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Jacques Lassaigne, Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut La Colline Inspirée

Producer	Jacques Lassaigne
Vendor	Jenny & François Selections
Category	Wine - Sparkling - White
Grape variety	Chardonnay
Region	Champagne, France
Subregion	Aube
Appellation	Champagne
Feature	Organic
Vintage	NV
Alcohol by volume	12.5%

Product information

Age of Vines: 40 + Years. Yields: 60 hl/ha. Pruning Method: Guyot. Soil: Heavy clay.

Vinification Method: The unique path of the Colline Inspirée is that it is vinified and aged entirely in barrel. This process does not add any oak flavoring to the wine as the barrels are old. What it does add is a sumptuous essence of oxidation, similar to a fine aged white burgundy.

Tasting Notes: This wine is opulent and creamy, showing gorgeous hazelnut overtones and fresh baked brioche undertones.

Producer information

Jacques Lassaigne is a 4.7 hectare family vineyard located in Montgueux. The vineyards boast prime southeastern exposure & consist primarily of Chardonnay vines (94%) & the rest is made up of Pinot Noir (6%). The Montgueux vineyard sites were originally held for the Montrachet of Champagne & are located near the gates of Troyes—the former capital of Champagne. The terroir in Montgueux is nearly identical to the growing sites found further north in le Mesnil, as they share the same limestone vain —this is exceptional terroir for making great champagne. The non-vintage Blanc de Blanc is a blend of nine different vineyard sites & two successive vintages.

Emmanuel Lassaigne, Jacques' son who now runs the vineyard, began working the vines in 1999, and made the bold decision to craft wines from individual parcels. At the time his local neighbors thought him a fool and didn't understand the method behind his madness. Emmanuel makes all the important decisions with the wine virtually alone, and experiments boldly in ways that baffle us with their courageousness, for when he decides to make a change, he isn't able to fully realize the results of that change for another 3-4 years.

The initial tank or barrel fermentations of all Emmanuel's wine is carried out with only indigenous yeast. He sulfurs minimally at press to prevent oxidation, and then never adds any sulfur again. Emmanuel disgorges all the bottles by hand himself, a very uncommon practice in Champagne, where machine disgorgement is the norm. He developed this technique so he wouldn't have to top up the bottles after disgorgement.