

PRESS RELEASE

February 2024



EVENT - WINE TASTING

# 30 YEARS OF THE BOURGOGNE CÔTES D'AUXERRE APPELLATION

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre appellation, 15 estates will be taking up residence at the Abbey of Saint-Germain d'Auxerre for an **exceptional tasting**.

The Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre appellation was created in 1993, providing recognition for centuries of winemaking and a new impetus for future generations. Some 30 years on, these winemakers are delighted to invite you to celebrate this ongoing tradition in a magical setting. **This tasting will be held on the eve of the Grands Jours de Bourgogne event**, which kicks off in Chablis and the Grand Auxerrois on 18 March. It offers a unique chance to discover the range of Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre wines in the company of those who know them best.

**Sunday 17 March**

**2pm to 7pm**

**Abbey of Saint-Germain d'Auxerre**

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**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**



**1993**

**CREATION OF THE BOURGOGNE  
CÔTES D'AUXERRE APPELLATION**

Bourgogne  
CÔTES D'AUXERRE

**7**

**VILLAGES PRODUCING THE APPELLATION**  
Augy, Saint-Bris-le-Vineux, Auxerre, Vaux,  
Champs-sur-Yonne, Quenne, Vincelottes

**103**

**HECTARES OF CHARDONNAY**

**WHY  
CÔTES D'AUXERRE  
with a « S » ?**

*To specify that they are multiple,  
each with its own specificity. And  
also that in time, every terroir can  
eventually be classified.*

**126**

**HECTARES OF PINOT NOIR**



**SOLS**

**LIMESTONE, CLAY, AND MARL-LIMESTONE  
SOILS FROM THE UPPER JURASSIC  
AND LOWER CRETACEOUS**

**STYLE DES VINS**

**THAT IS ALL ABOUT FRESHNESS,  
SOPHISTICATION, LIGHTNESS, DELICACY,  
AND A CAREFULLY CHISELED TEXTURE**

## A LITTLE HISTORY

# A YOUNG APPELLATION WITH A LONG HISTORY...

Behind the Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre appellation lies the story of a centuries-old vineyard that was almost forgotten. **Since the first vines were planted near Auxerre some 2,000 years ago, vinegrowing has shaped the northern part of Burgundy.** But it wasn't until the impetus of the Benedictine monks of the Abbey of Saint-Germain that Auxerre wines enjoyed an unprecedented boom. From the Middle Ages onwards, they were transported by waterway to Paris and Northern Europe, establishing a solid reputation. **Until the end of the 18th century, winegrowing was a way of life, and Auxerre and the surrounding villages lived according to the rhythm of the vines.** There were 1,800 hectares under vine back then, with terroir and lieux-dits already recognized for their unique characteristics.

Phylloxera and the arrival of the railroad plunged this economy into turmoil. The Yonne winegrowing region, so highly acclaimed just a few decades previously, ended up a shadow of its former self. Almost everywhere, vines were replaced by fruit trees and urbanization. **The story might have ended there but for the audacity and determination of a handful of winegrowing families, who had retained a few plots and decided to replant vines on the hillsides in the 1960s and 1970s.** At a time when Chablis was coming into its own, the Auxerre region was just waking up. And the terroir was finally rewarded through the INAO's recognition of the appellation just a few years later.



*"The Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre appellation reflects the winegrowing of the Yonne, combining its history and terroir. The vines, mainly located in the village of Saint-Bris-le-Vineux, produce classic Burgundy wines with plenty of freshness. Today, thanks to three decades of hard work by a new generation of winemakers, they are well known and highly acclaimed."*

Jean-Christophe BERSAN, President of the Union of Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre Producers

# BIRTH OF THE AOC: IGNITED DEBATES!



*"The application to obtain the Bourgogne classification with a geographical denomination, which led to the creation of the **Côtes d'Auxerre AOC**, aroused great debate amongst the winegrowers of Saint-Bris. Some didn't want to change anything for fear that the new classification would detract from the notion of Bourgogne wine and its established reputation. Others were keen on obtaining a Bourgogne Saint-Bris AOC. The majority, however, wanted to find the perfect name to reflect the appellation, and debate was long and heated.*

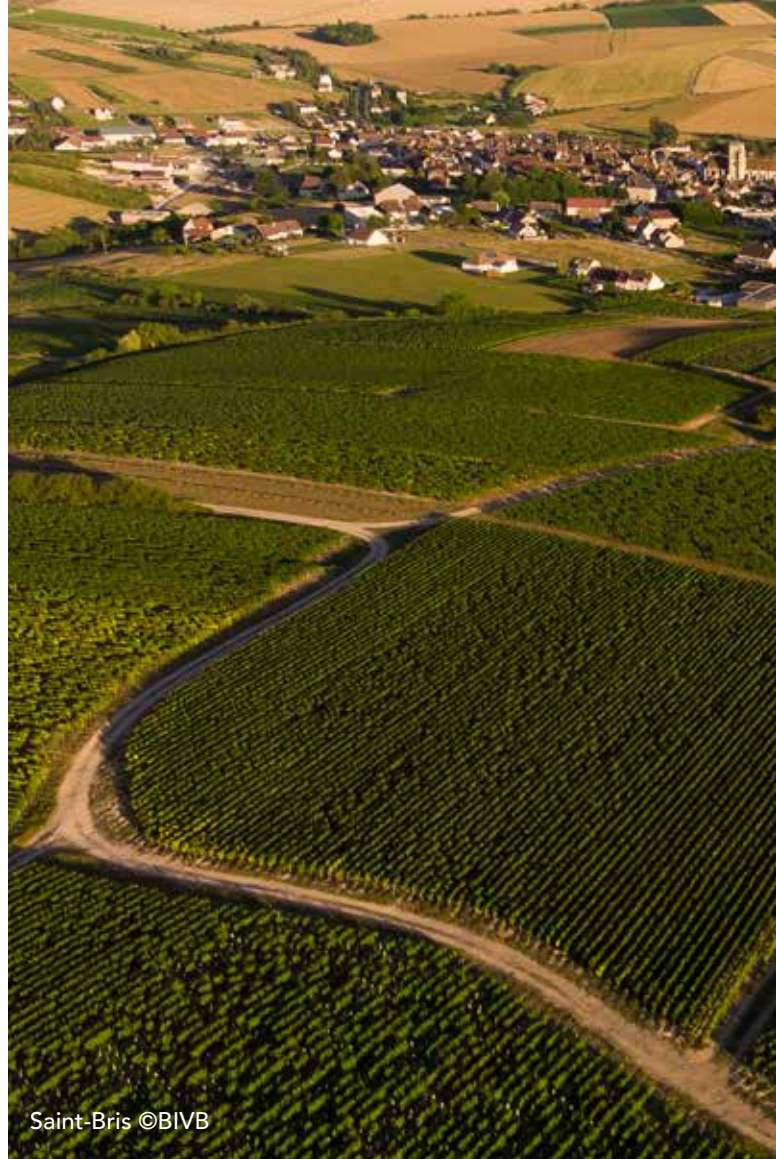
*There was talk of finding a place name under which all interested parties could come together, but which one to choose? **Then gradually, the idea of Côtes d'Auxerre began gaining ground.** Firstly, it would allow us to extend the perimeter of the AOC to villages other than our own, thus increasing the number of winegrowers to promote it and the production area itself. Secondly, it incorporated the name of Auxerre, which was at the center of the wine trade with Paris via the Yonne and the Seine. And, as Jean-Pierre Garcia's studies show, it was in and around Auxerre that the Pinot Noir grape first began to make a name for itself, rather than in the Côte d'Or. Lastly, it added to the existing "Côtes" AOCs, creating a unity from the Yonne to the Saône et Loire, with Côtes d'Auxerre, Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune, and Côte Chalonnaise. **Eventually, Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre was chosen by a huge majority.**" Jean-François BERSAN*





## Remarkable character and minerality

Burgundy, with its exceptional patchwork of terroir, draws its uniqueness from the personality of its vineyards. And the Côtes d'Auxerre appellation is no exception: The Jurassic limestone soil on which the vines grow gives its wines a distinctive style and structure. Whether red or white, they are fresh, fruity and invigorating, with an ever-subtle minerality. A reflection of the terroir and the precision work of winemakers, they are renowned for offering excellent value for money. Now, more than ever, Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre wines are holding all the cards.



*"The winegrowers have worked hard on this appellation and it quickly found its place both in France and abroad. Using the word "Côtes" is very traditional in our vineyards, from the Côtes de Beaune to the Côtes de Nuit, the Côtes Chalonaise and beyond. As for Auxerre, it's a town that grew up around wine-making right through until phylloxera struck. Since then, vineyards have gradually been reestablished around Auxerre, Chablis, Saint-Bris, Irancy, and so on. The creation of the Côtes d'Auxerre AOC has been a unifying force, bringing together the different villages that produce this appellation under a name that is thoroughly steeped in its winegrowing past."*

Jean-Hugues GOISOT, winegrowers in Saint-Bris

# WINES TO DISCOVER, JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM PARIS

The north of Burgundy is connected by water to the French capital and has long maintained close links with Paris. Today, Auxerre and the surrounding winegrowing areas are appealing to the city's wine lovers, and in particular those who like to head off the beaten track on the hunt for interesting discoveries. Generous and affordable wines, inspired winegrowers, great restaurants, beautiful landscapes, and some remarkable history: It's the perfect place for a fascinating visit to the heart of the Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre appellation.

*"The Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre vineyards offer some charming history and delightful landscapes. I have long been convinced by the quality of the region's typical northern Burgundian terroir and rejoice in working with the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes that perfectly reflect its limestone character. The wines we produce are completely in tune with the times and are fresh and fruity while offering finesse and a complex texture to delight all lovers of Burgundy wines."*

Edouard LEPESME, winegrowers in Auxerre

