



CLUB MAGNUM

VINS ET EXPÉRIENCES

# DOMAINE MICHEL LAFARGE



**BURGUNDY MAY BE IN VOGUE TODAY AND ITS GREATEST WINEMAKERS TREATED LIKE ROCKSTARS BUT YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW IT FROM MEETING THE LAFARGE FAMILY.**



Burgundy may be in vogue today and its greatest winemakers treated like rockstars but you would never know it from meeting the Lafarge family. A more down-to-earth family it would be hard to meet. With three generations working alongside each other, it is immediately obvious to see how the passion for the land is transmitted down the line.

Heirlooms at Lafarge are gnarled hands and green fingers, rather than fine jewellery or exquisite objects.

Typical of their understated style was their adoption of biodynamics. While many estates were eager to proclaim their conversion as some kind

of Damascene moment, the Lafarges had been quietly moving in this direction years before the crowd even thought of it but never really made much of it. To them, it was simple logic to observe nature, follow its rhythms and concentrate on the promotion of soil and plant health. Everything else would surely follow.

And follow it has: this is an estate without any perceivable dip in quality, no 'dodgy patch' in their history that is skated over. This consistency in quality explains the extraordinary demand for these wines the world over but there have been no short cuts in its achievement: spend time with any one of the family and it is



clear that the passion is genuine, the commitment total and the talent abundant.

While the origins of the Domaine date back to the early 19th century, it is Michel (b.1928) and his father, Henri that established the core holdings of the estate as we know them today. These have been further added to by Frédéric, who joined the estate in 1978. The holdings are typical of Burgundy: a dozen or so appellations, split over 20 or more parcels yet totalling barely 12 hectares. These are rare wines and are understandably prized.

Best known are their Volnay 1er crus, all of which are now made

as single vineyard wines. The pecking order is particularly tight here with Clos des Chênes, Clos du Château and Les Caillerets all unmistakably world-class wines. A tiny quantity of Pommard 1er cru Pézerolles only adds to the riches on offer, making for a fascinating contrast in the line-up to the silky Volnays. Even more remarkable though is the Beaune 1er cru Grèves, produced from vines planted in the year of Michel's birth and capable of producing staggering wines of extraordinary depth with ageing ability to match the very greatest climats in the Côte. With a further parcel of Beaune 1er cru Aigrots (in both colours), as well as holdings at village level in Volnay and Meursault,



this is a very complete line-up. The crus and village wines are in turn complimented by the generic wines which include a famously fabulous Bourgogne Passetoutgrains 'L'Exception" which showcases another wonderful old-vine holding and shows what can be done even with the humblest appellation.

In style, the Lafarge wines have never yielded to fashion. Calm, authoritative, unhurried and with the natural balance that comes from being in full command of your brief. To enter their world is to inhale knowledge and know-how, to drink the wines is both a privilege and a chance to journey through Burgundy's unique vineyards in the hands of true masters.

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