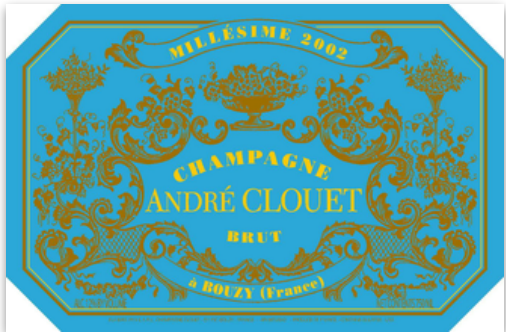




## Domaine André Clouet “Millesime” 2009

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REGION	Bouzy
GRAPES	100% Pinot Noir
VITICULTURE	Sustainable agriculture
VINICULTURE	Hand-picked fruit from the 2009 vintage is fermented in stainless steel tanks and oak barrels.
ALCOHOL	12%

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Domaine André Clouet is located in the village of Bouzy in the Montagne de Reims subregion of Champagne. Their family-owned vineyards cover 8 hectares in the sloped vineyards of Grand Cru Bouzy and Ambonnay.

The wines are crafted using the traditional methods of Champagne production, with respect to the terroir and sense of place. They are cellared under the family’s 17th century village house which was originally built by André’s ancestor who, as an interesting note of history, acted as printer to Louis XV’s royal court at Versailles.

Vintage Champagne is rare, in fact only about 10% of Champagne is declared a vintage year. Following 2008, the 2009 is a slightly fuller-bodied vintage, due to the much warmer weather pattern that 2009 presented. For those who bought 2008 to cellar knowing how good it might be in 5 to 10 years, the same advice can be given for 2009 but for very pleasurable drinking now. It’s not to say it won’t age well—it will—but it’s the kind of Champagne you really want to drink. Decanter magazine provided vintage notes for 2009 as follows:

**“This is a drink-soon vintage, with generous elegant fruit expression in all 3 varieties.”**

In 2009, it was incredibly warm and dry. A dry winter led to a deficit in the water table. Fresh showers in spring activated the vegetative cycle in the vineyard. Flowering was fine, but a chaotic stormy July dropped some fruit in places in Ay. August was warm and sunny with cool nights; no rain fell from mid-September leading to the bottle of wine described above.

The resulting fruit had a perfect balance between acid and sugar in tune with the desired minerality, and the thick skins on the Pinot Noir in particular had great flavor and concentration. 80% of the wine was fermented in stainless steel, with the remaining 20% occurred in Sauternes barrels. The 4 years of additional aging on “Millesime 2009” truly shows this to be a superb vintage.

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