

# THE FRENCH *Artists*

BIBENDUM



# THE FRENCH *Artists* CAMPAIGN

January to March 2019

We have an amazing range of producers throughout France crafting exciting, unique and above all, delicious wines, each staying true to their terroir while pushing the boundaries in pursuit of perfection – meet our French Artists.

This first of four campaigns for 2019 will run from the beginning of January to the end of March 2019, with a tasting of the complete range taking place on Tuesday 5 February in London.

## What's in it for me?

Although we're sure you will love all of these producers and their wines, we are also offering a customer incentive. More on page 3.

## Timings

The campaign will run from 1 January to 31 March 2019.

## How do I qualify?

No need to sign up – just make sure you buy and sell any of the products included in this campaign during the campaign period.

## Customer incentive

Each Bibendum customer who buys more than 12 bottles of wine included in this campaign, during the campaign period, will be entered into the prize draw. This will be a curated French Artists hamper to the value of £250, featuring local French produce, wine and a voucher.

## Tasting Editions Event

Taking place at Baranis London on Tuesday 5 February, this is a great opportunity to taste these campaign wines and meet some of the producers who will be visiting from France. For more details and to sign up, speak to your Account Manager and keep an eye on our website.

## Join the conversation

Follow us on social media @bibendumwine to find out more about the campaign and these producers. Also keep an eye on our website for more information.



[www.bibendum-wine.co.uk](http://www.bibendum-wine.co.uk)



LACOURTE GODBILLON

Ecueil | Champagne

 Terroirs D’Ecueil 1er Cru Brut	NV	6	70807	£27.88	£167.26
 Mi-Pentes 1er Cru	NV	6	70806	£32.09	£192.54

R. POUILLON & FILS

Champagne

 Reserve Brut	NV	6	70810	£30.41	£182.44
 Les Blanchiens Brut Nature 1er Cru	2011	6	71032	£60.58	£363.51



ALPHONSE MELLOT

Sancerre | Loire Valley

 Sancerre Blanc Les Romains	2016	6	70278	£35.42	£212.51
 Sancerre Rouge La Moussiere	2014	6	70273	£44.65	£267.91

DOMAINE GILBERT PICQ ET FILS

Chablis

 Chablis	2017	12	72120	£14.11	£169.28
 Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros	2015	12	71246	£19.71	£236.48

DOMAINE GALLOIS

Cote de Nuits | Burgundy

 Gevrey Chambertain	2012	6	69215	£37.57	£225.42
 Gevrey Chambertain 1er Cru Petits Cazetieres	2013	6	69308	£61.09	£366.53

DOMAINE ROBERT-DENOENT

Maconnais | Burgundy

 Pouilly Fuisse La Croix Vieilles Vignes	2015	12	70507	£25.24	£302.85
 Pouilly Fuisse Les Cras Cuvee Claude Denogent	2016	12	72185	£29.68	£356.21



RIJCKAERT

Jura

 Vire Clesse ‘Le Mont Chatelaine’	2017	12	71786	£14.84	£178.08
 Savagnin ‘Les Sarres’	2016	12	70500	£18.12	£217.47

JEAN PERRIER ET FILS

Savoie

 Chignin Bergeron Fleur de Roussanne	2017	6	71977	£17.86	£107.19
 Mondeuse Cuvee Gastronomie	2017	6	72137	£13.59	£81.51

CAVE DUMAZET

Limony | Rhone

 Cotes du Rhone Viognier Cuvee Zenith	2015	12	68426	£24.78	£297.41
 Condrieu Cuvee Rouelle Midi	2015	12	68427	£29.49	£353.85

DOMAINE MARC KREYDENWEISS

Costieres de Nimes | Rhone

 Grimaudes Rouge	2016	12	70780	£10.22	£122.60
 Perrieres Rouge	2015	12	70049	£12.33	£148.00



PLAIMONT

Saint Mont and Madiran | South West

 Chateau Saint Benazit Madiran Rouge	2012	6	63300	£10.18	£61.08
 Chateau de Sabazan St Mont Rouge	2012	6	63301	£16.37	£98.21

ERMITAGE PIC ST LOUP

Pic St Loup | Languedoc Roussillon

 Saint Agnes Blanc	2016	12	70680	£16.83	£201.98
 Tour de Pierres Rouge	2016	12	70681	£12.35	£148.23



# THE FRENCH *Artists*

By Robert Mathias,  
Bibendum buyer

The connection between wine and art is long-standing. The way we describe wine draws upon the metaphorical language of art.

We speak of harmony, depth, balance. Most importantly, we can say the experience of tasting (as also in art or music) is more than the sum of its parts. The experience of trying to glimpse the whole, the 'work of art', as it flickers in and out of focus in our mind's eye, is unique. And our experience of this changes depending on our mood, the environment around us, our history.

*Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss*

Something similar can be said for the production of wine. It does require technical expertise of course, but the focus again is more than the sum of its parts. It is a unique expression of a time and a place through the lens of a particular producer. While producers make wine in vastly different environments, with different techniques and approaches that are sometimes wildly contrasting, each is an expression of a specific time and place.

The aim of the French Artists programme is to shed light onto a number of our excellent producers who embody exactly this. While they might go about their winemaking in different ways, they all produce something just a little bit 'different'. That is, something especially artistic and uniquely connected to nature and their environment.

The wines of Didier Picq are some of the best in Chablis, understated but serious, pure and elegant, refined and textured. I can't get enough of them. It's wine like this that doesn't shout for your attention; it quietly beckons you until, all of a sudden, it floods your senses leaving you all too ready for the next sip.

Getting to know each winemaker, occasionally they let slip small details that throw new light onto the story of each wine. None more so than veteran winemaker (and octogenarian) Pierre Dumazet. His wines from some of the oldest vines of the appellation are unashamedly classic in style, but he has been working in a biodynamic direction for decades. The wines are regal, confident and classical. His Côtes du Rhône Blanc must be one of the best kept secrets of the appellation – but no more! Incidentally, we've known Pierre and his family for well over 30 years.

Each producer in this series has a unique story we are proud to share. Some might be called modernists, some neo-classicists, some minimalists. All of them have a unique respect for terroir, for nature and for producing wine that is more than just the sum of its parts; wine that is art.



# OUR FRENCH Artists



## Lacourte Godbillon

*Ecueil | Champagne*

Now in their third generation, family-owned Lacourte Godbillon is a top-quality and well-known Grower Champagne from the Montagne de Reims. For current owner and winemaker Geraldine Lacourte, and husband Richard Desvignes, their vision is simple: the wine must be an expression of its terroir.

They are true growers in every sense, owning all 8ha of their vineyards and working with a small team of only five people (except during harvest, of course). Lacourte Godbillon are in their second year of converting to organic production and have started to implement biodynamic practices.

95% of their grapes are grown on the Premier Cru vineyards of Ecueil, on the extreme western flanks of the Montagne de Reims, an area well known for incredible Pinot Noir production. This varietal makes up the majority of the plantings across their 50 different plots. In the cellar, the bottles age for anything from 30 months to seven years before disgorgement, in order to nurture each wine's unique character.

- Terroirs D'Ecueil 1er Cru Brut - NV
- Mi-Pentes 1er Cru NVMi-Pentes 1er Cru - NV



## R. Pouillon & Fils

*Mareuil-sur-Ay | Champagne*

Founded in 1947 by Roger Pouillon, Champagne R. Pouillon et Fils were dedicated Growers from the beginning. Today, Fabrice Pouillon continues to build on what his father and grandfather created, crafting unique and artisanal Champagnes.

Owning 6.5ha of land across Ay Grand Cru, the Vallee de la Marne and Montagne de Reims, Fabrice creates expressive wines that are vibrantly aromatic. Dedicated to the vitality, energy and health of his vineyards, he began the conversion to organics in 2003 and today also incorporates biodynamic principles.

Tradition is key in the winery: the handpicked grapes are pressed in the traditional wooden press, in the time-honoured way begun by Fabrice's grandfather, and each of the 36 vine parcels are vinified separately to focus on the grapes' origin. The wines age in a combination of older oak demi-muids and barriques, where everything undergoes malolactic fermentation. Reserve wines are aged for up to 18 months in wooden tanks and there is a 'solera' system in operation, with wines dating back to the late 1990s.

- Reserve Brut - NV
- Les Blanchiens Brut Nature 1er Cru - 2011







## Alphonse Mellot

Sancerre | Loire Valley

Alphonse Mellot is one of those rare, cool producers, with a very hands-on, biodynamic approach to crafting excellent whites, reds and rosés. Add to that their 500 years of winemaking experience, and it's understandable why they are beacons of quality in Loire Valley wine production.

Now, 18th generation Alphonse Mellot and his son Alphonse Jr, tend their 47ha of vineyards that stretch across the upper Loire organically and biodynamically. They own a lot of individual vineyard plots, the most remarkable of them being the La Moussiere vineyard.

La Moussiere is located in the upper Sancerre and has been classified as a unique category among the region's wines. A historic and beautiful site, this 30ha single vineyard is south facing, with rolling slopes and deep, limestone-rich kimmeridgian soil.

While Sancerre remains predominantly white, Mellot has a near-equal split between white and red production. His Pinot Noirs are known for their Burgundian style and elegance, while the rosés sing of fresh red berries and spice.

● Sancerre Blanc Les Romaines - 2016

● Sancerre Rouge La Moussiere - 2014



## Domaine Gilbert Picq et Fils

Chablis

Brothers Didier and Pascal Picq took over the domaine from their father in 1976, producing typically mineral, elegant and pure Chablis with a depth and age-worthiness that comes from their precise and strict winemaking.

Nestled in the commune of Chichee, their hillside vineyards stretch across 13ha, including the two Premier Crus of Vosgros and Vaucoupin. Soils vary from marl limestone in Vosgros, to Kimmeridgian limestone in Vaucoupin.

All fermentations and ageing occur in steel vats. No oak is used, new or old, in order to preserve the purity of the Chardonnay fruit. From the 2006 vintage, the winery took a new direction: native yeasts were experimented with instead of industrial yeast, and while the brothers despaired at the slow fermentation at the time, the resulting depth and textures made it all worthwhile. Now, natural yeasts are the norm and only a light filtration takes place before bottling.

● Chablis - 2017

● Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros - 2015



## Domaine Gallois

Cote de Nuits | Burgundy

Located in the Cote de Nuits region of Burgundy, Domaine Gallois is a small boutique estate that has been owned by the Gallois family for four generations. The estate is comprised of 4ha spread over 11 parcels and seven climats.

Today the estate is run by Dominique Gallois, who is a relative newcomer in Burgundy. Before working at the domaine he studied catering in Paris and ran his own restaurant for six years. His winemaking philosophy is all about respecting nature, the terroir and grapes as much as possible by minimising the use of chemicals and maximising the use of natural fertilisers and mulching. Traditional winemaking with minimum intervention is the status quo.

As Dominique says, "The quality of a wine depends above all on terroir, the age of the vine and weather conditions. Even the best of winemakers will not produce a great wine if he does not help nature to give him good grapes."

● Gevrey Chambertain - 2012

● Gevrey Chambertain 1er Cru Petits Cazetieres - 2013





## Domaine Robert-Denogent

Maconnais | Burgundy

Claude Denogent took over his father's vineyards at the beginning of the 19th century. After handing over to his daughter Andrée and her husband Jean-Jacques Robert in the 70s, they expanded production into Beaujolais too, covering a 10ha area with more than 30 parcels, all planted to Chardonnay and Gamay. Today, it is still a family winery, run by Jean-Jacques and their two sons, Nicolas and Antoine.

As members of Les Artisans Vignerons de Bourgogne du Sud – which represents 21 vineyards in the Macon region – every wine they craft has the specific terroir in mind. Especially as they source parcels from across a range of AOCs, vineyards and soils.

Their winemaking takes on a simple and traditional approach, with minimal intervention. This stripped back attitude is met in the vineyard too, with no chemical fertilisers or synthetic products in use. Their iconic Pouilly-Fuisse range is classically Burgundian, created from 50 to 80-year-old vines, and reflects their years of winemaking heritage in each bottle.

- Pouilly Fuisse La Croix Vieilles Vignes - 2015
- Pouilly Fuisse Les Cras Cuvee Claude Denogent - 2016



## Rijckaert

Jura

Domaine Rijckaert's careful and stripped back winemaking approach aims to express the typicity of the grape and the specificity of its terroir. Established in 1998 by Jean Rijckaert, a passionate Belgian wine producer, they cultivate 4ha of vines in Southern Burgundy, as well as 6ha in the Jura, where Jean fell in love with the unique and outstanding terroirs.

Since 2013, Jean has gradually been passing on the torch of his passion to Florent Rouve, sharing the 'savoir-faire' that has shaped the incredible reputation of his wines: restricted yields, manual harvesting, slow and moderate pressings, indigenous flora, long wine ageing, and a few other precious secrets!

The barrels used are generally between seven and 10 years old, while the wines are barely touched with batonage or racking. The wines undergo no fining, minimal filtration and low sulphur addition, with the vintage usually being released after other producers in the regions.

- Vire Clesse 'Le Mont Chatelaine' - 2017
- Savagnin 'Les Sarres' - 2016



## Jean Perrier et Fils

Savoie

Savoie may be one of France's smaller and lesser-known regions, but it is big on personality. One producer whose knowledge of the region runs deep is Jean Perrier, who started growing grapes in 1853. In a pioneering move for the region, Jean Victor Perrier was the first in Savoie to bottle his own wine in 1947.

Today, Jean Perrier is operated by brothers Philippe, Christophe and Gilles, who took over in the 1980s from their father, Gilbert Perrier. The Perrier brothers farm their vineyards organically, even though they aren't certified, and harvest by hand.

With a focus on indigenous grapes, their vineyards are planted to Jacquere, Altesse and Mondeuse, among others. Gilles Perrier says, "The passion and dedication to our indigenous grape varieties show in the hard work all done by hand due to the sheer steepness of the parcels and the final quality of our wines. The grapes of Savoie are largely unknown outside the region; many of them cannot be found anywhere else. The altitude creates stunning, fresh and idiosyncratic styles – a must for any wine list."

- Chignin Bergeron Fleur de Roussanne - 2017
- Mondeuse Cuvee Gastronomie - 2017





## Cave Dumazet

Limony | Rhone

Cave Dumazet is a very small boutique estate located in the Northern Rhone. The family estate was founded in 1870, but has been run by current winemaker Pierre Dumazet since 1978. The domaine has 4.5ha spread over St Joseph, Cornas, Cote Rotie and the Cote du Rhone AOC in the Northern part of the Rhone Valley.

The estate is managed in a traditional way from the vineyard to the cellar. All the vines are planted on very steep terraces, which means there is no access for machines – therefore, all operations in the vineyard are carried out manually and absolutely no chemicals are used.

- Cotes du Rhone Viognier Cuvee Zenith - 2015
- Condrieu Cuvee Rouelle Midi - 2015



## Ermitage Pic St Loup

Pic St Loup | Languedoc Roussillon

Located 20km from Montpellier in a region that was historically known more for sheep and olive trees than vines, the Ermitage Pic St Loup estate covers 55ha of vineyards, with a further 300ha of woods on the property. Established by brothers Jean-Marc, Pierre and Xavier Ravaille, this is a family operation with a long winemaking history dating back to the 18th century.

Produced from vines grown on different terrains – limestone, clay, red earth, gravel and pebbles – the wines show incredible balance. They benefit further from the microclimate and protection provided by the Pic St Loup mountain.

The estate has been working sustainably for several years and the brothers explain that care is particularly given to the cultivation of the vine, which is conducted entirely organically (with ECOCERT certification) and biodynamically (uncertified). “The soils are ploughed, the vines are harvested manually, and no pesticides are used. We do not add yeast, and use very little sulphur,” they say.

- Saint Agnes Blanc - 2016
- Tour de Pierres Rouge - 2016



## Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss

Costieres de Nimes | Rhone

In 1999, Marc Kreydenweiss bought the Perrieres estate in Manduel between Nimes and Arles. Costieres de Nimes, with its climate, soil and terroir, is a wonderful area to produce biodynamic wines from indigenous varieties, and at Kreydenweiss they focus on Carignan, Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre.

The soils are rich in iron composed of Rhone gravel, a mixture of silica, lime, flint and sandstone, ideal for red wines. Biodynamic principles are applied to the entire vineyard. The vines are severely pruned to control the yield and after debudding, all extra shoots are removed from the vine trunk to let the sunlight reach the grapes. Typical vinification consists of short maceration of one week with local yeasts in concrete cask, and after fermentation the wines are aged in 50% barriques and 50% foudres for about a year.

- Grimaudes Rouge - 2016
- Perrieres Rouge - 2015







# Plaimont

Saint Mont and Madiran | South West

In 1979, André Dubosc convinced three wine cooperatives of Plaisance, Aignan and Saint-Mont to join forces – and initials – to set up a united wine producing group, called Plaimont. His actions were transformative for the South Western region: up until that point, the grapes were grown for brandy production, but in the post-digestif era of the 70s, demand plummeted taking the local wine industry down with it.

Today the picture in the South West is much brighter, with a flourishing industry producing wines known on their own merit. Plaimont focuses on preserving the flavour and identity of the region, using local varietals such as Tannat and Colombard, and reviving forgotten grapes. All of the growers across their 5,000ha must contribute grapes of high quality for them to be used in the wines under the Plaimont name.

Championing progress in the area, in 2002 they created the Conservatoire Ampelographique – an experimental conservatory vineyard and the largest of its kind in France – where 37 different vitis vinifera varieties are cultivated every year.

- Chateau Saint Benazit Madiran Rouge - 2012
- Chateau de Sabazan St Mont Rouge - 2012







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