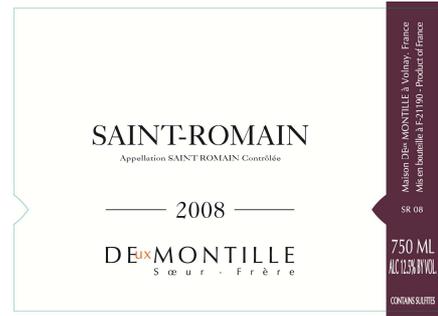


# SAINT ROMAIN 2008

## Maison DEux Montille Sœur-Frère

<b>COLOR:</b>	White
<b>GRAPE VARIETY:</b>	Chardonnay
<b>VINTAGE:</b>	2008
<b>PRODUCTION :</b>	565 cases (12 x 750ml)
<b>% NEW BARRELS :</b>	5%
<b>ALCOHOL :</b>	12.5% VOL
<b>PH :</b>	3.23



### The appellation

Hidden in the hills of the Côte de Beaune, Saint-Romain is encircled by cliffs. The vines, which face due south or north-northeast, are at distinctly high elevations. Within this assembly of marl and limestone, the bands of clay are well-suited to chardonnay (57 hectares), but pinot noir is no exception with around 40 hectares.

This Saint-Romain comes from 20% of the lieu dit “Sous Roches” and 80% from “Jarrons” at the bottom of the village. The vines, which are about 30 years old, are planted on very rocky soil and offer wines with beautiful balance. They age 12 to 14 months before bottling and never see new barrels.

### The wines, the style

Our wines are known for their great aromatic purity. We always favor balance and elegance over power and extraction. The wines are classic expressions of Burgundy, of their appellations in general and of their specific terroirs in particular. The farming methods we use contribute to this individual style, and our winemaking methods aim to avoid excessive outside influences in order to bring out the equilibrium that can be found naturally in Burgundian terroir.

All our fruit is hand-harvested. Thanks to pneumatic presses, we can calibrate our presses to fit the quality of the grapes and the profile of the vintage. After a light settling, the musts are placed mostly in 600-liter barrels as well as in 228-liter barrels, where the alcoholic and malolactic fermentations take place.

We use approximately five to twenty percent new casks primarily made from Allier wood that sees a long yet light toasting. The first racking occurs after about one year of wood aging, after which begins the second, four- to six-month phase in stainless steel, which preserves the wine’s freshness and tension. We finish the aging with a light fining followed by a similarly light and respectful filtration before bottling.

### Tending the Vines

Alix de Montille only selects parcels that align with her demands: controlled yields from carefully pruned and plowed vines. Nothing is purchased unless the parcel is sustainably farmed. Some vineyards are even in the process of being converted to organic viticulture. Alix works with fruit from approximately five hectares spread between the Côte de Beaune, the Côte Chalonnaise, the Mâconnais and Chablis. Almost 35,000 bottles are tagged “Deux Montille Soeur-Frères” every vintage.

### The Vintage

The weather in 2008 was capricious with a fairly mild winter followed by a spring and summer that were essentially cool and damp, slowing the maturation of the grapes and permitting the development of rot. Additionally, at the end of August, we worried when the meteorologists predicted another week of cold and rainy weather. Then, a miracle occurred. On September 13, “la Bise”, which is a cool and dry north wind, arrived, clearing the sky of clouds. It blew for about three weeks. This was exactly what was needed. There was sunshine to help the grapes achieve maturity, cold nights to preserve the grapes' acidity, and finally, a dry wind to stop and dry out the rot. We just had to wait... Harvest began at the end of September with radiating sunshine but cool temperatures. In the end, even if the quantities are small, 2008 is a very lovely surprise, a very Burgundian vintage with aromas deriving from the late maturation and reminding us of 1978.

### Tasting notes

*-A complex nose of pain grillé, subtle reduction, citrus and apple marries into light weight, racy, intense and beautifully detailed flavors that are on the light side but I like the clean, dry and persistent finish. Decant.*

**Allen Meadows**