



PURE CHABLIS

One grape

One region

One of a kind

Only from France

PRESS RELEASE

The New Generation Producing Cutting-Edge Chablis

From boutique producers to pioneering wineries, the new generation of Chablis wines is driving this renowned region forward

New York, NY, [DATE] - The mineral-driven, laser-focused wines of Chablis have been known for centuries as some of the best white wines in the world. But even in this storied region, change is happening, driven by the young and energetic generation that is entering Chablis' many family-owned wineries.

Some of these young winemakers are joining decades - or generations - long legacies of quality winemaking; others have pushed their parents to begin vinifying and selling wines under their own labels. While many are passionate about the ways that the Chablis region can better integrate sustainable and organic farming practices or adapt to the effects of climate change, they are equally willing to gain knowledge from the generations that came before them, and to respect the traditions of this premier white winemaking region.

Meet the new generation of Chablis through these four winemakers.

Eve Grossot: Domaine Grossot



Domaine Grossot was created in 1920 by Eve Grossot's great-grandparents, and the winery remains a true family affair. Eve joined her parents, Jean-Pierre and Corinne, at the 18-hectare estate in 2007 after studying and working in hospitality, which taught her to better understand her customers and their expectations.

Now, Eve manages all of the winemaking and marketing for Domaine Grossot, and the estate became certified organic in 2015, which has led to healthier vines. Several years ago, she also began using native yeast for fermentation, lowering sulfite usage, and decreasing inputs overall. Domaine Grossot's vineyards are located in Chablis and Chablis Premier Cru, including the Climats of Vaucoupin, Mont de Milieu, Troesmes, Fourchaume, and Les Fourneaux.

What have you learned from your parents that you bring into your winemaking philosophy?

My parents taught me to search for the typicity of Chablis, and to sublimate our terroir's characteristics during winemaking.

How is the new generation of Chablis producers changing the region?

I think the new generation of Chablis producers is very concerned by ecological issues, and they want to develop biodiversity and sustainable culture.

What excites you about the future of Chablis wines?

We have to test many new processes to acclimatize our vineyard to climate change and new vine devastators. For winemaking, we will continue to search for the best way to decrease all the inputs while we make typical Chablis wines with freshness and minerality.

⇒ Eve's wine selection: Chablis Premier Cru Mont de Milieu 2017, Domaine Grossot

Thomas Ventoura: Domaine Ventoura



Auguste Ventoura planted this family winery's first vines in 1953, and his son Claude worked to expand the domaine's holdings to 11 hectares throughout Petit Chablis, Chablis and Chablis Premier Cru. But since the latest generation, Claude's son Thomas, joined the winery, Domaine Ventoura has begun vinifying its own wines.

The winery made its first vintage in 2014 and began a conversion to organic farming in 2020; it should be completed in 2023. With three generations of nurturing vines in the Chablis region, the Ventoura family has worked over time to adapt to the local terroir and let it express itself in the bottle, rather than imposing a heavy hand on the style.

What have you learned from your father and grandfather that you bring into your winemaking philosophy?

The value of hard work, respect for the land, and humility in the face of a perennial plant like the vine.

How is the new generation of Chablis producers changing the region?

The new generation brings dynamism and is an important social media presence for customers. But we also bring awareness of the exceptional terroir that we have in Chablis, and are focused on new practices that are more thoughtful and responsible for the environment.

What excites you about the future of Chablis wines?

The aging of the plots, especially in the Petit Chablis and Chablis appellations, are resulting in a more qualitative move upmarket for two appellations that have not yet been recognized at their fair value. I'm also energized by the return of tillage by many winegrowers, which will allow us to find Chablis of character with all the specificities that make our vineyard unique.

⇒ Thomas' wine pick: Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume 2018, Domaine Ventoura

Camille Schaller: Domaine Camille et Laurent Schaller



When Camille Schaller rejoined his family's winery in 2009, his father had never vinified his own wines, choosing instead to bring grapes to the local cooperative. But Camille had another vision, and in 2014, he produced his first vintage. The winery is based in Pr hy, and Domaine Camille et Laurent Schaller now cultivates Chardonnay, Aligot , and Pinot Noir in this Northern part of the Bourgogne vineyard.

What have you learned from your father that you bring into your winemaking philosophy?

Mainly a great freedom of action. My father cultivated the vines but did not vinify, so when I arrived on the farm, he left me completely free in this area. I was lucky enough to be able to create the style of wine I wanted and to vinify in my own way; my parents trusted me completely.

How is the new generation of Chablis producers changing the region?

I think that the new generation has a more precise approach to winemaking—which is obviously linked to techniques and tools which are more and more sophisticated. The young generation also has a more environmental, ecological approach.

What excites you about the future of Chablis wines?

The challenge of continuing to produce (and produce well) in the face of climate challenges. It will be a goal to keep the typical Chablis style despite the many changes to come.

⇒ Camille's wine pick: Chablis 2019, Camille & Laurent Schaller

Marion Mothe: Domaine du Colombier



Marion Mothe is a fifth-generation family member of Domaine du Colombier, which was founded in 1887. Since Guy Mothe, Marion's grandfather, began to specialize in Chablis in 1957, Domaine du Colombier has grown to include 55 hectares of Chablis, Chablis Premier Cru, and Chablis Grand Cru vines, and it began selling its wines in bottle in the 1980s.

The estate is now run by Guy's sons—Thierry, Marion's father, and her uncles Jean-Louis and Vincent—and the next generation consists of Marion (who assists with winemaking and marketing), her brother, and her cousin.

What have you learned from your father that you bring into your winemaking philosophy?

Working with my father taught me to combine traditional and modern techniques, and bring my feminine touch to wine.

How is the new generation of Chablis producers changing the region?

The new generation is closer to nature by practicing plowing for the soil, letting indigenous yeasts do their work for winemaking, but always innovating with modern containers such as the amphora.

What excites you about the future of Chablis wines?

The name "Chablis" is famous all over the world. The fact of saying that this wine travels around the world exists for me and I hope that this great notoriety will continue in the future thanks to us, the young generation.

⇒ Marion's wine pick: Domaine du Colombier Chablis 2019

Just as their parents and grandparents did before them, the current generation of Chablis is writing a new chapter of quality winemaking, environmentally conscious farming, and world-class excellence for this region. With these visionaries at the helm, the complex, characterful, delicious wines of Chablis are poised to lead for decades to come.

PURE CHABLIS

About Chablis Wines

The Chablis Commission, part of the Bourgogne wine board, manages the worldwide promotion of the wines of Chablis. Located only 2 hours from Paris, Chablis is the most northern of the 5 wine-producing regions in Bourgogne, Chardonnay's birthplace. Chablis' vineyards are composed of 13 811 acres spread-out in 379 enterprises (négoce, co-op, estates). Elegantly simple, Chablis wines can only come from France. Divided into four different appellations (Petit Chablis, Chablis, Chablis Premier Cru, Chablis Grand Cru), these 100% Chardonnay based wines call for an invite to purity and minerality. With around 37.9 million bottles produced each year, Chablis wines represent 18% of white Bourgogne offerings and export annually over 65%.

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