



Jean-Hervé Chiquet

JACQUESSON MANIA

CHAMPAGNE LIKE TOP BURGUNDY

with Jean-Hervé Chiquet

Jacquesson is now the cream of the crop when it comes to fine champagne.

With its uncompromising style that breaks with empty tradition, Jean-Hervé and Laurent Chiquet have instigated a mini revolution.



Laurent Chiquet

What can I tell you? Rose-tinted stories? PR spin is not my thing. Let us stick to the truth: in 1988, we (my brother Laurent and I) inherited a 200-year-old winery which was pretty much the opposite of what we had dreamed. Our father never drank champagne and did not really care what went in the bottle. Initially we continued to sell our parents' wines, but we wanted more. It is a good thing that there were two of us, as the path we had to tread was a rocky one. Next, we got rid of five hectares of vines which we thought were quite simply not good enough. Our neighbours called us mad and began to avoid us. Champagne's qualitative progress is thanks to demanding connoisseurs, and not just the winemakers themselves. Talking of better work is an insult to all those who are very comfortable with something worse. However, suddenly everything became much easier for both of us. Only one thing remained: producing top wines. The final turning point came with the 2000 and 2002 vintages. We launched the 700 series. In 2002 we bottled our first single-site wines, and

now we are celebrating our 28th vintage together. There is no opposition between us, only discussion. I travel a lot but I am always there for crucial moments such as harvesting or blending. Laurent, who is responsible for the wine, accompanies me on the most important customer visits. We work like an old married couple. Apart we are worth little, together we are strong. We make wine for ourselves, very selfishly, just how we like it. We quite simply do not make poor wines. Our concept? In short, ripe and healthy grapes from prime locations. At most, the difference is that we actually do what others only talk about. Coming as we do from Dizy and owning sites which are some of the best in Champagne, do we really have the right to accept mediocrity? Life is easier if you are born in Vosne-Romanée than in Chalon-sur-Saône. Yes, Burgundy. Our model. In Champagne – known for the art of blending – we produce single-site wines like those you would find in Burgundy, wines which no-one knows how to categorise. We like that.