



The 2005 vintage

An exceptional year

November 2006

Bound for glory from the moment it was harvested, so perfect were the conditions attending its birth, the 2005 can only be described in superlatives and all have been freely employed: exceptional ripeness, grapes in perfect health, exemplary bunches, etc.

How do things stand now, nearly 14 months later?

White wines:

■ The Mâconnais:

The Mâconnais notched up an exceptional vintage in 2005. The wines have uncommon richness and aromatic complexity, evoking odours of well-ripened fruits and dried fruits with the addition of delectable candied notes.

Acidity levels are better than good and mellowness excellent. The mouth is intense and rounded, yielding an extraordinary sensation of fullness.

Not yet truly at its peak, this very great vintage with its impressive laying-down qualities is going to make its mark.

■ Chablis district:

The 2005 wines impress as pleasantly seductive. The nose, marked by tangy fruit notes paired with very pure minerality, is a real treat. The mouth has perfect balance and structure as well as an exemplary harmony, while any heaviness is dispelled by a fine acidity.

This is a gratifyingly well-rounded vintage whose keeping qualities are manifest.

■ Côte Chalonnaise and Côte de Beaune:

Though still closed-up and not yet fully expressive, the wines of this vintage are very clean and very upright. Serious and magnificently structured, they promise excellent laying-down qualities. They are substantial and remarkably well-balanced with a sumptuous mouth at once full and powerful. A great year, but one which still requires a little time.



Red wines:

■ Côte Chalonnaise and Côte de Beaune:

From regional appellations to grand crus, all are superb. The quality of this vintage is such as to suggest that no improvement is possible.

Nothing is missing: splendid deep ruby colour, nose of small well-ripened fruits, spices and Virginia tobacco, mouth astonishing in its texture and substance, impressive length...

In a word: an outstandingly high-class vintage which will leave its mark in history.

■ Côte de Nuits:

Like their neighbours in the Côte de Beaune, the red wines of the Côte de Nuits are close to perfection.

Tasty and with a fruit well out of the common run, these are wines of great precision to which even superlatives fail to do justice.

Their breeding and ideal expression make them the quintessence of their grape variety: the Pinot Noir in all its splendour!

Can we even imagine what they will be like in 10, 15 or 20 years' time?