

CHAMPAGNE  
**ALEXANDRE BONNET**  
AUX RICEYS



## COTEAUX CHAMPENOIS

ROUGE, 2021

*This northern-grown Pinot Noir recalls a time when the wines of Les Riceys were as highly esteemed as the finest Burgundy wines.*

### *Anecdote*

**Michel Bettane** claimed that “this wine has no colour but can be kept for at least 25 years!”

### *In the vineyard*

**Terroir:** Slightly ferruginous limestone and marls from the Kimmeridgian Jurassic era; cool and sunny semi-continental climate typical of southern Champagne, moderate altitude of 250 m.

**Grape variety:** Pinot Noir from a mass selection carried out by the estate (vineyard “La Forêt” and “Vélue”, planted in 1974, single Guyot pruning (8 buds instead of 10), yield 40% lower than the average in Champagne.

**Viticulture:** Agroecological practices: precision viticulture, broad-spectrum protection, soil tilling, grassing or sowing in the inter-row, organic composts, no weedkillers, no insecticides, HVE and VDC certifications since 2015.

**Environment:** Development of biodiversity by planting orchards, truffle oaks and honey plants, and by mowing grassy areas late in the year to respect pollination times, restoration of local heritage structures (small stone huts known as *cadoles*).

### *In the cellar*

**Harvest:** Manual only and gradual depending on grape ripeness. Sorting is carried out in the vineyard. The grapes are brought to the winery immediately, in perforated boxes.

**Vinification:** Manual sorting on a mat, total destemming, vatting using gravity, Burgundy-style vinification in open vats, punching down using the feet, one week maceration, natural malolactic fermentation, slight sulphiting.

**Maturation:** 75% in tanks and 25% in three-year-old Burgundy barrels for 9 months, then in bottle for 1 year to develop the complexity of the wine.

**2021 vintage :** 2,000 bottles and 46 magnums produced.

### *Le vin*

**Appearance:** Clear, deep and light garnet red.

**Nez:** A fresh nose with lots of finesse, and aromas of burlat cherry. A surprising starter with a hint of smoke, peony and red berry aromas.

**Palate:** Lively, uncluttered, long and structured by fine, fresh tannins.

**Cellaring time:** Drink young on the fruit or later for more complexity.

**Service:** Pour at 16°C and decant or leave to breathe for 5 minutes in the glass. Combine with an excellent piece of red meat such as a leg of lamb or meat in a sauce such as beef bourguignon – naturally.

### *Eco-design packaging*

- Burgundy sommelier bottle
- Natural cork closure sealed with wax
- Water-saving cotton label
- FSC sustainable case of 6 bottles laid flat of which 90% recycled
- Pallets of 90 cases, 540 bottles

### *Analyses*

**Alcohol:** 12,89 %

**Acidity:** 3,94 g/L H2SO4

**pH :** 3,31

**Sulphites:** 17 mg/L

### *Vintage 2021 :*

Following a wet winter, spring was cold. On April 5, a wave of polar cold, accompanied in places by snow, swept across Champagne for several days. The vineyards were affected, with buds freezing in the buds. The harvest was affected. The summer was chaotic and rainy, with numerous storms. Fine weather returned in mid-August. The harvest begins on September 13.

