



LOUIS ROEDERER
CHAMPAGNE

CRISTAL 2015

Like a brand new symphony, **Cristal** resonates with a different tone to that of the previous vintages.

This iconic *cuvée* from Champagne Louis Roederer is born in the vineyards at Domaine Cristal and beats to the rhythm of the seasons, the climate and the work undertaken in the vineyards.

Just like a fine Burgundy cru, this champagne finds nourishment in its soils, their vibration and their unbreakable bond with the sun and the light.

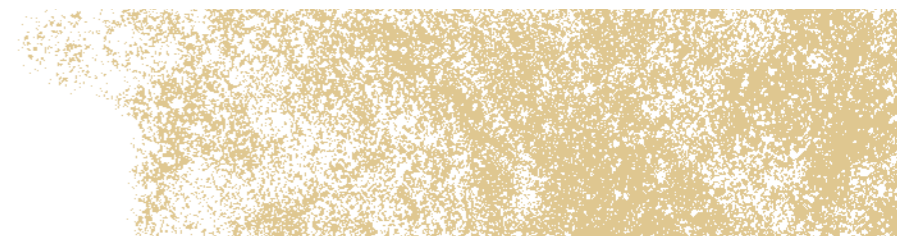




A TIMELESS ESTATE

The 70 plots that make up Domaine Cristal are cultivated using organic and biodynamic practices ensuring its permanence yet constant evolution. Anything that does not evolve perishes...

In the vineyards destined for our Cristal champagne, consistency lies precisely in the changes made each year. Depending on the year's weather and growing cycle, only the highest quality plots are selected to go into the final blend in order to capture the soul of Cristal, its beating heart and most authentic self.

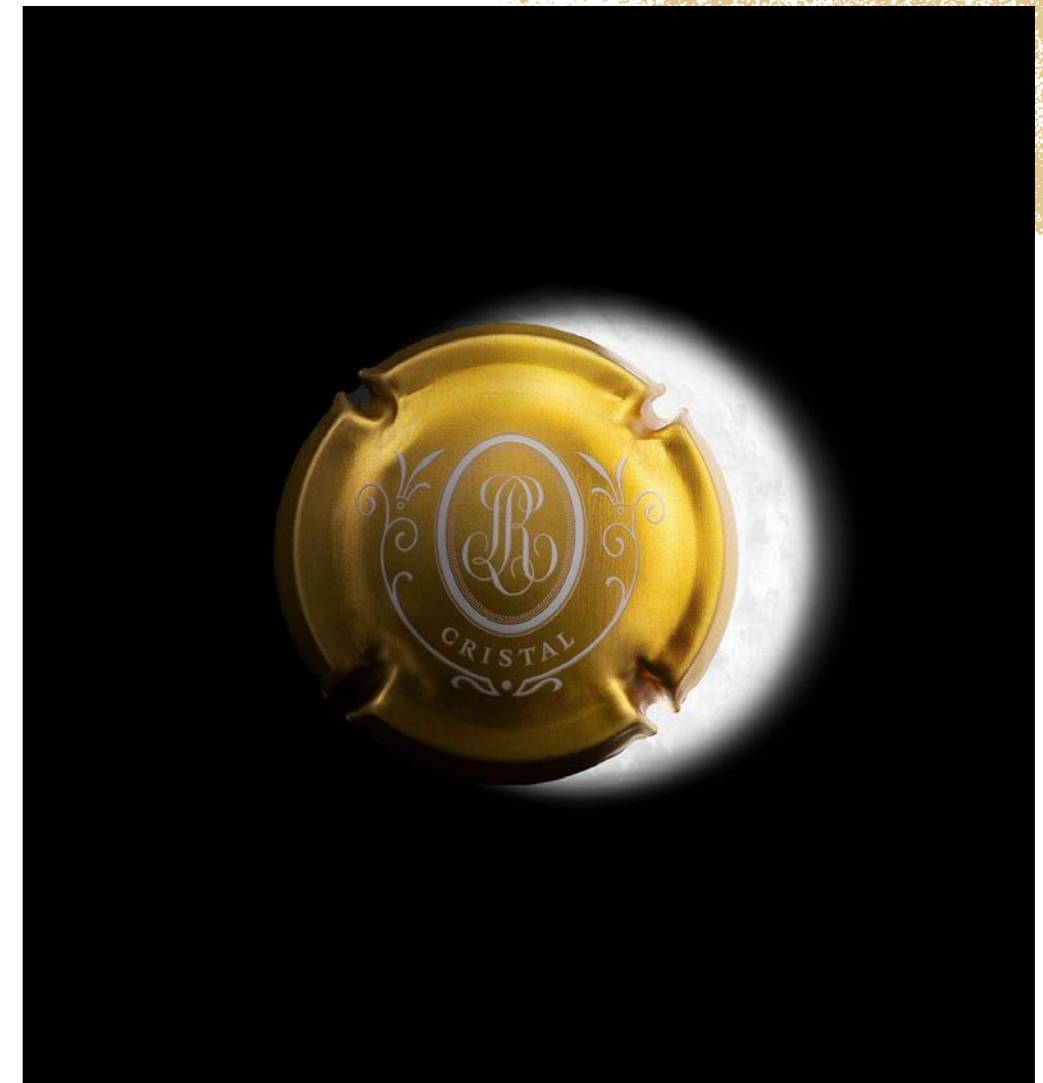


These 70 outstanding lieux-dits have been carefully and patiently built up by the successive generations at the helm of the Louis Roederer Champagne House since 1845. They are worked using a bespoke and traditional winegrowing approach that respects the living environment, using eco-friendly practices that include massal selection, gentle pruning, the use of biodynamic composts and allowing the land to lie fallow for long periods. These methods are inspired by the principles of permaculture in which the ecosystem adjusts its balance thereby forming a close bond between Man and Nature. 30 hectares are also worked by horse, in particular the oldest and youngest vines which are the most fragile.

These vineyards are located in 7 Grands Crus: 40% are planted with Chardonnay on the Avize hillsides (10 plots), in Cramant (11 plots) and in Mesnil-sur-Oger (9 plots) and 60% are planted with Pinot Noir on the Ay hillsides (10 plots), in Verzenay (17 plots), Verzy (12 plots) and Beaumont-sur-Vesle (1 plot). This breakdown also forms the exact composition of the wine's blend.

Cristal thus remains faithful to its soil and its terroir whilst offering a true expression of Nature's bounty.

This expression is further accentuated by an haute couture viticulture complemented by a rigorous vine selection process using massal selection to ensure low yields of grapes that are dense and concentrated in aromas.





This chalky pebble-strewn soil which reflects the light from the sky is unique in the Champagne region. This carefully preserved piece of nature is tended like the Garden of Eden by the Louis Roederer team. The winegrowers lavish the care and attention on their soils worthy of their Grand Cru status, enabling these precious lands to reveal the secrets of the living environment and the magic of wine as the year unfolds.

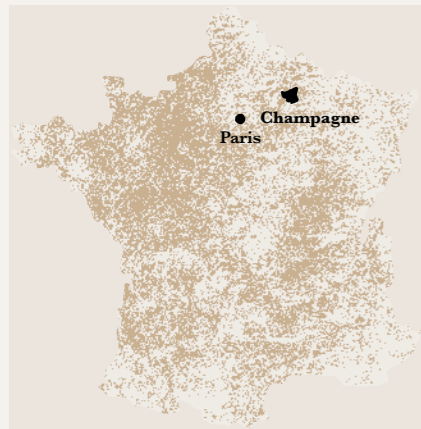
For each vintage, we select only the finest Pinots and Chardonnays from the 45 plots where the vines are over 20 years old and well rooted in the chalky matrix. It is here where the wines with the purest and chalkiest character are born in the quest for the perfect harmony that has come to symbolise this champagne.



THE CRISTAL VINEYARDS

45 PLOTS IN 7 VILLAGES:

Verzenay, Verzy, Beaumont-sur-Vesle, Aÿ, Avize, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, Cramant



OUR "LA MONTAGNE" ESTATE

OUR "LA CÔTE" ESTATE

OUR "LA RIVIÈRE" ESTATE

▲ VILLAGES WHERE THE 45 CRISTAL PLOTS ARE LOCATED

● LOUIS ROEDERER PRESSES

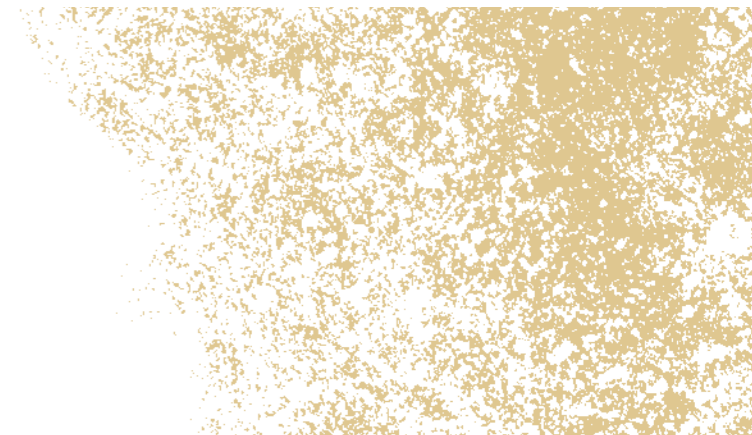
Each plot is cultivated and vinified separately, so that each unit of vines corresponds to a unit of taste. This plot-based approach allows us to express the typical character of the soil and the climate, the primary identity of the grape. The size of Louis Roederer's vats are tailored to the surface areas of each plot of Cristal's vineyards, i.e. 45 plots, so that each entity fits exactly into each of the stainless steel or French oak vats.



A WINE OF THE SOIL

The Cristal identity is unique, original and truly unlike any other in the history of the fine wines from the Champagne region. It is a wine of the soil, a wine of depth, a wine of the land yet turned to the light, reaching for the sky that it almost seems to touch.

Cristal is a wine of evolution, a wine that continues to reveal itself to us, slowly and gradually as it ages, unveiling a very different side to itself and the true extent of its unique personality.





The quest for excellence is best reflected in the remarkable precision of the work carried out in the cellars. 25% of the wine is aged in oak and malolactic fermentation is prevented in order to retain the bright, fresh and exceptionally pure character of the fruit. Time is then left to work its magic with six to seven years ageing *sur lattes* followed by six to twelve months of further ageing after disgorgement.

Every new vintage reveals the unmistakable Cristal character although through a very different prism each time. A kaleidoscope of flavours and textures, a palette of nuances that is constantly evolving and renewing itself much to the delight of the wine lover who will be surprised yet delighted to discover Cristal in yet another new light.



CONCENTRATION – THE HALLMARK OF A SPECTACULAR VINTAGE

2015 was a hot and sunny year marked by episodes of heat and drought, relieved by some very welcome rain at the end of the summer which enabled the grapes to preserve all their freshness. These weather conditions gave rise to juicy, ripe and concentrated grapes with a perfect balance. Cristal 2015 has taken full advantage of these contrasting weather conditions, showing a strong chalky temperament and capturing the vibrations of its soils as never before; a delightful paradox!

Perfectly in keeping with the continental trend of the decade, the 2015 vintage thus created wines that were ripe, well-structured and crowned by a bold freshness guided by its white soils. Brought out by Roederer's gentle and virtuous winegrowing practices, the purity of the chalk shines through and we are offered a perfect symbiosis of maturity and freshness.



A CRISTAL OF GREAT RESONANCE

It is a delicate and concentrated Cristal champagne that is emerging, already quite a charmer yet still with such immense potential ahead of it.

For the first time since 2002, this vintage is sourced from all 45 plots where the vines are over 20 years old and thus eligible for inclusion in the Cristal blend. With its concentrated character, this continental year has given us this exceptional and rare opportunity and today it is simply magical to see the whole Estate reflect the identity of this unique wine: pure fruit, superb finesse and elegant length.



The permanence of Cristal is thanks to its loyalty to the soil. It is a wine that is rooted in the eternal, that of the seasons, a ripening cycle, a heritage and a quest.

The quest is for excellence, purity and harmony, to create a wine that vibrates in tune with its terroir and mirrors its qualities.

All that remains is for the cellar master to adjust this resonance, to give the wine the most fitting ageing process to allow it to vibrate at the highest level.



TASTING NOTES – CRISTAL 2015

A CHALKY TEMPERAMENT



A perfect combination of softness and concentration, matched by a masterful maturity, Cristal 2015 delivers intense and delicious aromas with a superb energy and a magical vibration. This is a timeless champagne with a chalky temperament, sustained by its soils, freed from the sunny character of the vintage.

The nose begins with hints of yellow fruit, toasted almonds and wheat from the Chardonnay, combined with the juicy red fruit of the Pinot Noir. Then comes the great surge of energy from the wine's structure, a vibratory intensity that transforms into a gentle caress, a silky texture interwoven with fine flavours of candied citrus and iodised spices.

The vintage's chalky character thus bursts forth in a bracing, vertical effervescence, with an insistent, precise and finely honed freshness. The finish is underpinned by subtle oaky, sappy and saline notes, which creates the ultimate sensation of delicacy and concentration.

Cristal 2015 remains a wine of supreme balance and measure, resonating from the chalky nature of its soils rather than the sunny character of its vintage. A perfect Cristal, intensely of the 2015 vintage, with enormous ageing potential...

Scan this code to discover the history of this wine:



CRISTAL®

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Photos : @Louis Roederer / Emmanuel & Quentin