

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

Jacquesson “Cuvée No. 741” Extra Brut NV (Dizy)

The release of Jacquesson “Cuvée No. 741” hails entirely from the base year of 2013, with all of the *vins clairs* for this bottling fermented and raised in older oak *foudres* prior to blending and bottling. It was disgorged in January of 2018 and finished with a *dosage* of 2.5 grams per liter and includes twenty percent reserve wines in the blend this year. It is composed of a *cépages* of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier, but the folks at Jacquesson prefer these days not to give the exact percentages of each variety in the blend. In any event, the wine is outstanding and one of the most forward and tasty examples of this bottling that I have tasted right out of the blocks. The bouquet delivers an excellent blend of apple, white peach, chalky minerality, a touch of nutskin, warm biscuits and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very well-balanced, with a lovey core, refined *mousse*, fine focus and grip and a long, complex and already quite wide open finish. This is a lovely iteration of the 700 Series. 2019-2050+. **92.**

Jacquesson “Cuvée No. 742” Extra Brut NV (Dizy)

The newest release of Jacquesson’s flagship bottling is their “Cuvée No. 742”, which finds its foundation in the base year of 2014. The *vins clairs* were once again fermented and aged in large, older oak *foudres* and the wine was finished with a *dosage* of 1.5 grams per liter when it was disgorged in July of 2018. The wine offers up a fine nose of pear, fresh almond, a bit of apple blossom, chalky minerality, brioche and just a whisper of buttery oak in the upper register. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with brisk acids, excellent focus and grip, pinpoint bubbles and lovely focus and balance on the long and still fairly youthful finish. This is quite dry, but has plenty of depth of fruit to buffer its acids and is quite approachable today, but it is still in climbing mode and will be a far more complete glass of bubbly five years down the road. For current drinking, the Cuvée No. 741 is the more ready to go bottling. Fine juice in the making. 2021-2055+.

92. 2008 Jacquesson “Avize- Champ Caïn” Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut Millésime (Dizy)

The single vineyard bottling of Champ Caïn in Avize hails from a *lieu à dit* located at the bottom of the slope in this commune, with a due south exposition and the Chiquet brothers owning 1.3 hectares of vines planted in 1962. It was bottled in May of 2009 and disgorged nine years later, in April of 2018, with a finishing *dosage* in this vintage of 2.5 grams per liter. The wine is flat out brilliant on the nose, soaring from the glass in a very deep and complex blend of pear, apple, fresh-baked bread, complex, limestone minerality, a touch of nuttiness, incipient smokiness and a gentle bass note of buttery oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with great mineral drive, impeccable focus and balance, elegant *mousse* and a very long, zesty and complex finish. This is stellar juice! 2019-2050+. **94+.**
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2008 Jacquesson “Dizy Corne Bautray” Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut Millésime (Dizy)

The *climat* of Corne Bautray is up at the summit of a steep vineyard slope in Dizy and the Chiquet family’s one hectare parcel here is planted completely to chardonnay. It has a fairly deep layer of clay topsoil, pockmarked with pebbly scree, over the mother rock of limestone in Dizy. The vines were planted in 1960, making these old vines the same age as this correspondent. The parcel in 2008 was picked on September 28th, was bottled the following May and was not disgorged until April of 2018, giving the wine a full nine years aging *sur latte*. It received no finishing *dosage* in this vintage. The bouquet is beautiful, offering up a refined and quite complex constellation of pear, almond, a touch of buttery oak, detailed soil tones, dried flowers, hints of citrus zest and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is still a bit youthfully brisk, with a full-bodied and nicely soil-driven personality, a rock solid core, refined *mousse* and excellent length and grip on the complex and nicely structured finish. With its zero *dosage*, the wine is a bit more youthfully inclined than its two other 2008 single vineyard counterparts and

really will demand a bit of time in the cellar to start drink with more generosity. But, the balance here is impeccable and once the acids soften just a bit more, it is going to be an outstanding drink (though Brut Nature lovers will be delighted with it already). 2021-2050+.

94. 2008 Jacquesson “Aÿ- Vauzelle Terme” Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut Millésime (Dizy)

The 2008 Jacquesson “Aÿ- Vauzelle Terme” is the smallest of the single vineyard bottlings from the *maison*, as the Chiquet brothers only own three-tenths of a hectare of vines in this *lieu à dit*, which are all planted to pinot noir. The *elevage* of the *vin clair* was completed in May of 2009 and the wine spent nine years aging *sur latte* prior to its disgorgement in April of 2018 and did not receive any *dosage* in this vintage. The bouquet is outstanding, offering up a complex blend of white peach, apple, *patissière*, a hint of the walnut to come, a complex base of soil tones, warm biscuits and a nice touch of dried flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with elegant *mousse*, fine focus and cut and a long, open and very refined finish. This has the shoulders of proper Aÿ pinot noir, but is quite mineral-driven and light on its feet at the same time. Very impressive juice! 2019-2050.

94.