



# DOMAINE SAINTE MADELEINE

## Vézelay Les Saulniers

Vézelay, resembling countless quaint French villages, rests on a hill amidst idyllic landscapes of fields and forests. Despite its unassuming exterior, Vézelay holds significance as the home of the Basilica of Sainte Madeleine, a remarkable example of Romanesque architecture. The village's prosperity, rooted in the shrine of Mary Magdalene, was maintained by Cluniac monks, despite controversies surrounding the authenticity of the relics. The Cluniac presence in Vézelay dates back to the late 9th century, with wine playing a pivotal role in the area's history until the phylloxera crisis devastated the vineyards in the late 19th century. The village's viticultural renaissance was spearheaded by chef Marc Meneau, leading to the establishment of a Cave Cooperative and the recognition of Vézelay as a distinct Burgundy appellation in 2017.

### ORIGIN

*France*

### APPELLATION

*Vézelay*

### SOIL

*Middle jurassic clay-limestone*

### AGE OF VINES

*33*

### ELEVATION

*260 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Chardonnay*

### FARMING

*In conversion to certified organic*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, whole cluster pressing, natural yeast fermentation in stainless steel tanks, malo in the Spring*

### AGING

*7 months on the lees in stainless steel tanks*

Among the newer generation of Vézelay winegrowers are Alexandre and Blandine Corguillé, whose Domaine Sainte Madeleine has rapidly expanded. They purchased and replanted hectares of Chardonnay, aiming for organic certification by 2023. Alexandre, influenced by Domaine Raveneau, uses a blend of clones and selection massale for his Chardonnay plantings. The estate currently produces a village Vézelay, along with specific releases like Vézelay Les Saulniers, Bourgogne Blanc Côte Chauffour, and a Bourgogne Rouge named Le Clos. While awaiting recognition, Côte Chauffour is labeled Bourgogne Blanc, with aspirations for 1er crus status in the future. Alexandre oversees all aspects of winemaking, highlighting the uniqueness of his wines—expressing the Burgundian charm in just a few years, a remarkable accomplishment capturing the essence of the region.

Les Saulniers is a parcel of 33-year-old-vines situated midslope on a hill crowned by forest southwest of the village of Saint-Père. Curving around the west-facing edge of the hill, the vines of Les Saulniers face northwest, west, and southwest, giving the wines from here precision and clarity that is remarkable for such a young appellation. Alexandre feels that this site is so unique that it will eventually be recognized as a 1er cru.

