



CLUB MAGNUM

VINS ET EXPÉRIENCES

# DOMAINE DE MONTILLE



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DOMAINE de MONTILLE

In 1947, when Hubert de Montille succeeded his father, Domaine de Montille comprised just three hectares of vines, a legacy of the Napoleonic laws of inheritance, phylloxera and the need to sell during tough times. Over 70 years later, the family holdings have increased six-fold, a remarkable turnaround and entirely attributable to Hubert's drive to restore the prominence of the Domaine, work that has been carried on in spectacular fashion by his son, Etienne.

When one stops to analyse where the vines are, it is all the more impressive: over 90% of the holdings are at 1er cru and Grand Cru level. Domaine de Montille has its historic

centre in Volnay where the highlight is surely the 1.5ha of Taillepieuds, a magnificent 1er cru that produces a wine that is very much in the top ranks with the best wines of d'Angerville, Lafarge and Lafon. In Pommard, it is a similar story with a hectare of regal old-vine Rugiens-Bas alongside fine princelings in Pézerolles and Grands-Epenots. On the hill of Corton, Etienne has successfully converted a middle-ranking Corton-Pougets into a top-rank Corton-Charlemagne while also adding a brilliant Corton Clos du Roi to the range as a result of the Thomas-Moillard deal in 2005. This same deal opened the Côte de Nuits to the family, with holdings in Nuits St Georges

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1er cru Aux Thorey, Clos de Vougeot and of course, Vosne-Romanée Aux Malconsorts, a wonderful vineyard adjacent to La Tâche itself. Further holdings in Beaune, Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet complete the de Montille line-up, the latter deserving of special mention for a beautiful wine from the 1er cru 'En Cailleret' that is effectively the continuation of the Montrachet vineyard to the north.

Hubert de Montille was a formidable man, a strong, forceful character who was both respected and feared, particularly by those on the opposition legal benches. As a highly successful lawyer in Dijon, Hubert was intimately connected to the

commercial comings and going of the families and businesses of the Côte d'Or, acting for many in acquisitions, disposals and disputes. His expertise and contacts were obviously of considerable use in building up his own holdings.

His wines also had a formidable reputation: 'hard as the penal code' in their youth but capable of sublime quality when fully ready to drink.

Etienne is an altogether different character. Encouraged by friends and family to spend time away from Burgundy- the old bull and the young bull should never share the same field- Etienne lived and worked in California



early in his career before working in the world of finance in Paris. He co-managed the Domaine from there but returned full-time to Burgundy in 2001, where he also took on the management of the Château de Puligny alongside his duties at home. Approaching twenty years on, his energy is undiminished, with over 40 hectares under his control across the two Burgundy properties as well as nascent joint ventures in California and Japan.

In the vineyards, Etienne has embraced organic and biodynamic viticulture while in the cellar, he has moved

production to newly renovated cellars in Meursault, taking the opportunity to update the equipment in-so-doing. He has worked hard to soften the perceived reputation for austerity in the wines but without losing their ageing ability and aromatic depth. He is a strong supporter of using whole bunches where possible and prefers a softer extraction.

Today Domaine de Montille is rightly considered in the top échelon of Burgundian domaines, excelling in both Côtes and in both colours.

