



Saint-Aubin Vineyard



Nicolas Potel and winemaker Sylvain Debord

MAISON ROCHE DE BELLENE 2016 Saint-Aubin



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Nicolas Potel founded his new micro-négociant, Maison Roche de Bellene, in 2009. The focus at Roche de Bellene is on individual terroirs from *vieilles vignes* (old vines – 40 years or older) that are farmed responsibly. All of the growers Nicoas works with are either BIO certified or farming according to the principles of *lutte raisonnée* (sustainable viticulture). This enables Nicolas to consistently produce the expressive, terroir-driven style that is his vision.

SAINT-AUBIN

This village is tucked out of the limelight in a side valley between Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet. A high proportion of the vineyard area is designated premier cru, and Chardonnay is the predominant grape variety. This appellation is especially well-known for its pleasing, affordable white wines that are similar to Puligny-Montrachet in their steely structure, only lacking a bit of the elegance and perfume.

2016 VINTAGE NOTES

An extremely harsh frost in April did significant damage to the vines of Burgundy, especially those that were just flowering. The result was a 50% loss of potential crop, even before the fruit developed. A very warm summer gave the remaining clusters a chance to catch up and ripen properly. Even though it was a small harvest, the fruit we did get was magnificent. The wines are rich in color, showing a complex aromatic palette and a beautiful structure.

TECHNICAL INFO

Grape Varieties: 100% Chardonnay

Vineyard Surface: 0.89 ha

Age of Vines: 48 years, average

Exposition: East, southeast; 270 meters elevation

Soil Type: Clay, limestone

Vineyard Management: Lutte raisonnée (sustainable)

Harvest Method: Hand picking

Harvest Date: September 26, 2016

Yield: 42 hl/ha

Vinification: Native yeast fermentation, 100% malolactic fermentation

Elevage: Aged in French oak (10% new); light fining and filtration

Bottling Date: October 26, 2017 (Biodynamic fruit day)

Alcohol: 13%

Total Production: 416 cases