

LOIRE VALLEY

DOMAINE DU CLOSEL
- CHÂTEAU DES VAULTS
SAVENNIÈRES



OVERVIEW | Michèle de Jessey's great-great-grandfather was the Chamberlain and Chief Memorialist to the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. She inherited the estate in 1961 when her aunt, Madame du Closel, the former proprietor/winemaker, searched for a successor throughout her extensive family. Madame de Jessey was chosen for her love and respect for the wine, vineyards and traditions of Savennières: a love that is evident in her wines. She went on to become much respected for her technical expertise and served as the first woman in France to be President of an Appellation Contrôlée. Today, the estate is overseen by Madame de Jessey's daughter, Evelyne de Jessey de Pontbriand.

VINEYARD AREA: 17 hectares

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 4200 cases

SOIL TYPES: sand, schist, volcanic soils

GRAPE VARIETIES: chenin blanc

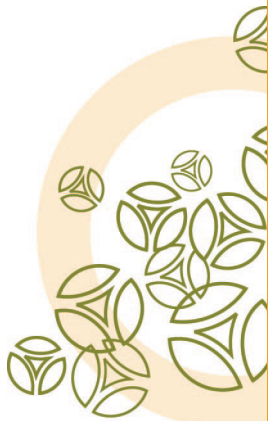
As the Closel family name is no longer represented among the owners, the Domaine is slowly transitioning back to the historic name: Château des Vaults.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | The estate consists of 12 hectares of Chenin Blanc vines. The soil is shallow sandy topsoil on a deep bed of schist and volcanic rock. The vines are rigorously pruned to produce 4 to 6 buds on two canes. This keeps the yields low, from 20 to 40 hl/ha in any given vintage. The microclimate is defined by the protecting hillsides, and the best hilltop vineyards are exposed to high winds that keep the grapes cool and free of rot. The grapes are picked by hand under selection, or tri, and the vinification is slow under controlled temperatures. Savennières la Jalousie (formerly les Coulées, or Cuvée Classique, i.e. dry) is a classic Savennières from a stainless-steel cuvée of young and older vines from their steepest soils of pure schist.

WINES | Jalousie - a classic Savennières from a stainless-steel cuvée of young and older vines from their steepest soils of pure schist.

Clos du Papillon - a legendary wine, from one of the top sites in Savennières, so named because the plot's shape resembles a butterfly. The picking is usually late, (October), and done in several consecutive passes in the vineyards so as to maximize the ripeness levels. This is a completely dry wine that serves forth an incredibly lacy mix of beeswax, roasted almonds, quince and apricot flavors with a lengthy slate mineral finish. Older great vintages of this wine attest to its potential to last and age beautifully.

Caillardières - Madame de Jessey's creation. Most Savennières are totally dry wines, but this cuvée is a vin tendre, slightly off-dry and mineral. In great years, it is an easy, accessible introduction to Savennières with great concentration of fruit and slatey mineral tones.



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4755 Colorado Avenue South, Ste A
 Seattle, WA 98134
 206. 763. 5994
 fax 206. 883. 0215

2210 North Lewis Street
 Portland, OR 97227
 503. 236. 6262
 503. 236. 3660 fax