

« LES GREVES » 1^{er} CRU DE BEAUNE 2015

Domaine de Montille

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| COLOR: | Red |
| GRAPE VARIETY: | Pinot noir |
| VINTAGE: | 2015 |
| SURFACE AREA: | 1.26 Hectares |
| PRODUCTION : | 162 caisses (12x750ml) |
| % WHOLE GRAPES: | 100% |
| % NEW BARRELS: | 30% |
| ALCOHOL : | 13% VOL |
| PH : | 3.55 |



The appellation

The *lieu-dit* "Les Grèves" references its gravelly terroir, and the name could be considered a derivation of "graves", a type of friable rocks - like scree mixed with clay - to make a soil favorable to the cultivation of the vine. This rather large cru (covering approximately 20 hectares) is found in the heart of the slope and considered one of the best of the Beaune Premier Crus.

Given its surface area, there are probably several types of Beaune "Les Grèves". The best portion of the parcel, at the center of this AOC, is without question the famous "Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" of the Maison Bouchard Père et Fils. Immediately following-on from this section toward the south is the Domaine de Montille portion (1.26 hectares).

The vines, planted on a lightweight, clay and limestone soil, enjoy optimal exposition. The Beaune Premier Cru "Les Grèves" is an extraordinary wine with rare finesse. We classify it in the "Grand Premier Crus", the Premier Crus that rival the Grand Crus.

The wines, the style

Domaine de Montille is known to craft wines with great aromatic purity, always favoring balance and elegance over power and extraction. The wines are classic expressions of Burgundy, produced in the most natural way possible and possessing an impressive ability to age, as the family believes only time can reveal the true potential of the greatest wines. The domaine's current style remains faithful to Hubert's natural and idealistic approach, which demanded considerable patience while waiting for appropriate drinking windows for certain vintages. Etienne, however, has taken up the task to bring greater aromatic expression and silkier and more unctuous textures to the reds, allowing them to drink earlier, without compromising their ability to age. The domaine is known in Burgundy, among others such as Arlot, DRC, Dujac and Leroy, to regularly vinify using a significant proportion of whole clusters, varying by cuvée and by vintage.

Tending the Vines

The Domaine has practiced organic viticulture since 1995. Today, our wines are certified by Ecocert. Additionally, since 2005, biodynamic practices have been implemented to show our full respect for these living soils.

The vintage

2015 began with a mild and rainy winter, essential to increase the water table level. The very sunny and warm weather quickly dominated and characterized this vintage. Early budding out was encouraged by the mild temperatures of April. And with the same trend, the temperatures of late May and June allowed a serene flowering in both our Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune vineyards. The months of July and August showed warmer temperatures than average, even at night, though without the heat waves like in 2003. As the heat and drought began to delay the veraison and the vines started suffering, the rains in mid-August saved them and helped revive maturation. The vines grew almost ideally and produced impeccable quality fruit; with small berries and thick skins full of anthocyanins.

We started harvesting our whites on August 29st with a lot of freshness and very nice acidities. As for the reds, the analyses and the ripeness were so encouraging, that we started the harvest on September 1st.

The Phenolic maturities perfectly completed, there were only leaves and insects to be removed from the sorting table. Such a great quality of ripe grapes could only produce perfectly balanced wines and allowed us to use high percentage of whole cluster for the winemaking.

The reds with purple and deep robes, exalt their fruity and floral bouquets. On the palate the tannins are dense and of great maturity. It will however be necessary to be patient before being able to appreciate, the full potential of this exceptional vintage in red. It is similar to 2005 and ageing these wine at least ten years, is strongly recommended for all our 1er Crus, except perhaps, Beaune 1er cru "Les Sizie".

The only cloud on the horizon for this vintage, is the low yields due to the lack of juice in the grapes. But for sure, this will soon be forgotten when tasting these wines!

Tasting notes

Here the wood regimen is more discreet if not invisible as it easily allows the markedly earth and floral-scented dark berry fruit aromas to be appreciated. There is fine richness to the sleek and concentrated medium weight plus flavors that exude a more subtle bead of minerality on the muscular and youthfully austere finish where a touch of bitter cherry arises. This is very good and should amply reward mid-term cellaring.

Score: **91-93**

Tasted: Apr 15, 2017

Drink: 2023+

Issue: 66

Outstanding

Allen Meadows - Burghound