

CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER

Known around the world for powerful, polished Champagnes that are among the greatest of both Non-Vintage and Vintage Champagnes produced, any of the fundamentals to their approach and production would be special, but when taken altogether are utterly unique.



La Grande Année 2015

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. La Grande Année is only produced in the most outstanding of vintages, where ripeness and acidity reach a perfect balance and aging potential is excellent.

VINEYARD

The fruit is sourced from 11 different Crus — predominantly from Verzenay, Aÿ and Mareuil-sur Aÿ for Pinot Noir; Chouilly and Avize for Chardonnay. *Farming*: Sustainable wine growing by grassing over the ground, using biological pest control, reducing the use of herbicides, recycling pruning waste and planting hedges and orchards to encourage biodiversity.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 60% Pinot Noir, 40% Chardonnay

Fermentation: All wine is vinified in small neutral barrique. Bollinger is the only remaining Champagne producer with a cooper on staff who repairs in excess of 300 barrels per year. *Aging*: Cellar aged for more than twice the time required by the appellation. Second fermentation takes place for more than 8 years on the lees in bottles with natural corks. Riddling and disgorging are performed entirely by hand.

Dosage: 8 g/L

Alcohol: 12.5%

VINTAGE

After steady rainfall early in the summer, warm, dry temperatures prevailed in August and September. During harvest, temperatures cooled, yielding grapes with perfectly preserved acidity and ripeness. The fruit harvested had exemplary structure, with especially outstanding Pinot Noir across the region.

96

vinous

"Bollinger's 2015 Brut Grand Année is an intriguing wine [...] the blend is 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay, as opposed to the more typical 70/30 blend, with more Verzenay than Aÿ in the Pinots. Dried citrus peel, sage, menthol, sage, tangerine peel and spice build with some coaxing. Light tropical overtones develop with aeration. There's real density and textural richness here. This will be a fascinating vintage to follow. Stylistically, it is the complete opposite from the much more linear 2014 that precedes it. Dosage is 8 grams per liter" - A.G. 3/23

96

James Suckling

95+

Wine Advocate

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