



## VOLNAY 2018



FR-BIO-01  
Agriculture France

Volnay sits up high, dominating the Côte de Beaune, and on a clear day, one can see as far as Mont Blanc. And this broad scope is reflected in its wines. Volnay is a traditional Burgundy village, with a relatively low profile that focuses fully on its vines. Back in 1816, when wine writer André Jullien penned *The Topography of all the Known Vineyards*, he wrote, “Volnay produces the lightest, most refined, and most agreeable of the wines of the Côte de Beaune,” and marveled at its charming bouquet, while bishop and theologian Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet would allow only Volnay wines to be served at his table. In them, he saw, “Courage, strength, joy, spiritual intoxication, and the transportation of the soul.” On the day he died, he ordered six barrels of Volnay to be delivered to the bishop’s palace in Meaux, to ensure nothing would be amiss at his funeral. It’s hard to imagine a more Burgundian gesture!

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, historian Claude Courtépée and lawyer and king’s counsel Edme Beguillet were in agreement: if the former Dukes of Burgundy, Knights of Malta, monks of Maizières, and former kings enjoyed Volnay wines so much, it was because of the varied view, the fine air, and the excellence of the wines and waters of the land. For a long time, the village of Volnay produced what was known as *le vin de primeur* or *paillé*. After a brief spell in the vat and a quick press, the wine from these white grapes went into barrels and straight into the cellar. Then from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, red wines gradually replaced the œil-de-perdrix white, this *terroir* offering the most ardent and forthright expression of the Pinot Noir grape.

### HISTORY

This wine comes from two plots from two neighboring *climats*, covering 1.5 hectares and with a great deal in common. Facing south-southeast, they are drenched in sunshine and have such prestigious neighbors as Taille Pieds and Cailleret. This side of Volnay is close by Monthélie and Meursault, and is where the line of the Côte takes a turn from east-facing to southeast.

*Le Clos des Chênes* has a choice place in the lineage of Volnay *premier crus*. Part of our plot is classed as Volnay Village in *Le Clos des Chênes* (0.6736 hectares) and is located on the side of the Chaignot (or Chagnot) hill, which explains its long-standing name. *Le Clos des Chênes* is among those excellent *cuvées* highlighted in 1855 by Dr Jules Lavalley, covering 16.2740 hectares, making it the biggest *climat* of the appellation, which, at the time, was considered equal to Taille Pieds. He considered its wines to be “Of the first order.” The *climat* today covers 15 hectares.

### PLOT

#### VOLNAY

**Surface area:** 1.43 hectares

**Geographical location:** The *lieux-dits* of Ez Blanchés and Le Clos des Chênes

**Aspect:** East

**Varietal:** 100% Pinot Noir

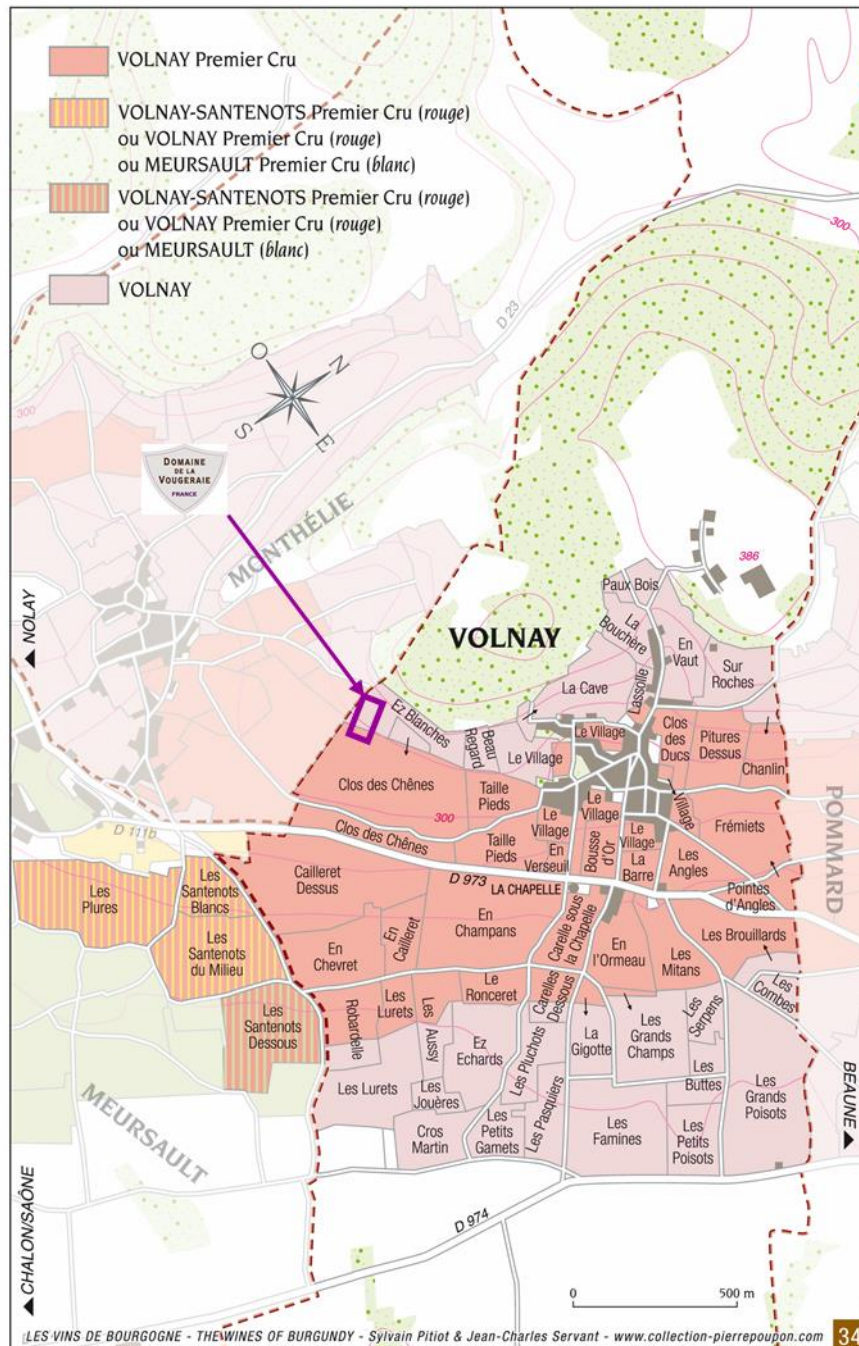
**Soil and subsoil:** White marl and clay-limestone

**Plantation density:** 10,000 vines per hectare

**Vines:** 100% massal

**Pruning:** Guyot

**Work in the vines:** Replanting of missing vines in the fall. Earthing up in the winter. Spraying with a nettle and rhubarb infusion, and a brew of horsetail and silica, tansy, sage and yarrow. Biodynamic 500 and 501 preparations were used at the end of winter and in spring, and 501 again before flowering. Removal of excess vegetation in spring.



## **HARVEST**

**Harvest date:** August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 (fruit day)

Sorting both in the vines and in the winery

**Yield:** 18hl/ha

## **VINIFICATION**

32% in whole bunches, the remainder destalked and put into the vat using gravity

No additional yeasts or enzymes added

Cold pre-fermentation maceration (12-15°C) for five days

**Total maceration:** 22 days

One *pigeage* per day until mid-fermentation and then gentle pumping over once a day until the end of vatting

Pressing in the vertical press

## **AGEING**

**Duration:** 15 months and 1 month on stainless steel tank

**Type:** in barrels

**New barrels:** 28%

Slow and gentle toasting

**Origin of the oak:** Cîteaux and Tronçais

Racking off for all barrels

No fining, light filtering

## **BOTTLING**

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 (flower day in the lunar calendar)

Limited to 3043 bottles