



CLUB MAGNUM

VINS ET EXPÉRIENCES

# DOMAINE MARQUIS D'ANGERVILLE



**THIS MAGNIFICENT DOMAINE  
CARRIES THE FLAG FOR  
VOLNAY AND FOR THE RED  
WINES OF THE CÔTE DE  
BEAUNE AS A WHOLE.**



This magnificent Domaine carries the flag for Volnay and for the red wines of the Côte de Beaune as a whole. The Domaine is steeped in history. Its most prized vineyard, the monopole Clos des Ducs, is virtually unchanged in over 500 years, dating back to the time of the Dukes of Burgundy, after whom it is named.

Each generation of the d'Angerville family has made its own mark. The Baron du Mesnil, a senior figure in the post-revolution regime, bought the estate in 1804. At 15 hectares, it matched very closely the estate as we know it today and included the wonderful house that still sits at the foot of Clos des Ducs,

from where the family have been able to enjoy breathtaking views across the Saône valley and, on a clear day, Mont Blanc itself for more than two centuries.

In 1906, the estate passed to Sem d'Angerville, nephew of the grandson of the Baron du Mesnil. A man of great vision and standing, Sem not only replanted the entire estate following phylloxera but was also at the forefront of the move to Domaine-bottling, alongside Henri Gouges and Armand Rousseau as well as being a key figure in the establishment of the classification system. With a strong understanding of regional politics but also a guiding belief in the importance of terroir, it is

largely due to Sem that Volnay has been denied a grand cru: he realised that promoting the cause of vineyards from his own village for special recognition- particularly as Clos des Ducs would be the most obvious candidate- could invoke accusations of self-interest. For Sem, it was a price worth paying in order to ensure the integrity of the system and its successful adoption.

In 1952, his son Jacques d'Angerville took the reins. Jacques was another colossus, presiding over more than 50 vintages until his unexpected death in 2003. During his time, the reputation of the Domaine climbed ever higher,

with international recognition following and landmark wines produced.

Today, the estate is run by his son, Guillaume d'Angerville, aided by his invaluable right-hand man, régisseur François Duvivier. Encouraged by his father to see something of the world and make his own way, Guillaume enjoyed a highly successful career in banking, variously in New York, London and Paris. The sudden death of his father not only came as a huge emotional blow but, coming as it did on the eve of the harvest, it meant that he would have to quickly consider putting an end to his own career and to the life hitherto enjoyed by his wife



and children. For Guillaume, there was really only ever one option. Despite his own achievements, he had kept his roots in Volnay, never missing a harvest and keeping up with his childhood friends, many of whom are now running equally high-profile Domaines. These friendships, along with the experience and know-how of his brother-in-law Renaud de Villette, who had been working alongside Jacques in his later years, enabled Guillaume to quickly get up to speed in his new role. By 2009, he was assured enough in his brief and with the right team in place to fully convert the Domaine to biodynamics. Today it is making wines the equal of any in Burgundy, grand cru

or not. Guillaume, his wife Pauline, their four children and (at last count!) three grandchildren are wonderful, gracious, generous people. Yet behind the warm smile is a steely determination, a total commitment to the Domaine, to Volnay and to Burgundy as a whole. Guillaume was a driving force in the elevation of Les Climats de Bourgogne to UNESCO World Heritage status. Much as his grandfather, his commitment and skill has ensured the protection of the wider region of Burgundy for future generations.

Volnay is one of the smaller villages of the Côte d'Or but is perhaps its most lovely. Its total

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of 1er cru vineyards reaches a little over 100 hectares, about the same as a decent-sized Bordeaux classed growth property. With over 12ha of their total holdings in 1er cru, the d'Angervilles thus own more than 10% of the entire 1er cru area and Guillaume is proud to be able to walk to all of them from his front door.

Clos des Ducs is his shortest stroll, its 2.15ha forming what is in effect his back garden. Exposed east-southeast and on a sharp incline, the Clos is protected by woods at the

top and a spring underneath, ensuring a constant source of water even in the driest of conditions. It is a truly special site, capable of a depth and range of aromatics beyond anywhere else in the village yet delivering them with an assured, magisterial calm. Across the wall to the north is the small holding of Pitures. From there, he would most likely walk down-hill to his excellent parcel of Frémiet, from where he could easily glance across the small road at his hectare of Clos des Angles before considering stretching his legs towards the bell-tower

of Pommard for his only parcel in that commune, the 1er cru Combes-Dessus.

Turning back to the south, he would surely head, via Les Mitans and some of his village Volnay parcels, to the heart of the Domaine: 1er cru Champans. There he would be advised to pause for breath: this vineyard requires a steady climb from the flats along rows of over 300m. At 4ha, this is a substantial holding by Burgundian standards but one that for Guillaume produces a wine that represents 'quintessential' Volnay.

From the vantage point on the wall at the top of Champans, he now has two options: carry on the

climb above the road and up to Taillepieds, where he could sit on white, rocky soils just below the woods and enjoy the spectacular views; or head further south along the road to Monthélie, to the limit of the appellation and his parcels of Les Caillerets. There, exposed to the south, the warmth of the sun would set an appropriate thirst before the descent towards the spire of Meursault and his treasured white 1er cru of Meursault-Santenots.

For anyone lucky enough to experience the wines of Domaine Marquis d'Angerville, they should not expect fireworks and exuberance, rather purity, precision and elegance .

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