

LARMANDIER-BERNIER
VERTUS

CHAMPAGNE
COTE DES BLANCS

OVERVIEW | The Larmandier family has owned vineyards in the famous Côte des Blancs region since the late 1700s. Today, Pierre Larmandier and wife Sophie continue this Champagne clan's age-old tradition, making fine sparkling wine from their premier cru vineyards in Vertus, at the southern tip of the Côte, and the grand cru Cramant to the north.

VINEYARD AREA: 15 hectares

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 10,000 cases

TOP SITES: Cramant

SOIL TYPES: chalk

GRAPE VARIETIES: chardonnay, pinot noir

Larmandier-Bernier is at the forefront of what some are calling 'the grower revolution' in Champagne, a small group of vineyard owners who are inspired by Anselme Selosse, a revolutionary vigneron whose philosophy is strictly biodynamic and of Burgundian influence. This renegade group is making their own wines, often biodynamically, or close to, and producing small-batch cuvées that reflect a particular vineyard site or village.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | Pierre and Sophie switched all of the estate's vineyards to biodynamic farming in 1999. Motivated by a desire to make their wine in the vineyard, they had decided it was time to cut the chemicals. Everything they do is an attempt to encourage and harness that special synergy of dirt and vine (and weather). Average vine age, at 33 years, is on the old side, and their vines in Cramant, whose grapes go into the vintage "Vieille Vignes", range from 48 to 70. Harvesting is all by hand and is followed by gentle bladder pressing. Wild fermentation follows in small lots, with vessels picked so as to best express the terroir and the vintage. Following primary fermentation, the wines are matured on their lees through the winter, during which time they receive a light bâtonnage and may undergo malolactic fermentation. With spring comes blending and then bottling for secondary fermentation and sur lattes ageing. Riddling and disgorgement are both by hand. Dosage, never above 5 g/L for brut cuvées, depends on the individual cuvée, but, as Pierre says, "it must be discreet, as our priority is always the same: to allow the terroir to express itself."

WINES |

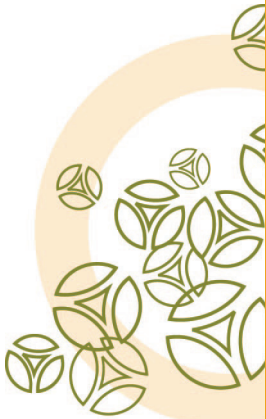
NV Brut Terre de Vertus

NV Brut Blanc de Blancs 1er Cru

Millésimé Brut Blanc de Blancs 1er Cru

Millésimé Vieille Vignes de Cramant Extra Brut Grand Cru

NV Brut Rose de Saignee


triage wines

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