



DOMAINE SAINTE MADELEINE

Vézelay

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

34

ELEVATION

280 meters

VARIETIES

Chardonnay

FARMING

Certified organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole cluster direct pressing, natural yeast fermentation in stainless steel tanks

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.

When Alexandre and Blandine settled in Vézelay in 2016, they purchased a promising site called Côte Chauffour, which had been cleared but was unplanted. While they are waiting for these vines to come of age, they have also acquired other sites, most notably Les Saulniers and Bouriats. Their village Vézelay will always include Chardonnay from the east bank of the river Cure for its fruit-forward expression blended with Chardonnay from the west bank, which is more vertical and mineral.

