



CLUB MAGNUM

VINS ET EXPÉRIENCES

# DOMAINE DE BELLENE



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POSSIBLE TO START AFRESH.**



Even in a region as historic as Burgundy, it is possible to start afresh. Domaine de Bellene is a 21st century creation with one of Burgundy's most energetic and charismatic figures at its head. While youth and energy may give it a cutting edge, its development has gone hand-in-hand with a full appreciation for history and heritage. It is this combination of old and new that has allowed it to quickly settle into the fabric of Burgundy and to take its place among the ranks of its leading producers.

Nicolas' father, Gérard, ran Domaine de la Pousse d'Or in Volnay with enormous skill from 1964 until his sudden death in 1997. His wines were capable of reaching sublime standards and Nicolas could not have wished for a better apprenticeship than learning at the knee of such a master. When Gérard died, Nicolas' world was turned upside down. It was a very challenging time and when the decision was taken to sell the Domaine, Nicolas decided to put his energies into further building his own négociant business, which had already produced its first wines in 1996 with his father's full blessing and encouragement.

The creative force comes from Nicolas Potel, a man whose life so far has experienced more activity than many would be able to manage given three attempts.

*Domaine de Bellene*



The next decade saw him fully launch, grow and depart his négociant business, Maison Nicolas Potel. Freed of the restrictions of just making wines according to the holdings of one Domaine and with an enviable contact book, as well as the support of the Burgundian community given his situation, his business enjoyed a meteoric ascent. Within three years, he was making wines under more than 130 different labels, being exported world-wide and fêted as a new Burgundian superstar. As his business expanded, he required financial partners and it was one particular business partnership that resulted in him losing control of both his business and his name.

Eventually, Nicolas elected to depart his own business in 2006. He immediately set about new projects, including his most ambitious yet: establishing his own Domaine from scratch.

This time, growth was more steady but still incredibly impressive. Having located 16th century buildings in Beaune, he took two years to carefully restore and renovate them, strictly guided by ecological and sustainable principles. Parcels of vines were added piece by piece, centred around St Romain, Savigny-les-Beaune and Beaune itself which at the time was still very much undervalued in terms of its vineyard quality. In 2009, opportunity arose to add



outstanding parcels in the Côte de Nuits, including 0.27ha of old vines in the revered Vosne-Romanée 1er cru Les Suchots, just opposite Richebourg- a jewel for any Domaine. In 2016, there were further additions in Pommard. Today the Domaine covers over 20 hectares, a startling achievement in a little over 10 years.

Nicolas is an outstanding winemaker, committed vigneron, brilliant communicator and veritable force of nature. In choosing 'Bellene' for the Domaine name, derived from the Roman name for Beaune, Belena, he is making a link to the past for his young Domaine but with a choice that implies a desire for a long future.



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