

## **November 30, 2023 - Edition #005, the Founders' Stash**

Dear Merrymakers,

I have been known to get pretty excited (and wax poetic in these notes) about a unique, under-the-radar release or a cuvée created with such stunning craftsmanship it very nearly defies gravity. But in the end, all our most prized bottles, those Abby and I stow away and bring out for our family and closest friends, have one important thing in common: exquisite, remarkable, unmistakable terroir.

So innately French, the term terroir has no direct translation in English. It describes the culmination of endless physical and environmental factors at a specific time and place — soil, weather, climate, age of the vines, farming techniques and so on — on the wine. Terroir is what gives Champagne its personality, its authenticity and its sheer brilliance. And it's a big part of what makes me declare "this is the best Champagne to ever touch my lips." For the record, I have proclaimed that about each of the three bottles in this edition of the Founders' Stash. (Bryan's rule No. 101: It is perfectly acceptable to have multiple favorites.) I could go on about terroir, but it's truly one of those things that is better just to taste for yourself, so without further ado, I give you the Founders' Stash:

### **Edition #005 of the Founders' Stash:**

#### **[TOP TERRIOR COLLECTORS' STASH - \\$295](#)**

UNIQUE. EXPRESSIVE. RARE.

Treat yourself to the ultimate terroir-focused stash: a bundle featuring a trio of the stunning and supremely expressive cuvées described below. This extraordinary collection does a beautiful job of highlighting a sense of place as interpreted by three of our most-beloved producers.

We have a particularly limited quantity of this stash — 30 bundles to be exact. They're only available to fatcork Merrymakers, but still, they'll go fast.

[\[CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR BUNDLE.\]](#)

#### **[JEAN BAILLETTE-PRUDHOMME PREMIER CRU BRUT MILLÉSIME 2012 - \\$102](#)**

RICH. SILKY. BALANCED.

While many growers have adopted the practice of announcing a vintage every year as a sort of snapshot of what that year had to offer, vigneron Laureen Baillette continues the Methode Champenoise tradition passed down by her father: declaring a vintage for only particularly spectacular years in which the terroir of her plots in Trois-Puits on the slopes of Montagne de Reims offer their very best. For Laureen, the 2012 vintage fit the bill, and after spending 10 years in the perfect environment for aging — a dark cave in a bottle devoid of oxygen — the complex, dry (but not too dry) old-vine pinot noir bubbles are at their peak right now.

*Get on with the geeky details: 70% pinot noir, 30% chardonnay / 2012 vintage / disgorged July 2022 / 6 g/l dosage*

[\[CLICK HERE TO ORDER THE JEAN BAILLETTE-PRUDHOMME ONLY.\]](#)

### **HERVIEUX-DUMEZ SPECIAL CLUB BRUT NATURE MILLÉSIME 2018 - \$108**

PURE. BALANCED. FRESH.

If, to you, Club Trésors de Champagne sounds like a swanky, exclusive society, you're not far off base. Founded in 1971, the club is a small group of growers who are formally committed to showcasing the region's terroir by producing Champagne according to the strictest of standards. After a rigorous vetting process and by unanimous vote, the club determines whether a vintage is worthy of being classified as Special Club Champagne: the most premier bottle of a grower's estate. We are thrilled to offer Hervieux-Dumez's Special Club 2018 Brut Nature in this edition of the Founders' Stash. This wine is especially unique because, while it usually has 8 grams of dosage, vignerons Laurent, Clément and Timothée Hervieux agreed to produce it with zero dosage just for fatcork. The result is a spectacularly dry yet rich Champagne that reveals the exquisite quality of the grapes.

*Get on with the geeky details: 50% chardonnay, 30% pinot noir, 20% pinot meunier / 2018 vintage / disgorged May 2023 / 0 g/l dosage*

[\[CLICK HERE TO ORDER THE HERVIEUX-DUMEZ ONLY.\]](#)

### **ELISE DECHANNES ROSÉ DE SAIGNÉE BRUT - \$126**

VIBRANT. JUICY. ESOTERIC.

The Champagne region offers an impressive diversity of terroir, and the limestone-rich, Kimmeridgian soil of Aube, particularly in the village of Les Riceys, is perfectly suited to growing pinot noir and crafting beautiful rosé de saignée. In fact, Les Riceys is one of few to maintain multiple Appellations d'Origine Contrôlées (French for “controlled designations of origin”). It has a Champagne AOC, a still rosé AOC and a rosé Champagne AOC. In this singular environment, Elise Dechannes produces a small quantity (250-500 bottles per year) of her stunning rosé de saignée. And we are excited to include some of that limited release in this edition of our Founders' Stash just for you.

*Get on with the geeky details: 100% pinot noir / 2020 base vintage / disgorged October 2022 / 0 g/l dosage*

[\[CLICK HERE TO ORDER THE ELISE DECHANNES ONLY.\]](#)

Cheers!

Bryan Maletis

Founder of fatcork

#### **PLACING AN ORDER REQUEST:**

- These Founders' Stash cuvées and the Collectors' Stash bundle are officially available on the fatcork online bottle shop to Merrymakers only from now through tomorrow, **Friday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. PST or until sold out.**
- Orders are first come, first served and will be honored as each order comes in.
- If you have a standing Founders' Stash order, your bottles have been reserved. Email us separately if you do not wish to receive these cuvées and we will release them to other fellow Merrymakers. *If you'd like to reserve a standing order for future Founders' Stash offers, reply to this email, and let us know!*
- Once we receive and process your orders, your Founders' Stash allocation will be available for immediate pickup or shipping during the next temperature-appropriate shipping window.