

Domaine Chevalier Père & Fils

Ladoix-Serrigny

When Claude Chevalier took control of the family Domaine in Ladoix, at the base of the mythic Corton hill in the Côte d'Or, the first thing he instituted was a new mindset. Claude feels that just as it is his father's obligation to carry on the heritage of the Côte de Beaune with wines that are age worthy, it is the duty of his own generation to make wines that are ageless.

The Estate

Domaine Chevalier was first created by Emile Dubois in 1850. His daughter and son-in-law, Emile Chevalier, inherited the estate just after the First World War. Conscientious and meticulous, Emile Chevalier spent years perfecting the quality of the vines. Their son Georges learned quickly, and with his paternal experience, coupled with a love and serious dedication to making remarkable wines, he enlarged the estate (he had the foresight to buy a parcel of "Charlemagne" the day after the Second World War). Emile began bottling some wines in 1959 and by 1969, the entire production was estate bottled.

A Tradition of Care

Claude was destined to be a *vigneron* since childhood. He started working at the family domaine in 1973, at 16, alongside his father Georges. Though he strives to maintain the high standards of his predecessors, when he joined the family business, Claude saw there was room for improvement. In 1994, he took over the vinification and his progression to winemaker was quickly followed by a series of changes aimed at improving the quality of the estate's wines. Renovations in the cellar included changes in vinification methods, new barrel selection, fermentation and maturation times and filtration.

A New Vision

In 2000, Claude made a radical change. He hired the well known Greek oenologist Kyrakos Kynigopoulos aka "the vineyard magician." Kyriakos brought him back to the basics: working the vines, reducing yields, harvesting at perfect ripeness, and selecting quality barrels. In short, he helped Claude establish the rigorous standards which would produce more enjoyable wines, with silky tannins and more body. The domaine started sorting at harvest in 2000 and added a sorting table to the winery in 2007.

Claude's father made wines that were built on the most recognizable trait of any traditionalist – they did not budge. As with many of the "old guard," Père Chevalier's wines had timeless insight, but did not have the most outgoing personalities in their youth. Claude's wines reflect the four generations of expertise and meticulousness that have gone into the maintenance of his family's vineyards. Combined with constant vigilance in the vineyards, the changes Claude implemented have created the ideal conditions for the production of wines which are both approachable in their youth as well as age-worthy.



Apostle of Ladoix

From the Domaine's total holdings of 14.7 hectares, Claude Chevalier makes 14 "villages and 1er Cru wines" (Ladoix, Aloxe-Corton, Gevrey-Chambertin, Cotes-de-Nuits Villages) as well as Grand Cru Corton rouge, and Grand Cru Corton-Charlemagne blanc. Claude presides over the Confederation of Burgundy appellations and *vignerons*. He is committed to "polishing the Burgundy coat of arms, even if it's never lost its shine." Chloé, one of his five daughters, is currently finishing her degree in Viticulture and Oenology. No doubt she will soon be joining the domaine.