



Award of 5 Stars

Guide des Vins 2016

The signature of 2016: Jacquesson

It's the work of two lives

When Jean-Hervé and Laurent Chiquet began working together more than a quarter of a century ago chez Jacquesson, they are not only continuing an adventure started by their father, who bought this old and formerly famous house in 1975. No, they are doing much more. They are defining a line, constructing a style. They are forging beliefs about the development of the brand (which depends 80% on the house vineyards and therefore remains necessarily limited in volume), about the precise farming of their vines and about their supply policies; about the vinification in oak *foudres*; about the timing of the racking and the aging of wine on lees in bottle. Even going so far as to imagine a truly original concept of brut non-millésimé, which is the obligatory standard-bearer of all producers of champagne.

The saga of the 700 series

The 700 cuvées are more vintages non-millésimés than bruts non-millésimés. “We look for excellence rather than consistency”, they explain, “respect of the character of the vintage rather than its negation and emphasis on a great wine rather than on the maintenance of a style. The input of reserve wine is done for the purpose of reinforcing the complexity without hiding the character of the base year.” In alignment with this concern for authenticity, they dose this assemblage extra-brut. And propose henceforth two versions of this range: the new 738, based on the 2010 vintage, is accompanied by a 734 Dégorgement Tardif (2006).

Knowledge and motivation

From the first edition of our guide twenty years ago, we have identified and saluted the quality of this distinct house. The fifth star that we accord them today sanctions a regular and reliable progression and distinguishes more specifically the utmost consistency of the work of the Chiquet brothers. From the refined elegance of the labels and the bottles to the character of the wines, from the work of the assemblage of the 700 cuvées to the logical evolution and coherence achieved by the single vineyards (Aÿ and Avize and the unbelievable Dizy rosé), the Chiquets know what they are doing and what they want, and they achieve it. The legendary houses were built just like this.

--Thierry Desseauve & Michel Bettane, September 2015