both the cultivation of the vineyard and the elaboration of the wine to achieve this.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The 74 acres (30 hectares) of vineyards are planted with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot on a terroir of clay and limestone. The hilltops of Moulin du Bourg and Fourcas stretch out over 37 acres (15 hectares) on the north edge of the château and have shallow gravelly soils on clay subsoil. The other half of the vineyard lays on a clay-limestone soil. On average, the vines are 30 years of age and due to the differing plots (27 in total) and soil structures, plant density varies between 2,670 and 4,000 vines/acre (6,600 and 9,900 vines/ha).

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After sorting and destemming, the grapes are put in stainless steel vats with daily pump-overs. The vats range in size from 1 to 7.8 tons (30 to 220 hectoliters) to allow for a parcel-by-parcel vinification. The wine is aged for 12 months in 30%- 50% new French oak with various degrees of toast. The skills of five coopers were used to give the final wine its aromatic complexity.

Owned by: Bruno Borie
Winemaker: Eric Boissenot
Founded in: 2009
Region: Listrac-Médoc, Bordeaux
Country: France
Wine: Château Fourcas-Borie, Listrac-Médoc



CHATEAU
LAPLAGNOTTE-BELLEVUE
SAINT-ÉMILION GRAND CRU

Château Laplagnotte-Bellevue

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Laplagnotte-Bellevue is located 1.86 miles (3 kilometers) to the northeast of the town of Saint-Émilion in the village of St. Christophe des Bardes. The history of this small estate dates back to the mid-19th century, but it was most recently purchased in 1990 by Madame Claude de Labarre while she was still manager and co-owner of Château Cheval Blanc. Since 1996 the estate has been meticulously managed by her son Arnaud and has been certified organic starting with the 2012 vintage.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

This 13-acre (5.4-hectare) vineyard is classified as Saint-Émilion Grand Cru and is planted on a plateau of sand and clay over a chalky-clay subsoil, with traces of iron. The vines are an average age of 30 years and the planting density is 2,430 vines/acre (6,000 vines/ha). Average yields produce approximately 30,000 bottles.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After harvesting, the fruit is manually sorted with a very strict selection in the cellar. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentation take place in thermo-regulated concrete vats, and the wine is aged for 15 months in a mix of 30% new oak and the remainder in 1 - 2 year old barrels. The wine is never heavy-handed, or over-extracted, and is a tremendous value for the appellation.

Owned by: Arnaud de Labarre

Winemaker: Arnaud de Labarre

Founded in: 1868

Region: Saint-Émilion Grand Cru, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Château Laplagnotte Bellevue, Saint-Émilion Grand Cru

Château Patache d'Aux

WINERY OVERVIEW

Patache d'Aux is the main property of Domaines Lapalu, a holding company started by Claude Lapalu and now managed by his son Jean-Michel. The estate takes its name from the Chevaliers d'Aux (descendants of The Counts of Armagnac), who were the owners dating back to 1632. Seized by the State during the French Revolution, the property became a stopping point for stagecoaches called pataches, thus the name and illustration on the label. Today, this classic Cru Bourgeois property produces wines of exemplary quality, capable of aging a decade or more while still retaining aromatic freshness and structure.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The vineyard covers 106 acres (43 hectares) in the village of Bégadan, with an average vine age of 35 years and a planting density of 3,440 vines/acre (8,500 vines/ha). The plantings consist of four grape varieties: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. The soil structure is composed of gravel mixed in with clay and limestone.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After harvest, fermentation takes place in temperature-controlled cement, wood, and stainless steel vats for 3 to 4 weeks. The wine is aged in French oak for 12 months, with 25% in new oak. Avoiding super-concentration and over-ripeness, the resulting wine is approachable early.

Owned by: Jean-Michel Lapalu
Winemaker: Olivier Sempé
Founded in: 1632
Region: Médoc, Bordeaux
Country: France
Wine: Château Patache d'Aux, Médoc

Château Peymartin



Château Peymartin

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Gloria was founded and assembled by Henri Martin who established the reputation of the property within the space of a generation. With the first acquisition of 15 acres (6 hectares) of vines in 1942, and purchase of the chai of Château Saint-Pierre, Martin added to the estate over the years with land bought from surrounding classified estates, including Château Saint-Pierre, Beychevelle, Léoville-Poyferré, Gruaud-Larose, Léoville-Barton, Ducru-Beaucaillou, and Lagrange. The estate now encompasses nearly 124 acres (50 hectares.) Peymartin is Château Gloria's second wine, produced using the youngest vines on the estate.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The patchwork of vineyards that comprise Gloria are spread out over three distinct zones: the center of the commune Saint-Julien-Beychevelle, an area to the west, and an area to the north bordering the appellation of Pauillac. The average vine age is 40 years, and the soil is made up of Gunzian gravel covering a layer of clay and sand. The plantings are 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After a manual harvest, the grapes are vinified in thermo-regulated stainless steel vats with malolactic occurring in barrel. The wine spends approximately 12 months in cask, a third of which are replaced every year. The ensuing style of wine is typically a lighter and more elegant St. Julien, known for its early drinkability and charming character.

Owned by: Jean-Louis and Françoise Triaud

Winemaker: Remi di Constanzo

Founded in: 1942

Region: St. Julien, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Château Peymartin, Saint Julien

Clos Beauregard



WINERY OVERVIEW

Clos Beauregard is a 15-acre (6-hectare) plot that runs across the lower stretches of Château Beauregard, to which it was attached up until 1935 when the parcel was sold to Antoine Moueix. The property had been managed by Antoine's grandson Jean-Michel until it was recently purchased by Crus et Domaines de France, backed by the enological expertise of Michel Rolland.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Bordered on the north by the Barbanne Creek, to the east by the village of Saint-Émilion and to the south and west by the town of Libourne, Pomerol is the smallest of all Bordeaux appellations, yet it commands global recognition. Clos Beauregard is situated in the commune of Toulifant, about two-thirds of a mile (1km) south of Château Beauregard. The vineyard is planted with 93% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc with an average vine age of 40 years. The terroir is a mix of sand and clay soil.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The Merlot of the Pomerol region is famed for producing some of the most plush and velvety-textured wines in the world, and this wine provides a true expression of the Pomerol terroir at an unrivaled value. 100% hand-harvested and fermented in stainless steel tanks, the wine is then transferred to a mix of new and 1 year old barrels for 12 months before bottling.

Owned by: Groupe GCF
Winemaker: Vincent Cachau
Founded in: 1935
Region: Pomerol, Bordeaux
Country: France
Wine: Clos Beauregard, Pomerol

Croix Canon (formerly Clos Canon)

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château Canon, located on top of the limestone plateau in view of the village of Saint-Émilion, was originally part of the Clos St-Martin vineyard. It was purchased in 1760 by Jacques Canon, frigate lieutenant and corsair working for King Louis XV. Officially renamed Château Canon in 1853, the estate was purchased by the Wertheimer family in 1996, owners of the famed Chanel fashion house. In 2011, Canon purchased Château Matras to add to the production of its second wine, Clos Canon.

In the summer of 2013, the Canon team unveiled the meticulously restored “Chapelle de Mazerat.” On the Saint-Émilion hillside sloping gently down to the Dordogne River, a magnificent stone cross marks the entrance to this chapel, which gave rise to a new label in 2011: “Croix Canon, Saint-Émilion Grand Cru.” The 12th century church now houses the entire winemaking and production side of the second wine. Today, Château Canon is recognized as a Première Grand Cru Classé “B” of Saint-Émilion and one of the great estates of Bordeaux.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

In the 1990's an extensive project was started to replant the vineyards and modernize the winemaking facilities at Château Canon. The wine is crafted using grapes from the 27 acres (11 hectares) surrounding the chapel, as well as from the young vines on the hillside. The plots are planted with 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, and the average age of the vines is 35 years.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Croix Canon is crafted with the same precision as the Grand Vin. In the vineyard and cellar, winegrowers and workers apply the most meticulous methods, precise plot-by-plot management, and grape selection further refined by manual sorting. The gravity-flow fermenting room makes it possible to manipulate the grapes very gently. Made from a blend, which combines a majority of Merlot with a smaller quantity of Cabernet Franc, the wine is then aged for 18 months in French oak barrels, including a small proportion of new barrels to preserve aromatic balance and freshness of the fruit.

Owned by: Gérard and Alain Wertheimer
Winemaker: Nicolas Audebert
Founded in: 1760
Region: Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux
Country: France
Wine: Croix Canon, Saint-Émilion Grand Cru

WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine de Courteillac is situated southeast of Saint-Émilion, close to the Dordogne River, and enjoys one of the highest elevations in the Entre-Deux-Mers region. Classified as a Bordeaux Supérieur, Domaine de Courteillac was purchased in 1998 by the well-known Bordeaux wine merchant Dominique Méneret, a partner in the négociant company Ballande & Méneret. Dominique takes great pleasure from making the wines at Courteillac with the help of renowned consultant Stéphane Derenoncourt. Today, Domaine de Courteillac stands high above the standard of other Bordeaux Supérieur wines and can be compared in quality to wine from more noble appellations in the region.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Courteillac is located in the commune of Ruch, just south of the village of Castillon-la-Bataille. The soil is a natural extension of the Saint-Émilion plateau: limestone and clay over limestone subsoil. Of the 124 acres (50 hectares) that make up the estate, approximately 70 acres (28 hectares) are planted with 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc. The vines are an average age of 25 years old and are planted at a density of 2,025 vines/acre (5,000 vines/ha). Throughout the year from pruning to harvest, the Courteillac team tends to the vines with great care, leaving nothing to chance.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After harvesting, under the guidance of winemaker Stéphane Dubesse, the grapes are transferred into vats of different sizes to allow for various parcels and individual varieties to be vinified separately. Maceration does not extend beyond three weeks in order to avoid over-extraction. Depending on the vintage and the progress of the fermentation, there are four to five pump-overs per day. The wines are aged for approximately 14 to 16 months in 25% new, 50% one-year-old oak barrels, and the balance in concrete vats.

Owned by: Dominique Méneret

Winemaker: Stéphane Dubesse

Founded in: Late 19th to early 20th century

Region: Bordeaux Supérieur

Country: France

Wine: Domaine de Courteillac, Bordeaux Supérieur

La Fleur d'Or

WINERY OVERVIEW

Originally conceived in 1995 by Sauternes expert Bill Blatch with the négociant firm Vintex, La Fleur d'Or combines top-notch parcels of wine from small lesser-known properties as well as some from classified châteaux.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The vineyards of the numerous small estates are mostly in Barsac, where the misty morning microclimate encourages the growth of *Botrytis cinerea*. The average age of the vines is approximately 35 years, and the soils are predominately red ferruginous clay with some gravel.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The botrytized grapes are hand-harvested, and the wine is traditionally vinified in small steel vats. The wine is then aged for one year in barrels, followed by an additional year in stainless steel vats. The final blend is always lively and fresh, with the hallmark notes of botrytis — a perfect wine for no fuss consumption.

Owned by: Vintex et les Vignobles Grégoire

Winemaker: Various

Founded in: 1995

Region: Sauternes/Barsac, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: La Fleur d'Or, Sauternes

WINERY OVERVIEW

Ségla is the second wine of the prestigious Château Rauzan-Ségla and a Craft + Estate exclusive. The history of Château Rauzan-Ségla dates back to 1661 when Pierre de Rauzan acquired the estate. Rauzan-Ségla grew in reputation in a remarkable way and produced some of the most highly rated wines in Bordeaux. They delighted many well known dignitaries, most notably Thomas Jefferson who came across this wine during his visit to Bordeaux in 1787, subsequently placing an order for several cases in 1790. Some decades later, the historic 1855 Bordeaux Classification ranked Château Rauzan-Ségla as a 2nd Growth. Today, the property is owned by the Wertheimer family of the fashion house Chanel and managed by Nicolas Audebert.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

About half of the 126 acres (51 hectares) of vineyard are around the château, but there are additional parcels near Château Margaux and Brane-Cantenac. The vines are comprised of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, with an average vine age of 30 years and a vine density of 2,670 to 4,050 plants/acre (6,600 to 10,000 vines/ha). Soils at Rauzan-Ségla are composed of deep, fine gravel, which makes for natural irrigation.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

More accessible than the first wine, the aim for Ségla is to produce a wine of extremely good quality and value reflecting all the elements of Margaux and giving a true insight to the quality of the Grand Vin. The estate puts the same amount of effort and care into the production of Ségla as it does the first wine, making it a true and authentic introduction to the château.

Owned by: Gérard and Alain Wertheimer

Winemaker: Nicolas Audebert

Founded in: 1661

Region: Margaux, Bordeaux

Country: France

Wine: Ségla, Margaux

Château de Beauregard



WINERY OVERVIEW

The Burriers have been a prominent winegrowing family in southern Burgundy since the 15th Century and have owned the Château de Beauregard in Pouilly-Fuissé for six generations. Frédéric-Marc Burrier is the current family member in charge of the château, as well as running a small négociant business under the name of his grandfather, Joseph Burrier. As the occasional president of the local winegrower's association, Frédéric has been one of the leading advocates for classifying the Pouilly-Fuissé region's best climats as premier crus. Frédéric has been focused on identifying the best single-vineyard sites since the mid-1990s and more than a dozen different Pouilly-Fuissés are produced today, along with wines from Mâcon, St-Véran, Fleurie, and Moulin-à-Vent.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The Mâconnais takes its name from the city of Mâcon and sits between the regions of Côte Chalonnaise to the north and Beaujolais to the south. With its slightly warmer climate and limestone-rich clay, the Mâconnais is ideally suited to Chardonnay. The Burrier family owns 54 acres (22 hectares) of Chardonnay in the Pouilly-Fuissé appellation split between the villages of Fuissé, Solutré-Pouilly, and Vergisson. The Château de Beauregard itself sits on a rolling plateau between Pouilly and Fuissé with the nearby single vineyards of Vers Cras, Les Vignes Blanches, La Maréchaude, and Vers Pouilly. They also own seven hectares of Chardonnay in Saint-Véran. In Beaujolais, they own 30 acres of Gamay in the crus of Fleurie, Moulin-à-Vent, Morgon, Saint-Amour, and Chiroubles.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Chardonnay is pressed in a Vaslin mechanical press that Frédéric believes better extracts flavor and antioxidants from the skins. Slow fermentation occurs with native and sometimes cultured yeasts in 228-liter Burgundian pièce, temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, or a combination of both, depending on the appellation. Generally, Frédéric starts bottling after a minimum of one year of aging for Château de Beauregard Pouilly-Fuissé, and after 15 to 18 months for the climats of Vers Cras, Vignes Blanches, La Maréchaude, and Vers Pouilly. The cuvée, the “Grand Beauregard” Pouilly-Fuissé, is aged 30 months, first in barrel and then in vat. The whites are vinified and raised in Pouilly-Fuissé, and the reds at another facility in Fleurie.

Owned by: Frédéric Marc Burrier

Winemaker: Frédéric Marc Burrier

Founded in: 1883

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Château de Beauregard, Pouilly-Fuissé
Château de Beauregard, Saint Véran
Château de Beauregard, Mâcon-Fuissé

Domaine Alain Chavy

WINERY OVERVIEW

Alain Chavy produces restrained, structured, and long-lived white Burgundies from seven hectares of vineyards in Puligny-Montrachet. Alain and his brother Jean-Louis worked with their father from 1986 until his retirement in 1997. The brothers continued to work together until 2003 when they decided to equally divide the 32 acres (13 hectares) belonging to Domaine Gérard Chavy. Alain established Domaine Alain Chavy in 2003 and moved to a grand, old house in the village of Puligny-Montrachet, where he lives with his family. Here, Alain constructed a new underground cellar—one of the few in Puligny—where he continues to refine his work in the vineyard and cellar.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Domaine Alain Chavy consists of 17.3 acres (7 hectares), mainly in Puligny-Montrachet, with small holdings in the neighboring villages of Chassagne and Meursault. Alain and his brother divided nearly a dozen plots of their father's property, including some of Puligny's top premier crus. Dividing some of the small parcels, however, would have made them difficult to cultivate and vinify, so Alain kept Les Pucelles while Jean-Louis retained the larger Les Perrières. To compensate, Alain also obtained two-thirds of his father's holding of old vines (planted in 1955) in Les Clavoillons, making Alain Chavy one of only three domaines to own a section of this famed premier cru. Alain practices lutte raisonnée in his vineyards, eschewing herbicides, and relies solely on plowing for weed control.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Once the grapes arrive in the cellar, Alain inoculates for fermentation in barrel. Alain uses up to 15% 400-liter oak puncheons in combination with up to 25% new 228-liter Burgundian pièce for aging. Bâtonnage is kept to a minimum and malolactic fermentations tend to start late and are slow to complete, perhaps because of cold temperatures in the underground cellar. Alain Chavy has the distinction of possessing the deepest cellar—5.5 meters deep—in Puligny. The high water table of the village makes it difficult to dig a cellar and most of Puligny’s cellars are above ground. Alain seeks to produce structured and long-lived white Burgundies. He prefers restrained wines that express terroir, with ripe fruit flavors and good minerality.

Owned by: Alain Chavy

Winemaker: Alain Chavy

Founded in: 2003

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Alain Chavy, Bourgogne Blanc

Domaine Alain Chavy, Chassagne Montrachet Blanc 1er Cru La Maltroie

Domaine Alain Chavy, Chassagne Montrachet Blanc Les Chenes

Domaine Alain Chavy, Chassagne Montrachet Blanc Grand Cru

Domaine Alain Chavy, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Champs Gains

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Clavoillons

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Charmes

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Pucelles

Domaine Alain Chavy, Puligny-Montrachet

Domaine Alain Chavy, Saint-Aubin 1er Cru En Remilly

Domaine Blain Soeur & Frère



WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Blain was founded in 2014 when siblings Lucie and Marc-Antonin Blain acquired 14 acres (5.65 hectares) of vineyards planted with old vines on the slopes of Mont Brouilly in Beaujolais. Marc-Antonin and Lucie grew up in their family domaine, Domaine Blain-Gagnard, in Chassagne-Montrachet. After completing his oenological studies and gaining experience in Australia, Marc-Antonin made a vintage of Beaujolais in Fleurie which became the catalyst for purchasing land there. Marc-Antonin maintains the vineyards in Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly, while Lucie handles the communications, marketing, and daily operations of the business. The wines are vinified in Chassagne-Montrachet.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The Beaujolais wine region stretches 55 kilometers from south of Mâcon to the flatter lands northwest of Lyon. All ten of Beaujolais' crus sit clustered together in the northern sector of the region where the bedrock is the same schist and sandy granite found 100 kilometers south in Côte-Rôtie. Marc-Antonin and Lucie Blain own vineyards in the southernmost crus of Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly. Brouilly is the largest cru covering 20% of the Beaujolais area, while the Côte de Brouilly is a much smaller, volcanic slope known for giving structured wines. Vines are trained in the traditional Gobelet and average vine age is over 50 years old. Three different cuvées are produced based on soil and elevation: Brouilly, Côte de Brouilly Pierre Bleue, and Côte de Brouilly Les Jumeaux.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Grapes are hand-harvested and are brought to the winery in Chassagne-Montrachet by refrigerated trucks. Vinification is semi-carbonic in closed tanks with a combination of 30 to 40 percent whole bunches with the remainder destemmed. All fermentations occur with native yeasts and the wines age in a combination of wood, concrete, and stainless steel. Aging is governed by the vintage with some years aged eight months in 52-hectoliter wood tanks and other vintages aged for 12 months in stainless steel. Marc-Antonin is experimenting with various sized oak barrels and tanks. Some are the traditional 228-liter Burgundian pièce while some wooden casks are between 350 and 450-liters.

Owned by: Marc-Antonin Blain and Lucie Blain

Winemaker: Marc-Antonin Blain

Founded in: 2014

Region: Burgundy

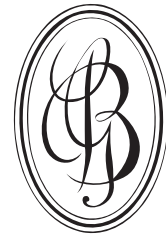
Country: France

Wine: Domaine Blain Soeur & Frère, Brouilly

Domaine Blain Soeur & Frère, Côte de Brouilly Pierre Bleue

Domaine Blain Soeur & Frère, Côte de Brouilly Les Jumeaux

Domaine Blain-Gagnard



WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Blain-Gagnard was formed in 1980 when Jean-Marc Blain (a Sancerrois) married Claudine Gagnard, youngest daughter of Jacques and Marie-Josèphe Gagnard of Domaine Gagnard-Delagrange. The couple runs this venerable domaine with the help of their son Marc-Antoine. Jean-Marc Blain and Claudine Gagnard met while they were both studying oenology at Dijon. The estate's vineyards come mainly from grandparents and other relatives of Claudine, along with a few purchases. The vines are planted in Chardonnay (55%) and the rest in pinot noir, with a small parcel of Passetoutgrain. They now control 20.5 acres (8.3 hectares) of vines in Chassagne-Montrachet, including holdings in three grands crus: Le Montrachet, Bâtard-Montrachet, and Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Chassagne-Montrachet lies towards the southern end of the Côte de Beaune and is famous for its white wines, although half of its total plantings are in red. In addition to the Grand Crus, Blain-Gagnard's holdings in Chassagne-Montrachet include the red premier crus of Clos Saint Jean and Morgeot, and the white premier crus of Morgeot, Boudriotte, and Cailleret. Additionally, the domaine holds premier cru parcels of Volnay Chanlin, Volnay Pitures, and in the Pommard lieu-dit La Croix Planet les Combes. In addition to the Grand Crus Bâtard-Montrachet and Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet, in 1999 they received a parcel of Le Montrachet from Jacques Gagnard. From 2000 onward, Le Montrachet from this parcel is made at and bottled as Domaine Blain-Gagnard. The vineyards are farmed by *lutte raisonnée* ("reasoned struggle.")

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

“Claudine’s grandfather said that perfectly ripe Chardonnay should smell like fresh almonds, so when she smells fresh almonds in the juice, she’s very happy,” says Jean-Marc Blain. Following the pressing, Chardonnay is inoculated with selected cultured yeast and fermentation occurs in barrel. The lees are stirred once a week until late December or, in some vintages, until February. White wines are aged in various percentages of new oak with 10-20% new oak for the village wines and up to 30% new oak for the premier and grands crus. Pinot Noir is destemmed and the grapes are cold soaked for three to four days followed by fermentation with native yeasts. Red wines are aged for 18 month in used barrels.

Owned by: Jean-Marc Blain and Claudine Gagnard

Winemaker: Jean-Marc Blain

Founded in: 1980

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet (Blanc)

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet La Boudriotte Premier Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot Premier Cru (Blanc)

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet Clos Saint-Jean Premier Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet Caillerets Premier Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Le Montrachet Grand Cru

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet (Rouge)

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot Premier Cru (Rouge)

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Pommard

Domaine Blain-Gagnard, Volnay Les Pitures Premier Cru

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance



GAGNARD-DELAGRANCE

WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance was created in 1959 with the marriage of Jacques Gagnard to Marie-Josèphe Delagrance. After the death of Jacques Gagnard in 2009, the domaine retained 7.4 acres (3 hectares) of vineyards and continues to be run by Jacques's widow, Marie-Josèphe, and their grandson, Marc-Antonin Blain. Marie-Josèphe's two son-in-law's, Richard Fontaine and Jean-Marc Blain, handle most of the work in the vineyards while Marc-Antonin tends the cellar. Marc-Antonin worked in the cellar alongside Jacques for three years before his grandfather's death and learned the traditional style that Gagnard-Delagrance is known for.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The domaine originally included parcels in grand cru Bâtard-Montrachet and premier crus Boudriotte, Morgeot and Volnay Champans. In 1978 a small parcel of Montrachet was purchased from Paul Fleurot by Jacques and his father-in-law, Edward Delagrance. Most of the vineyards of Gagnard-Delagrance have been handed down to their two daughters (Laurence, married to Richard Fontaine; and Claudine, married to Jean-Marc Blain), including grand cru Le Montrachet which was divided between them. The domaine, however, retained 7.4 acres (3 hectares) of premier crus in Chassagne-Montrachet as well as two small parcels that Marie-Josèphe tends herself: Chassagne Village and a small vineyard of Passetoutgrain called Les Farges.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Marc-Antonin Blain worked in the cellar alongside Jacques for three years and continues to produce Gagnard-Delagrance in the traditional style of his grandfather. Marc-Antonin presses the hand-harvested Chardonnay and immediately puts the juice into barrels where it ferments with the lees. The Chardonnay is fermented spontaneously with the lees are stirred roughly every two weeks. The white wines are aged in barrel for 15 to 16 months after harvest before bottling in up to 30% new barrels for the grands crus, 20% for the premier crus, and 10% for the villages wines. For the red wine, the Pinot Noir is destemmed and is fermented using cultured yeast. Only older barrels are used to age the Pinot Noir.

Owned by: Marie-Josèphe Gagnard

Winemaker: Marc-Antonin Blain

Founded in: 1959

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance, Chassagne-Montrachet

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru La Boudriotte

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Domaine Gagnard-Delagrance, Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru (Rouge)

Domaine Jean Grivot



DOMAINE JEAN GRIVOT
VOSNE-ROMANÉE · CÔTE-D'OR · FRANCE

WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Jean Grivot is among the great names in Burgundian wine. Étienne Grivot and his wife Marielle (Patrick Bize's sister) took over from Étienne's father Jean Grivot in 1987. The cellar is in Vosne-Romanée where most of their vineyards are located. The domaine has been assembled over several generations to its current size of 38.3 acres (15.5 hectares) and includes holdings in three grand crus: Clos de Vougeot, Echézeaux, and Richebourg. Étienne's approach is to constantly improve the quality of the wines and he has been willing to experiment and evolve his work in the vineyard and cellar over the years. Today, the vineyards are densely planted and farmed organically "sans certification," while the aim in the cellar is for balance and clear expression of terroir.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Vosne-Romanée is the home of many great domaines and lays claim to six of the Côte de Nuits' 24 grand crus. The commune and its vineyards sit between Vougeot to its north and Nuits-Saint-Georges to its south, with the grand crus at mid-slope directly behind the village. Domaine Jean Grivot's 38.3 acres (15.5 hectares) spread across 22 appellations with vineyards in the communes of Vosne-Romanée, Vougeot, Chambolle-Musigny, and Nuits-Saint-Georges. Besides the three grand crus, there are 8 premier crus including the much lauded Les Beaux Monts and Suchots in Vosne-Romanée. Étienne believes in farming with minimal impact to the environment and eschews the use of chemicals in the vineyard. He's also hired a horse, Pirate, to plough his holdings in Richebourg, Echézeaux, Beau Monts, and Suchots to minimize the impact on the soil.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Since taking over in 1987, Étienne has evolved his winemaking style, at first wanting to get more concentration into the wines, and later to achieve greater balance and clarity of site. Today, the grapes are entirely destemmed and maceration à froid usually lasts just a day or two. The fermentation starts naturally, with a little punching down before this fermentation begins. There is no more pigeage after fermentation begins, “I don’t like to mix the physical [punching down] with the spiritual [fermentation],” said Étienne. After fermentation, the wines are pumped over once a day before going to barrel. Depending on the vintage, the proportion of new oak is around 25% for the villages appellations, 30 - 60% for the premier crus and 40-70% percent for the grands crus.

Owned by: Etienne Grivot

Winemaker: Etienne Grivot

Founded in: 1930

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Jean Grivot, Nuits-St.-Georges 1er Cru Aux Boudots
Domaine Jean Grivot, Nuits-St.-Georges 1er Cru Roncières
Domaine Jean Grivot, Nuits-St.-Georges Les Charmois
Domaine Jean Grivot, Vosne-Romanée
Domaine Jean Grivot, Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts
Domaine Jean Grivot, Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Suchots
Domaine Jean Grivot, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru
Domaine Jean Grivot, Échezeaux Grand Cru
Domaine Jean Grivot, Richebourg Grand Cru



Domaine Laurent Cognard

WINERY OVERVIEW

Laurent Cognard's parents and grandparents sold the grapes from their small vineyard in Buxy to local cooperatives. Laurent began domaine bottling his family's wines in 1997, returning each year for harvest, but also working as a wine seller in Lyon and Paris. He returned to Buxy permanently in 2006 and today farms 26 acres (10.5 hectares) of vines in the appellations of Montagny, Mercurey, and Pouilly-Loché. The specialty of the domaine is white wine made in a fresh and balanced style, though a small amount of Mercurey rouge is also produced. Laurent practices lutte raisonnée ("reasoned struggle") and is converting to organic farming.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The region of Côte Chalonnaise extends 25 kilometers from the southern end of the Côte d'Or to the Mâconnais in the south. The region includes five village appellations: Bouzeron (white wine from Aligoté), Rully, Givry, Mercurey (white, rosé, and red wines), and Montagny (white wine only). The soil is like the Côte de Beaune with weathered limestone and clay, but lacks the protection from wind provided by the Côte d'Or's escarpment. Laurent Cognard's 26 acres (10.5 hectares) are spread across Bissey-sous-Cruchaud (for Crémant de Bourgogne), Montagny, Mercurey, and a small holding Pouilly-Loché in the Mâconnais.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Grapes are hand-harvested and brought to the cellar in Buxy where natural yeasts are used for fermentation whenever possible. Eighty percent of the white-wine fermentations occur in barrel using a combination of 228-liter Burgundian pièce and 500-liter puncheons. Various percentages of new oak is used for the premier crus. Laurent works to minimize the frequency of bâtonnage because it contributes too much heaviness. "We're not trying to make bodybuilder wines here," says Laurent, "our goal is to make wines you can drink." The Pinot Noir is destemmed to 90% and undergoes both punch-downs and pumping during its vinification. The resulting wines show an extraordinary degree of purity, freshness, and fruit.

Owned by: Laurent Cognard

Winemaker: Laurent Cognard

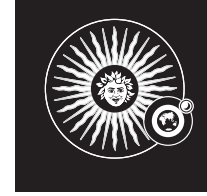
Founded in: 1997

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Laurent Cognard, Mercurey Rouge 1er Cru Clos du Paradis
Domaine Laurent Cognard, Montagny 1er Cru Clos du Vieux Chateau
Domaine Laurent Cognard, Montagny 1er Cru Cuvée Maxence
Domaine Laurent Cognard, Montagny 1er Cru Les Bassets
Domaine Laurent Cognard, Montagny Pouilly Loché aux Barres

Domaine Michel Magnien



WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Michel Magnien & Fils, based in the village of Morey-Saint-Denis, belongs to a very old Burgundian family. Born in 1946, Michel Magnien represents the 4th generation of wine producers in the family. From a young age, he worked the 10 acres (4 hectares) of vineyards belonging to his father, Bernard. From 1967 to 1991, Michel and his wife Dominique acquired numerous plots of vines in the Côte de Nuits and in 1988, he took over his father's vineyards as a tenant farmer and continued to deliver the Bernard Magnien annual harvest to the local Cooperative until 1993. At that time Frédéric Magnien had joined the family business and persuaded his father that they should bottle the entire harvest themselves.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The estate is comprised of 47 acres (19 hectares) of Grands Crus, Premier Crus, Villages and regional appellation vineyards spread across the Côte de Nuits, Chambolle-Musigny, and Vosne-Romanée. Frédéric has taken over winemaking responsibilities while Michel, who still works in the fields, aggressively prunes to maintain low yields. Only estate fruit is used and the grapes are certified organic. Starting with the 2013 vintage, the estate is certified biodynamic.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

At harvest, the handpicked fruit is destemmed before natural fermentation and maturation in François Frères oak barrels. Minimal new oak is used, and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. The wines are distinguished by their authenticity and consistency and are generally approachable in their youth, with the capacity to evolve beautifully.

Owned by: Michel Magnien

Winemaker: Frédéric Magnien

Founded in: 1967

Region: Côte de Nuits, Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Michel Magnien, Bourgogne Pinot Noir

Domaine Michel Magnien, Chambolle Musigny, "Les Fremières"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Chambolle Musigny, 1er Cru "Les Sentiers"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Charmes-Chambertin, Grand Cru

Domaine Michel Magnien, Clos de La Roche, Grand Cru

Domaine Michel Magnien, Clos Saint Denis, Grand Cru

Domaine Michel Magnien, Fixin

Domaine Michel Magnien, Gevrey Chambertin, 1er Cru "Les Cazetiers"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Gevrey Chambertin, "Les Seuvrées"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Morey Saint Denis

Domaine Michel Magnien, Morey St. Denis, 1er Cru "Les Chaffots"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Morey St. Denis, "Très Girard"

Domaine Michel Magnien, Vosne-Romanée



GRANDS VINS DE BOURGOGNE

Domaine Pierre Gelin

VITICULTEUR-EXPLOITANT

Domaine Pierre Gelin

WINERY OVERVIEW

*Domaine Pierre Gelin is the leading wine producer in the small village of Fixin (pronounced “Fees-an”). The domaine has 32 acres (13 hectares) within Fixin and in nearby Gevrey-Chambertin, including holdings in five of Fixin’s eight premier crus. They are the monopole owner of one of the very best Fixin premier crus, the Clos Napoléon. The family domaine was founded in 1925 by its namesake Pierre Gelin and is currently in the hands of Pierre’s grandson, Pierre-Emmanuel. Pierre-Emmanuel practices *lutte raisonnée* (“reasoned struggle”) and works to minimize the impact on the environment in both vineyard and cellar. Domaine Pierre Gelin endeavors to produce wines that are “pure and honest.”*

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Fixin is a quiet village sitting at the northern end of the Côte de Nuits, just a short half-hour drive from the center of Dijon. Fixin became an AOC in 1936 with 222 acres (90 hectares) of vines and eight premier crus. Almost all the village’s production is red, and the wines tend to be robust, structured, and earthy. Domaine Pierre Gelin owns 32 acres (13 hectares) in total, including parcels in five of the Fixin premier crus and the monopole Clos Napoléon. In 1961 Pierre also purchased vineyards in Gevrey-Chambertin, including the monopole Clos de Meixvelle, Clos Prieur 1er cru, and the Grand Cru Clos de Bèze.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The Gelin family invested in a larger, more efficient winery, which was upgraded and ready for the 2011 harvest. “The new winery allows us more flexibility during harvest, as well as the technology to increase wine quality,” says Pierre-Emmanuel. The wines of Domaine Pierre Gelin have always been de-stemmed with a long cuvaison of 8 – 10 days and a judicious use of oak. Only indigenous yeasts are used for fermentation which takes place in stainless-steel and oak tanks. Malolactic fermentation occurs in barrel and the wines are aged for 20 – 24 months in varying percentages of new oak: up to 80% new oak for the Grand Cru, and 25% new for the premier crus. They use older barrels for village wines.

Owned by: Pierre-Emmanuel Gelin

Winemaker: Pierre-Emmanuel Gelin

Founded in: 1925

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Pierre Gelin, Bourgogne Rouge

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Fixin

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Fixin 1er Cru Clos Napoléon

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Fixin 1er Cru Les Hervelets

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Clos Prieur

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Gevrey-Chambertin Clos de Meixvelle

Domaine Pierre Gelin, Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

Domaine Tollot-Beaut



WINERY OVERVIEW

The Tollot family represents a long lineage of winegrowers dating back to the late 1880s when François Tollot began planting vineyards in Chorey-lès-Beaune. His son, Alexandre Tollot, continued in his father's footsteps and married Aurélie Beaut. In 1921, Tollot-Beaut became one of the first to bottle their wines under the domaine and started exporting their wines to the U.S. shortly thereafter. Today, cousins Nathalie, Jean-Paul, and Olivier Tollot are in charge. The wines of Tollot-Beaut are well-known for their serious but pleasing style across a range of appellations from Bourgogne to Grand Cru.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Chorey-lès-Beaune lies on the plains below the Cote d'Or escarpment with 336 acres (13 hectares) almost exclusively planted with Pinot Noir. Nearly half of Chorey-lès-Beaune is sold as Côte de Beuane-Villages. Initially, the Tollot family owned vines only in Chorey, but successive generations made small acquisitions in Savigny, Aloxe, and Beaune for a current total of 59 acres (24 hectares). They are the proud owners of two monopoles, Savigny-lès-Beaune Champs-Chevrey and the more recently acquired Chorey-lès-Beaune Pièce du Chapitre. Tollot-Beaut farms lutte raisonnée and maintains a high proportion of old vines from the highly prized Pinot Fin strain.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The Tollot-Beaut cellar is in the center of Chorey-lès-Beaune on the rue Alexandre Tollot, named after Nathalie's great grandfather who was once the Mayor of Chorey. Parts of the meticulously kept cellar are over 250 years old. Chardonnay is pressed pneumatically and starts fermentation in stainless-steel tanks before finishing alcoholic and malolactic fermentation in barrel. Pinot Noir is almost entirely de-stemmed. The wines of Tollot-Beaut were once made with more new oak but in recent years the oak influence has become subtler. Village and regional wines receive about 20% new oak while the Grand Crus receive about 60% new oak.

Owned by: Tollot Family

Winemaker: Jean-Paul and Olivier Tollot

Founded in: late 1880

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Bourgogne Blanc
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Beaune-Grèves Premier Cru
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Chorey-lès-Beaune
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Aloxe-Corton
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru Les Vercots
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Beaune-Clos-Du-Roi Premier Cru
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Corton Grand Cru
Domaine Tollot-Beaune, Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru

WINERY OVERVIEW

Xavier Monnot is a leading producer in Meursault whose winemaking style emphasizes purity of fruit, elegance, and complexity. Xavier can trace his mother's ancestors, the Monniers, back to 1723, with six generations of winegrowing. Xavier took over in 1994 after completing his oenological studies and began replanting parcels with a combination of selection massale from old vines and new clones, and updated the cellar with modern equipment. Prior to the release of the 2005 vintage, the property was known as Domaine René Monnier (Xavier's grandfather). In 2005, along with improvements in the vineyard and cellar, Xavier began bottling his wines under his own label.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Domaine Xavier Monnot is a 42 acre (17 hectare) estate in Meursault with vineyards stretching from Beaune to Maranges in Burgundy's Côte de Beaune. Sixty percent of the Domaine's production is white with holdings in Monthelie, Meursault, Chassagne-Montrachet, and Puligny-Montrachet. Important white wine premier crus include Meursault Charmes, Chassagne-Montrachet En Remilly, and Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatières. The remaining 40% of Xavier's production is in red with climats spread across four villages: Beaune, Pommard, Volnay, and Maranges. Red premier crus include Beaune Les Cent-Vignes, Beaune Les Toussaints, Volnay Clos des Chênes, and the monopole Maranges Clos de La Fussièrre. Xavier believes in maintaining an average vine age of 30 to 40 years and practices lutte raisonnée ("reasoned struggle.")

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After hand-harvesting, Chardonnay is lightly crushed by foot before pressing. Alcoholic fermentation takes place in barrels using indigenous yeasts. During barrel aging, the wines undergo full malolactic fermentation and bâtonnage occurs at the end of the alcoholic fermentation. Pinot Noir is usually destemmed, except in warmer years when up to 20% of stems may be included, and native yeasts are used for primary fermentation in stainless-steel tanks. After four to five days of cold maceration, Xavier uses a combination of pump-over and punch-down for extraction. After pressing, the wines are transferred to barrels for malolactic fermentation for 12 to 14 months. Regional-level wines receive 15-20% percent new oak, village-level wines receive 25% new, and premier crus 30 - 35% percent.

Owned by: Xavier Monnot

Winemaker: Xavier Monnot

Founded in: 2005

Region: Burgundy

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Xavier Monnot, Bourgogne (Blanc)

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Meursault Les Chevalières

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Monthelie Les Duresses

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Meursault Le Limozin

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Volnay 1er Cru Clos des Chênes

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Beaune 1er Cru Les Cent-Vignes

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Beaune 1er Cru Les Toussaints

Domaine Xavier Monnot, Maranges 1er Cru Clos de La Fussièrre, Monopole

Leclerc Briant

WINERY OVERVIEW

Leclerc Briant is a trailblazing Champagne house producing wines of singular energy and nerve. Lucien Leclerc founded the winery with 10 acres (4 hectares) of vineyards in Cumières in 1872. The business moved to Épernay in 1955 when Bertrand Leclerc married Jacqueline Briant and formed the négociant firm which still carries their name. Leclerc Briant was an early adopter of organic practices beginning in the 1960's and was one of the first to bottle single-vineyard Champagnes starting in the 1970's. In the late 1980's, Bertrand and Jacqueline's son, Pascal, began integrating biodynamic principles and part of the production has been Demeter certified since 2003. Today, enologist Hervé Jestin continues the legacy of this visionary house.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

La Croisette is the home vineyard of Leclerc Briant, a 1.5 acre (0.6 hectare) plot adjacent to the winery in Épernay, planted in 1966 to Chardonnay. Remarkably, this vineyard has never been treated with herbicides or pesticides. The remaining 23.7 acres (9.6 hectares) of vineyard are spread between the Premier Cru villages of Cumières, Hautvillers, Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, Bisseuil in the Vallée de la Marne, Villers-Allerand and Rilly la Montagne in Montagne de Reims and in the Grand Cru village of Le Mesnil Sur Oger in the Côte des Blancs. A small amount of Pinot Noir is sourced from the Aube. Leclerc Briant also holds long term contracts with another 20 acres (8 hectares) of biodynamically farmed vineyards.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Enologist Hervé Jestin has overseen production since 2008, taking a distinctly non-interventionist position: "Our vines and our wines have a certain sort of independence," says Hervé. "We provide guidance and care, but don't want to force anything." Hervé is a respected expert in biodynamic farming and is a forefather of bioenergetics, a movement among a small group of vigneron who are working to bring the energy of nature to the finished wine. All fermentation is spontaneous, and the wines are vinified in a combination of INOX tank, terracotta egg or French oak barrel. Malolactic fermentation is allowed to happen naturally and dosage levels are kept low (below 4g/L). All of the wines are bottled 100% unfiltered and unfinned, using only time and gravity for clarification. The end goal is gastronomic Champagne, wines intended for the table that brim with energy and speak clearly of their terroir.

Owned by: Mark Nunnally and Denise Dupré; Frédéric Zeimett

Winemaker: Hervé Jestin

Founded in: 1872

Region: Champagne (Epernay)

Country: France

Wine: Leclerc Briant, Brut Réserve NV

Leclerc Briant, Brut Rosé NV

Leclerc Briant, Millésime 2009 (Vintage Brut)

Leclerc Briant, Blanc de Meuniers Premier Cru Brut Zero

Leclerc Briant, La Croisette Brut NV

Château de Valmer

WINERY OVERVIEW

The historic Château de Valmer, owned in the early 1500's by France's King Charles VII, holds 70 acres (28 hectares) between the appellations of Vouvray and Touraine. The 4th and 5th generations of the Saint Venant family tend to every facet of the estate's vineyards, gardens, and winemaking, with utmost respect for the appellation and nature. The estate's vineyards are worked with minimum intervention and produce a range of AC Vouvray bottlings.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The wines of Vouvray are produced from a single grape variety. In this area Chenin Blanc, also known as “Pineau de Loire,” is grown on calcareous tuffeau soils. The AC Vouvray vineyards of Château de Valmer are comprised of 57 acres (23 hectares) of vines planted on south to southwest exposed hillside slopes in the communes of Chançay and Reugny. Present day owner Aymar de Saint Venant restored the vineyard in the 1970's, including considerable investments in restoration of the original buildings and the replanting of the historical plot known as “Le Clos.”

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Produced in a “sec-tendre” style, with just a hint of sweetness, the wine is fermented in glass-lined tanks at 66°F (19°C) and then rests on the fine lees. No oak is used during production, so the expression is of pure Chenin Blanc with a well-defined mineral component.

Owned by: Aymar de Saint Venant

Winemaker: Jean de Saint Venant

Founded in: 1888

Region: Vouvray, Loire Valley

Country: France

Wine: Château de Valmer, Vouvray



Château de Templiers

WINERY OVERVIEW

Located in the heart of Le Pallet, the old Saint Jean Chapel used to be named La Chapelle des Templiers, as les templiers (Night Templars) used to live there. Since then, inhabitants of Le Pallet refer to the Château du Pallet as “Château des Templiers.” Today the Vignerons du Pallet produce Château des Templiers Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine sur lie. The terroir, comprised of sandstone and gneiss, is unique to France, producing a distinctive wine.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Muscadet Sèvre et Maine, the largest and most important region for high quality Muscadet, covers twenty-three communes to the southeast of Nantes. It's named after the two rivers that cross the vineyards: the Petite Maine and the Sèvre Nantaise. Much of the appellation lies on the slopes of the river with well-drained, sandy and gravelly soils.

Le Pallet is one of only three communes in Muscadet to be given a “cru communal” status by the national institute of origin and quality in 2011 (along with Clisson and Gorges). In the cru village of Le Pallet, a warmer microclimate joins with shallow, stony soils, known locally as Gabbros, to promote early and full ripening of fruit.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

A brief cold soak and cool fermentation in stainless steel preserves varietal freshness and preserves the quality of the unique terroir. An additional period of aging on the lees adds further texture and grace to this classic French white.

Owned by: Vignerons du Pallet
Winemaker: Vignerons du Pallet
Founded in: 2007
Region: Loire
Country: France
Wine: Château de Templiers
Muscadet Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie

Domaine Hubert Brochard



WINERY OVERVIEW

Domaine Hubert Brochard, based in the village of Chavignol, has been run by the same winemaking family for 5 generations. In the early 1900s, Aimée Brochard took over the domaine from her father, raising a few goats to produce cheese and cultivating the vines with the help of her husband Hubert. Today it is managed by their three grandsons: Daniel, Jean-François, and Benoît, each with his own separate role within the winery and vineyards. Since 1977, the three brothers have added new vineyards to the family holdings, and they now cultivate just over 150 acres (60 hectares) of vines in the Sancerre, Pouilly-Fumé, and Vin de Pays du Val de Loire appellations. Recently, another generation has entered the scene: Caroline and Anne-Sophie, Daniel's daughters, have brought their youth and dynamism into the family business.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The estate is composed of 114 acres (46 hectares) of Sauvignon Blanc and 40 acres (16 hectares) of Pinot Noir, and the vines have an average age of 30 to 50 years. The vineyards are spread in several parcels over the communes of Chavignol, Sancerre, Sainte Gemme, Ménétréol, Saint-Satur, and Thauvenay. They are mainly planted on soils of limestone, flint and clay.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Work in the vineyards proceeds according to the needs of the soils, with the use of any treatments kept to an absolute minimum out of respect for nature and the environment. Vinification and aging depend on the style of the various cuvées produced, but the Brochard family aims to create wines that express both their origin and grape variety while maintaining a consistent quality.

Owned by: The Brochard family

Winemaker: Benoît Brochard

Founded in: Early 1900's

Region: Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé, Loire

Country: France

Wine: Domaine Hubert Brochard, Sancerre "Aujourd'hui Comme Autrefois"
Domaine Hubert Brochard, Sancerre "Tradition"

Marcel Martin



WINERY OVERVIEW

Marcel Martin has become synonymous with high quality Crémant de Loire at an affordable price. This wine also has the distinction of being labeled “Tête de Cuvée,” which is produced from the first pressing of the grapes.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The 74 acres (30 hectares) of vineyards that produce Marcel Martin are located in the Anjou and Touraine regions of the Loire. The vineyards are planted with approximately 60% Chenin Blanc, 20% Chardonnay, and 20% Cabernet Franc on a mixture of clay, limestone, and sand with an average vine age of 20 years old.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

After hand harvesting, primary fermentation occurs in stainless tanks. Using the traditional method, secondary fermentation occurs in the bottle. The “Tête de Cuvée” is aged for 18 months on the lees before being disgorged. This aging exceeds the minimum requirements for this AOC, which is 12 months.

Owned by: Les Grands Chais de France

Winemaker: Marc Brieau

Founded in: 1994

Region: Loire

Country: France

Wine: Marcel Martin, Crémant de Loire

WINERY OVERVIEW

Figuière is a 210-acre (85 hectares) organic wine estate located in La Londe, a sub-appellation of the Côtes-de-Provence AOP. Alain Combard arrived from Chablis in 1992 and purchased the property after discovering its unique terroir. Today, the second generation of the Combard family carries on the pioneering spirit of their father. Alain's daughter, Magali runs the commercial side of the business while her brother, François, works in the cellar. La Londe enjoys cooler temperatures than the rest of the Côtes-de-Provence thanks to the influence of the sea and its schist soils bring an underpinning of minerality to the wines. "The schist in La Londe seduced my father," says daughter Magali, "schist and the sea make our style."

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Figuière is in La Londe-les-Maures between Marseille and Nice with vineyards that lie just a few hundred meters from the Mediterranean Sea. "There's a five-degree difference in temperature from our vineyards to those of the interior," says Magali, "the freshness found in our wines is very singular to the La Londe region." The original 44 acre (18 hectare) estate, has been farmed organically since 1979. Over time, Alain Combard grew Figuière to its current size of 210 acres (85 hectares) of vineyard, certified organic by Ecocert. Additionally, Figuière purchases grapes from contracted growers to produce their Côtes-de-Provence Signature series and Saint André Var IGP.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Initially, Alain Combard focused on Rolle, the local name for Vermentino. “Very few wineries were bottling rosé in the early 1990s,” says Magali, “my Dad made his name applying his knowledge of Chablis to the white grape varieties of Provence.” From grapes grown in schist and in the hands of a Chablisien, Alain learned that Rolle could be fine, structured, and full of minerality. Today, all of the wines produced at Figuière are produced with this goal in mind. “We like clean wines and we like to feel (the) vitality of the earth,” says Magali. For the Combards, this means no maquillage (makeup) to cover up the fruit with the flavor of new oak barrels and high levels of ripeness that could potentially overwhelm the terroir.” We want every wine from Figuière to show the uniqueness of Provence.”

Owned by: Combard Family

Winemaker: Alain Combard

Founded in: 1992

Region: Provence

Country: France

Wine: Figuière, Confidentielle Rosé Côtes-de-Provence, La Londe AOP

Figuière, Première Red Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, Première White Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, Première Rosé Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, François Red Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, Valérie White Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, Magali Rosé Côtes-de-Provence AOP

Figuière, Le Saint André Red Var IGP

Figuière, Le Saint André White Var IGP

Figuière, Le Saint André Rosé Var IGP

Figuière, Atmosphère Rosé Extra-Brut, Méthode Traditionelle

WINERY OVERVIEW

Château de Saint Cosme lies in the heart of the appellation of Gigondas, just 300 meters north of the village. It is the oldest estate in Gigondas, dating back to the 15th century, but lies on the site of an ancient Gallo-Roman villa, with its hand carved fermentation vats perfectly preserved in the limestone. The property has been in the hands of the Barruol family since 1570. Louis Barruol, heir to a 14 generation family tradition, took over the estate from his father in 1992 and under his guidance Saint Cosme has been transformed from an anonymous bulk wine source to arguably one of the best estates in the Southern Rhône. Passionate, talented, and with boundless energy, Louis Barruol also produces an assortment of world class wines from a micro-négociant activity simply labeled "Saint Cosme."

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The 54-acre (22-hectare) estate is comprised predominantly of old vines (average of 60 years old) with a yield of around 27 hl/ha. It is located at the crossing of two geographical faults, which is very rare and provides an extraordinary diversity of soils. Louis is a veritable custodian of the land and terroir he works, doing everything to protect the dynamic ecosystem of the property. The vineyards have been farmed organically since the 1970's by his father Henri Barruol, and Louis has been following biodynamic practices since 2010.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Louis Barruol's winemaking philosophy flows from a respect for traditional knowledge, the benefits of organic viticulture and understanding of his particular terroirs. At Saint Cosme, the team usually works à la main (manually by hand) to make wines that express their terroir with purity and personality, wines that are balanced with a great ability to age.

Owned by: Louis Barruol

Winemaker: Louis Barruol

Founded in: 1490

Region: Gigondas, Rhône Valley

Country: France

Wine: Little James' Basket Press Rouge, Vin de France

Little James' Basket Press Blanc, IGP Pays d'Oc

Saint Cosme, Côtes du Rhône Blanc

Saint Cosme, Côtes du Rhône Rouge

Saint Cosme, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Saint Cosme, Condrieu

Saint Cosme Crozes-Hermitage

Saint Cosme, Saint Joseph

Saint Cosme, Côte Rôtie

Château de Saint Cosme, Côtes du Rhône "Les Deux Albion"

Château de Saint Cosme, Gigondas

Château de Saint Cosme, Gigondas "Valbelle"

Château de Saint Cosme, Gigondas "Le Poste"

Château de Saint Cosme, Gigondas "Le Claux"

Château de Saint Cosme, Gigondas "Hominis Fides"

WINERY OVERVIEW

François Montand, a descendent of a long line of winemakers from Champagne, moved to the Jura region in the 1940s and began making sparkling wines according to the traditional Champagne method. He soon became regarded as a Jura specialist and was instrumental in the creation of the Crémant du Jura AOC. Today, François Montand wines are still produced in the Jura region with strict adherence to méthode traditionnelle and employ a rigorous selection of the best grapes to offer fresh and fruity, quality sparkling wine.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

François Montand's grapes come from diverse terroirs throughout France, ensuring the best possible fruit for consistently excellent sparkling wines at a great value. Select vineyards are located in the Gascony region in Southwest France where the climate is influenced by the Atlantic, and the soils are alluvial with clay and sand. Additional vineyard sites are located on the west facing slopes of the Jura Mountains. Here, the climate is continental with many similarities to Burgundy, and the soils are mostly clay and limestone with some marl deposits.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The grapes are harvested at optimal ripeness to ensure the best balance between sugar and acidity. After careful sorting, the grapes are pressed gently to keep all the aromatic potential of the fruit. The first fermentation occurs at low temperatures with selected yeasts. After blending and bottling, the liqueur de tirage is added and the secondary fermentation begins. The wine is then aged horizontally for at least nine months before being disgorged and prepared for shipment.

Owned by: Groupe GCF

Winemaker: Arnaud Van Der Voorde

Founded in: 1940's

Region: Jura

Country: France

Wine: François Montand, Brut

François Montand, Brut Rosé

François Montand, Demi-Sec "Ice"

François Montand, Extra Dry



New Zealand

Allan Scott



WINERY OVERVIEW

Allan Scott is synonymous with wine in Marlborough: He has worked every harvest since 1973 and is credited with planting some of the region's most famous vineyards, including the very first. In 1990, Allan and his wife Catherine established Scott Family Winery as one of the first independent wineries of Marlborough. Since inception, the winery has produced wines consistent in flavor and quality year after year while continually evolving to keep ahead of the changing demand of the market. A true family affair, Allan and Catherine remain actively involved in all levels of production: their son Josh is the winemaker, and their daughters Sara and Victoria are the viticulturist and marketing manager, respectively. The Scott family attributes its success to excellent vineyard sites, hard work, superb conditions and a desire to produce the world's best wines.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

With its distinctive combination of cool nights, sunny days, and young soils, Marlborough is recognized as one of the world's greatest wine regions. Within Marlborough, the Rapaura area along the northern edge of the Wairau Valley has become particularly prized and is home to the family's vineyards, all within close proximity to the winery. The vineyards are farmed using organic inputs, with minimal chemicals and energy. In 2006, the Scott Family Winery joined the Sustainable Winegrowers program and continues to follow its practices closely.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The modern, fully-equipped winery specializes in the production of the aromatic varieties: Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Pinot Gris, which are perfectly suited to the gravelly soils that predominate in the vineyards. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir also thrive in the sunny Marlborough climate, contributing to the Scotts' ever-growing reputation for traditionally made wines. As avid bubbles fans, the family proudly produces on site an impressive range of bubbles made in the méthode traditionnelle.

Owned by: Allan and Catherine Scott

Winemaker: Josh Scott

Founded in: 1990

Region: Marlborough

Country: New Zealand

Wine: Allan Scott, Cecilia Brut

Allan Scott, Pinot Noir

Allan Scott, Sauvignon Blanc



LAWSON'S DRY HILLS
— MARLBOROUGH —

Lawson's Dry Hills

WINERY OVERVIEW

Producers of consistently world-class, award-winning Marlborough wines, Lawson's Dry Hills is a certified sustainable winegrower, established in 1992 by Ross and Barbara Lawson.

With a dedicated, small team that is quite hands-on, the resulting wines offer an authentic expression of place and grape variety, together with a certain special something that is believed to only come from passion and an inquisitive spirit.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Lawson's Dry Hills has four vineyards in different sites and sources fruit from a further thirteen vineyards in Marlborough, including the main sub-regions of the Wairua, Waihopai, and Awatere Valleys.

These different regions and carefully selected vineyard sites provide varying characteristics derived from the different soils and microclimates, giving many options when it comes to blending.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Lawson's Dry Hills' winemaking approach focuses on growing wonderful fruit from exceptional Marlborough vineyard sites and crafting these grapes into characterful, expressive wines. Over 25 years, experience has allowed the team to develop and purchase a number of blocks and also enter into long-term relationships with a small number of growers.

The wine style is about expressing the wonderful varietal characters as seen in the vineyard, nurturing the wines through the winemaking process with as little interference as possible. This entire process from the vineyard through winemaking and bottling is undertaken by a small team of passionate dedicated staff.

Owned by: Tim & Pauline Evill and senior staff

Winemaker: Marcus Wright & Rebecca Wiffen

Founded in: 1992

Region: Marlborough

Country: New Zealand

Wine: Lawson Dry Hills, Gewürztraminer

Lawson Dry Hills, Pinot Gris

Lawson Dry Hills, Pinot Noir Reserve

Lawson Dry Hills, Riesling

Lawson Dry Hills, Sauvignon Blanc



Neudorf

NEUDORF
VINEYARDS

WINERY OVERVIEW

Tim and Judy Finn planted their first vines in 1978 when the renaissance of the New Zealand wine industry was in its infancy. Over the years, the Finn family, including daughter Rosie, has established an enviable international reputation for outstanding cool climate wines with drive and finesse. Their mineral-focused Neudorf Moutere Chardonnay is one of the Southern hemisphere's finest examples, and their Neudorf Moutere Pinot Noir is complex and intense. Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, and Pinot Gris complete the range, and all express individuality and a sense of place beyond new world varietal fruit. The wines are strongly sought after and with just 74 acres (30 hectares) under vine, the volumes exported are extremely limited.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The Neudorf home vineyards are situated in the clay gravel Moutere Hills at the northern tip of the South Island of New Zealand. They spill down a gentle, north-facing slope, with mountain ranges to the east, south and west providing shelter. The beautiful Tasman Bay to the north ensures a maritime climate, with the diurnal temperatures increasing away from the coast. Nelson has the most sunshine hours in New Zealand, and summers are long and warm, with night temperatures cooling towards harvest. The vines are closely planted, dry-farmed, and organic.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

In the vineyard the aim is for fruit concentration and sense of place, while in the winery the concentration is on texture, balance, and for certain wines, complexity. Finesse is always a priority. An overall philosophy of minimal intervention encompasses wild yeast fermentation and minimal fining or filtration.

Owned by: Tim and Judy Finn

Winemaker: Todd Stevens

Founded in: 1978

Region: Nelson

Country: New Zealand

Wine: Neudorf, Chardonnay Moutere
Neudorf, Chardonnay Nelson
Neudorf, Pinot Noir Moutere
Neudorf, Pinot Noir Tom's Block
Neudorf, Riesling Moutere
Neudorf, Sauvignon Blanc

Ponga

WINERY OVERVIEW

Ponga is the Maori name of the iconic silver fern of New Zealand, whose silvery-white fronds exude a freshness and vibrancy that characterize the country's beautiful and diverse landscape. Because the silver color reflects the moon's light at night, the Maori's traditionally used them to mark their paths in the forest. Just as the Ponga fern was a beacon for Maori exploration, Ponga the wine is a beacon for discovery of New Zealand's exhilarating style of Sauvignon Blanc.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Marlborough has become a familiar name worldwide for Sauvignon Blanc, the region's most widely planted grape variety. The alluvial loams over gravelly sub-soils in the Wairau, Waihopai, and Awatere valleys provide ideal growing conditions helping to make wines of superb quality.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

The focus is having the vineyards in the right region on superior sites and harvesting the best fruit to create a wine that is stylish, refined, with easy-drinking appeal.

Owned by: Craft + Estate/The Winebow Group

Winemaker: Jens Merkle

Founded in: 2010

Region: Marlborough

Country: New Zealand

Wine: Ponga, Pinot Noir
Ponga, Sauvignon Blanc



South Africa

Anwilka

WINERY OVERVIEW

Anwilka Vineyards is located just 4 miles (7 kilometers) from the ocean in Stellenbosch's prime Helderberg region and is the sister winery to Klein Constantia. The property was purchased in the late 1990s, and extensive replanting of 100 acres (40 hectares) of vineyards comprising primarily Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, and some Merlot followed.

The then owners Lowell Jooste (the former co-owner of Klein Constantia), along with internationally well-known Bordeaux wine personalities Hubert de Boüard (co-owner of Château Angéus in Saint-Émilion) and Bruno Prats (former owner of Château Cos d'Estournel in Saint-Estèphe), released the maiden vintage blend of the Syrah-Cabernet in 2005. Anwilka has since established a worldwide reputation for this red blend which has been described by Robert Parker as "the finest red wine I have ever had from South Africa."

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

Stellenbosch is recognized as the Cape's premium red wine producing district. The significant maritime influence in the Helderberg sub-region enables exceptional fruit quality. The matching of grape varieties to specific sites was carefully considered when planting the vineyards.

Soils are of moderate potential, allowing low vine vigor and consistently healthy vines. A gentle slope assists drainage during the winter rains, so minimal irrigation is used. Good water retention capacity avoids excessive hydric stress.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Anwilka strives to produce wines of high quality that express elements of elegance, minerality and balance. As a BWI champion (Biodiversity in Wine Initiative), the winery's vision is aligned with that of the World Wildlife Fund as they aim to unite conservation and agricultural development in a complementary, mutually beneficial manner. Anwilka continually strives to produce wines in more environmentally responsible and biodynamic ways.

Owned by: Zdenek Bakala, Charles Harman, Bruno Prats, and Hubert de Boüard

Winemaker: Matthew Day

Founded in: 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

Country: South Africa

Wine: Anwilka, Petit Frère Red Blend
Anwilka, Red Blend

KLEIN CONSTANTIA

— 1685 —

Klein Constantia

WINERY OVERVIEW

Described as one of the world's most beautiful vineyards, Klein Constantia is set amidst ancient trees and lush greenery on the upper foothills of the Constantiaberg, with superb views across the Constantia Valley and False Bay.

The 360-acre (146-hectare) estate originally formed part of Constantia, a vast property established in 1685 by Simon van der Stel, the first governor of the Cape. This particular valley was chosen not only for its beauty, but also for the decomposed granite soils on its slopes, gently cooled by ocean breezes.

Klein Constantia's lusciously sweet wine, Vin de Constance, rose to prominence in the 1800s. It was savored by the likes of Napoleon Bonaparte, Queen Victoria, and Thomas Jefferson, and it found its way into the writing of many great 18th and 19th century authors. Unfortunately, its production ceased in the mid-19th century when odium infected the vineyards, only to be followed by the arrival of phylloxera. After many years of research and consultation by some of South Africa's top historians and viticulturists, the wine was resurrected in 1986 to almost instant acclaim and has enjoyed top accolades ever since.

Today, Klein Constantia continues to make some of South Africa's top wines and world-class dessert wines, which reflect the cool Constantia climate and historic traditions.

LOCATION OF VINEYARD

The concept of terroir has a strong influence on the character of wine produced at Klein Constantia, with soil and climatic conditions ideal for producing grapes with ample fruit flavors.

Situated between 230 and 1,125 feet (70 and 343 meters) above sea level with a constant sea breeze above 490 feet (150 meters), temperatures remain cool, preserving the fruit during ripening. With the ocean a mere 6 miles (10 kilometers) away, the wind plays an important factor too, often stressing the vineyard and resulting in an increase in concentration and flavor.

Part of South Africa's Constantia Wine Route, the farm is situated on the eastern slopes and foothills of Constantiaberg, with 90% of the property south to east facing. The higher slopes are some of the colder slopes in the Cape, with fewer sunlight hours and lower temperatures, ideal for preserving the acidity and pH of white varieties, especially Sauvignon Blanc.

Klein Constantia is custodian to some of the most historic vineyards in South Africa and, indeed, the world. The unique location, climate, and soils of the estate call for making terroir-driven wine.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Simple winemaking techniques are used to extract the best from grapes grown in expertly nurtured vineyards in the aim of producing wines of high quality that express elements of elegance, minerality, and balance.

As a BWI champion (Biodiversity in Wine Initiative), the vision is aligned with that of the World Wildlife Fund as Klein Constantia aims to unite conservation and agricultural development in a complementary, mutually beneficial manner. Klein Constantia continually strives to produce wines in more environmentally responsible and biodynamic ways.

Owned by: Zdenek Bakala, Charles Harman, Bruno Prats and Hubert de Boüard.

Winemaker: Matthew Day

Founded in: 1685

Region: Constantia

Country: South Africa

Wine: Klein Constantia, Chardonnay
Klein Constantia, Estate Red Blend
Klein Constantia, Sauvignon Blanc Perdeblokke
Klein Constantia, Estate Sauvignon Blanc
Klein Constantia, Vin de Constance



Sake

Chokaisan (Tenju Shuzo)

BREWERY OVERVIEW

Located in the town of Yashima on the foothills of the beautiful Mt. Chokai, Tenju Shuzo is among the oldest of the area's breweries, founded in 1874 by Eikichi Ohi. Six generations later, the brewery is still run by the Ohi family with brothers Takeshi and Hitoshi now at the helm. Through their sakes, Tenju Shuzo seeks to provide consumers a sense of the beauty of the mountain after which it is named.

LOCATION OF BREWERY

Tenju Shuzo sits in the shadows of the Fuji of Akita, Mt. Chokai. The mountain is not only a source of wonder and inspiration to the local people, but also of incredibly pure water which can be used in brewing. Perhaps this is why, despite a population of only 5,000, Yashima is host to several sake breweries.

Not only does Mt. Chokai provide clean water for brewing, but it also creates ideal climatic conditions for rice. No one is more familiar with this than Shunji Sato, who is toji (master brewer) at Tenju Shuzo during the winter, and head farmer of the team in the summer that grows the rice for the following brewing season. Having this intimate connection with all stages of sake making allows him to create sakes exactly as he wants them. His ultimate goal, he says, "is to brew a sake that gives the drinker the sensation of looking up at the gorgeous Mt. Chokai on a clear winter day."

BREWING PHILOSOPHY

Despite a long tradition of premium sake at the brewery, President Takeshi does not shy away from innovation. In addition to making sure his brewery is equipped with the latest brewing technology, much of which has been developed in the brewery, he also helped discover a new strain of sake yeast derived from flowers. This unique ingredient provides the wonderfully perfumed bouquet for which their sake is known.

Owned by: Takeshi Ohi
Master Brewer: Shunji Sato
Founded in: 1874
Region: Akita
Country: Japan
Sake: Chokaisan, Junmai Daiginjo



DEWATSURU

Dewatsuru (Akita Seishu)

BREWERY OVERVIEW

The story of Akita Seishu begins in 1865, when founder Jushiro Ito converted a 150-year-old thatched roof estate into the Dewatsuru sake brewery. 5 generations later, the brewery is still run by the Ito family. President Tatsuru Ito works closely with his son Yohei to bring Dewatsuru's award-winning sake to consumers in Japan and throughout the world. The brewery's philosophy is that "good harmony makes good sake."

Dewatsuru translates as "crane of the Dewa region," and it brings to mind the graceful, regal birds of the region, showing off their plumage in the snow-covered countryside. The name conveys the refined elegance of the Dewatsuru line of premium sake.

LOCATION OF BREWERY

The Dewatsuru brewery is located on the main island of Honshu in Japan's Akita region. This mountainous area is known for its heavy snowfalls, which directly affect sake production. When the warmer weather arrives, the snow melts and creates pristine rice paddies and clean, pure water. The snow also acts as an air purifier, filtering out any impurities that can be harmful to the sake.

BREWING PHILOSOPHY

Akita Seishu values everything local and strives for a harmonious relationship between man and nature. The Dewatsuru brewery is even certified to produce organic sake, one of only a few such breweries in all of Japan. The brewery is also blessed with exceptionally soft water, which ensures the naturally smooth taste for which Dewatsuru sake is known. Although, working together with nature is not always easy in this frigid region in northern Japan, the harsh winter conditions are ideal for brewing sake and contribute to the distinct, regional flavor profiles of Dewatsuru sake.

Owned by: Tatsuro Ito
Master Brewer: Kenko Sato
Founded in: 1865
Region: Akita
Country: Japan
Sake: Dewatsuru, Junmai Nigori
Dewatsuru, Kimoto Junmai
Dewatsuru, Sakura Emaki

Hideyoshi (Suzuki Shuzoten)



BREWERY OVERVIEW

Suzuki Shuzoten is one of the oldest continually operating sake houses in Japan, and one of Akita's most well-known and respected breweries. Founded by Matsuemon Suzuki in 1689, the brewery has been run by the Suzuki family for 19 generations.

The name Hideyoshi was given to the brewery by the local lord Satake. It is said that he tasted all of the sake in Akita and judged the sake of this brewery to be the very best. The words "excellence" and "goodness" form the name of the legendary feudal warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and they refer to the high quality of the brewery's product. For over three centuries, Suzuki Shuzoten has strived to live up to the high standards set by the Hideyoshi name.

LOCATION OF BREWERY

The Akita prefecture is best-known for farming rice, as well as its clean water provided by the large amount of snowfall during the winter. In winter, the low temperature and high humidity result in abundant snow, which purifies the air and creates the perfect environment for sake brewing. It requires complex procedures of fermentation and saccharification, which slows down and creates the most delicate sakes.

BREWING PHILOSOPHY

Producing premium, quality sake is the goal of Suzuki Shuzoten, generation after generation. Ingredients are core to this: the sake rice they use, which is almost always of higher quality and milling than is typical for the classification, yielding smoother sakes with incredibly long finishes. The brewery is committed to using only local Akita sake rice, which imparts the deep, rustic flavors to their sakes that make them so exceptionally food-friendly. Add to that the skill and dedication of long-time toji (master brewer), Shigemasa Ishizawa further helps to deliver consistently high-quality and singular sakes.

The brewery has developed a reputation not only for producing at a high level, but also for making sakes that are truly unique. There can be no better example of this than the remarkable Flying Pegasus Daiginjo Koshu. Limited to a production of only 300 bottles a year, it is made using a blend of 3, 5, and 7-year aged sake, combining the unique attributes of each into an infinitely complex whole.

Owned by: Naoki Suzuki
Master Brewer: Shigemasa Ishizawa
Founded in: 1689
Region: Akita
Country: Japan
Sake: Hideyoshi, Flying Pegasus Koshu Daigingo
Hideyoshi, Le Chamte Carbonated Sake
Hideyoshi, Namacho Honjozo

Manabito (Hinomaru Jozo)



BREWERY OVERVIEW

Founded in 1689, Hinomaru Jozo has been producing sake for the people of Akita for more than 320 years; in fact, the brewery was founded so long ago that it is the only brewery in the country allowed to use the Hinomaru name, which is also the name of Japan's national flag.

LOCATION OF BREWERY

The name Manabito is taken from a local mountain that overlooks the fields where the sake rice is grown, further emphasizing the importance of that essential ingredient to the brewery. Many of the farmers who spend the warmer months growing rice then spend their winters as brewery workers, turning that rice into sake.

BREWING PHILOSOPHY

Its rich history and loyal fan base have allowed the brewery to specialize in premium production. For the Manabito line, this dedication to excellence means the sakes are bottle-aged for an extra year before being released. This unique practice, more similar in concept to wine production, is a source of great pride for the brewery. According to owner Jouji Sato, the bottle aging prevents oxidation and flavor loss, preserving the quality of these traditional, refined sakes.

Owned by: Jouji Sato

Master Brewer: Ryoji Takahashi

Founded in: 1689

Region: Akita

Country: Japan

Sake: Manabito, Ginjo

Manabito, Kimoto Junmai Ginjo

Minato Harbor (Naba Shoten)



BREWERY OVERVIEW

One of the largest ports of northern Japan, Tsuchizaki Harbor in Akita City is home to Naba Shoten. Naba Shoten has been a local favorite since it was started in 1815. In honor of the fishermen and other inhabitants of the port who have been the brewery's most loyal customers, it produces sakes that pair extremely well with the grilled and fried seafood commonly eaten in the area.

Furthermore, the Naba Shoten brewery is one of only a few in all of Japan to still practice the ancient dekasegi system, in which brewery workers leave their homes and families in the countryside and move into the brewery for the duration of the brewing season. The constant presence of such skilled and dedicated workers ensures continual monitoring of brewing conditions, leading to wonderfully smooth and balanced sakes.

LOCATION OF BREWERY

Located in Akita City, every bottle of Naba Shoten sake is brewed exclusively with locally grown rice, a special brand of yeast, and waters from nearby Omono River to produce sake that captures the authentic characteristics of Akita. In appreciation of the local fishermen who have long loved their sakes, the brewers decided to use the name Minato, or “harbor.”

BREWING PHILOSOPHY

Its rich history and loyal fan base have allowed the brewery to specialize in premium sakes. The brewery utilizes the Yamahai brewing method, a traditional method that they helped to revive. Although more time and labor intensive, it results in the higher acidity for which Naba Shoten sakes are known.

Owned by: Munehisa Naba

Master Brewer: Katsuhiro Fujita

Founded in: 1815

Region: Akita

Country: Japan

Wine: Naba Shoten, Minato “Harbor” Tsuchizaki Yamahai Nama Genshu



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