

Domaine Charles Audoin

Marsannay

All too often, people assume that the winemakers of Burgundy are as unapproachable as their wines are unique. The truth is that many estates are still family businesses where visitors are made welcome with a traditional French hospitality that it is hard to find in the city.

A Family Tradition

In 1972 Charles Audoin, representing his family's fourth generation, took over the reins of the Audoin estate. Charles and his oenologist wife Françoise have worked solidly to create their 30 acres of vineyards, most of which is in Marsannay (Favières), and sell nearly all their production in the bottle.

Where Charles has a taste for structure and backbone, Françoise looks for a wine's fruit and finesse, and what goes into bottle is a combined effort balancing muscle and elegance. Recently, their son Cyril finished his studies in viticulture, and the future of the domaine looks promising.

The Marsannay Appellation Contrôlée

One of the most recent of the Burgundy A.O.C. - (1987), promoted to the rank *Appellation Communale*, the Marsannay Appellation Contrôlée belongs to the

prestigious vineyards of the Côte de Nuits St Georges and is the northern gate to the vines to the south of Dijon.

"Marsannay," so named Golden Gate (Porte d'Or) of the Côte de Nuits, begins in the north with an exceptional grouping of vineyards, "Clos du Roy," and finishes in the south with "Les Champs Perdrix."

Artisan Burgundy from the Côte's Gatekeeper

There are no barrels of grand cru or premier cru wines to be found in the small Audoin cellars, for the Audoins own no such exalted property. What there are, however, are very good village wines of surprising depth and color. Audoin wines are serious wines.

They have rich fragrances and lots of texture, and are always absolutely true to their terroir and vintage. And they are anything but expensive, as you might expect since Marsannay is a new and as yet little-known appellation.

Discriminating buyers, who know that these hills are capable of producing a much more refined wine than the low-lying vineyards of Gevrey-Chambertin, would prefer things to stay that way. It is not difficult to understand why they are developing a loyal following.

