



CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER

MAISON FONDÉE EN 1829

La Grandé Année 2007

Champagne, France

ESTATE

Bollinger is an icon in Champagne, all the more remarkable because its reputation rests entirely on the quality of its extraordinarily distinct Champagnes. Very simply, Bollinger is the outlier. The rigorous, obsessive attention to detail and preservation of artisanal, almost absurdly labor-intensive practices, makes Bollinger both a guardian of the past and, as we see with each passing year, the beacon of the future.

WINE

La Grande Année: The Great Year. This Champagne is the embodiment of everything that makes Bollinger the producer that stands apart in Champagne. La Grande Année symbolizes the word "hand-crafted" so strongly that an overused word suddenly becomes the appropriate definition. In 1976, it became Grande Année; then, in 1997, "La" Grande Année, a name simple enough to illustrate its exceptional status, cemented on the silver screen two years later, in James Bond's Casino Royale.

VINEYARD

Soils: 91% of the fruit is sourced from Grand Cru villages and 9% from Premier Cru villages from Ay, Verzenay, Avize, Chouilly and Mesnil-sur-Oger.
Grape Varieties: 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay.

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Entirely in older oak barrels, 228 liter barrels and 400 liter casks that are up to 40 years old. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentation in barrel. Secondary fermentation takes place under cork (rather than crown capsule), requiring hand riddling and hand-disgorgement.
Aging: 6 months in barrel; another 6 years on the lees after second fermentation.
Dosage: 7 grams per liter.

VINTAGE

Climate: exceptional harvest season that brings out the full impact of the fruit.
Vineyard Work: More Pinot Noir (70% versus ~65% typically) selected this year than usual.



94+

WINE ADVOCATE

"The wine displays a very clear, fine and complex bouquet of ripe (apricot) fruits and pink grapefruit along with chalky, toasty and almond/nougat notes. Highly elegant, fine and pure but complex on the palate, this is a full-bodied and well-structured Grande Année with a long, intense yet dry, salty, beautifully clear and cleansing finish with lingering citrus flavors and a persistent mineral structure. This 2007 is still young, but its elegance, finesse, freshness and promising complexity are fabulous."