

# 2020 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU- 100% CHARDONNAY

*The vineyard site occupies a dominant position on the hill behind the village of Aloxe-Corton. The estate of Drouhin faces due east.*



 *Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.*  
 PURVEYORS OF FINE WINES & SPIRITS SINCE 1946



## History & tradition:

Corton-Charlemagne is the only vineyard in Burgundy bearing the name of two emperors: "Corton" comes from the Gallo-Roman Curtis d'Othon, meaning the Domaine of Othon, a German emperor. It gave the word Courthorn, which became Corton. Famous emperor Charlemagne was, according to legend, the owner of the vineyard. Soil: brown limestone with small stones. Domaine area: 0.33 ha. (.825 acre). Average age of the vines: 28 years.

## Viticulture:

Biological cultivation since 1990; biodynamic cultivation a few years later. Vine stocks: sélection massale (propagation of new vine stocks from a number of selected vines) done at the Drouhin nursery; also clones of recognized quality. Soil maintenance: compost of manure and white wood, sometimes guano (seabird manure). Soil is ploughed either by tractor or by horse to manage spreading of weeds. Treatment: only authorized products for biological cultivation are used: infusions and macerations of plant materials, sulfur and copper, powdered rock. Natural predators are not eliminated.

## Vinification:

- Harvesting: by hand, in small open crates in order to preserve the integrity of the fruit.
- Sorting: if necessary, the grapes are sorted twice : once when being picked, the second time on the sorting table at the winery.
- Pressing: very slow so as to respect fruit. Juices from the very last pressings are not retained.
- The wine goes directly into barrels after "débourage" (decanting to reduce sediment).
- Ageing Type: in barrels (25% in new oak). Length: 12 to 15 months.
- Origin of the wood: French oak forests (Tronçay in particular).

## Tasting note by Véronique Boss-Drouhin

"One of the greatest wines of Burgundy, to be tasted with awe and reverence. It has an intense golden hue. On the nose, there are some subtle tones of rose, fresh almond, citrus, honey, exotic wood and spice. Majestic and well balanced on the palate. Generous and lively at the same time. Intense and complex aftertaste. All the aromas mingle and linger for quite a long time afterwards. A wine of undeniable majesty".

**2020 Vintage:** The 2020 whites are fruity with very beautiful acidities and offer a great aromatic complexity. Despite the hot temperatures of summer, they are well-balanced, supported by freshness. The premiers crus and grands crus are still ageing on lees, they take their time but undeniably gain in fullness, richness and aromatic complexity. We accompany them gently during this long process.

## JAMES SUCKLING - 96 POINTS

The 2020 Corton-Charlemagne from Domaine Drouhin is another stellar example of the vintage. The bouquet is very precise and expressive, delivering notes of apple, pear, flinty, chalky minerality, lemon blossoms, white lilies, citrus zest and a lovely foundation of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, racy and rock solid at the core, with a full-bodied and graceful format, beautiful mineral undertow, snappy acids and a long, complex and utterly seamless finish that shows tremendous lift and grip. Great juice. 2028-2065.

Also: John Gilman-96 Pts, Vin-92 Pts,

Wine Advocate-93-95 Pts,,

Burghound-92-95 Pts.

