



Billecart-Salmon

The Oldest Continuously Owned and Operated Champagne House

The Billecart family has been living in Mareuil-sur-Ay since the 16th century. When Nicolas Francois Billecart married Elisabeth Salmon in the early 1800s the two families' long held vineyards were married as well, leading Nicolas to leave his law practice and take over the family wine estate. In 1818 he founded the house of Billecart-Salmon, which now stands as the oldest continuously family owned and operated house in Champagne. It is currently managed by the seventh generation, brothers Francois and Antoine Roland-Billecart.

Most of Billecart-Salmon's fruit comes from a small vineyard holding, though this is supplemented with grapes bought in from the Marne Valley and the Montagne de Reims. Meticulous production techniques, from the use of their own cultured yeast to its long, slow, cool fermentation, ensure that the family has 100 percent control of production.

In the 1970s, Jean Roland-Billecart decided once again to work on a champagne which had long been considered second class: a Brut Rosé. His objective was to create a champagne which was very pale in color and whose flavor is distinguished by its freshness and subtle notes of red berries. The gamble paid off and the Brut Rosé Non-Vintage has since become the House's flagship cuvée. It globally revered as one of the world's greatest Rosé Champagnes.

As of 2001, Billecart-Salmon moved their winemaking into a brand new facility that they believe to be the most technically advanced in Champagne. The intricate and precise nature of Francois Domi's winemaking demanded that the family use every available resource to create the perfect environment for the production of these truly stellar champagnes. The ability to perform as many as 75 micro-fermentations simultaneously allows M. Domi the luxury of keeping many of his parcels separate until the blending phase.

Overall, production levels are modest and many of Billecart-Salmon's prestige cuvées are highly allocated.

