

Domaine des Hâtes

Chablis



The Wines

- *Petit Chablis*: The domain has nearly thirty acres of these vines, classed as Petit Chablis because the lime- stone tends to be the younger Portlandian rather than the older Kimmeridgian, and as such typically occupies higher sites (ie, resting on top of Kimmeridgian) and has less clay. Pierrick is convinced that the authorities didn't do systematic soil samples and that his largest parcel of Petit really ought to be classed as Chablis—it makes wine like Chablis and indeed is surrounded by AOC Chablis vines.
- *Chablis*: As with Petit, the domain has nearly thirty acres planted in the Chablis classification, all of it (like the Petit) planted in the Maligny commune except for 2.5 acres in the little valley of Fontenay heading toward the Grand Crus. Average age of the vines is 30 years.
- *Chablis Les Châtillons*: Les Châtillons is the parcel in the little valley of Fontenay, a parcel most recently planted in 1972-73 and totaling one hectares (2.5 acres). It's to the southeast of Maligny and is the most calcareous of his eight *Villages* sites. The grapes here make for an elegant, long, especially mineral wine, and for that reason Pierrick ages it longest and bottles it separately (he leaves the wine on its fine lees for a good eighteen months, whereas the others normally come off of their lees after fifteen). Roughly 15% is aged in wood (both 600L demi-muids and standard 228- liters) and this is blended with the steel-aged remainder. Average production is 1,250 cases.
- *Premier Cru Beauroy*: This Chardonnay comes from the Côte de Savant sector of the Beauroy flank, specifically from a parcel of 3.7 acres that a friend farms and Pierrick buys enough must to make two to three hundred cases. The parcel is relatively warm, facing mostly south but veering east, and the vines were planted in the 1990s. Pierrick raises a quarter of the wine in older wood, both 600-liter and 228-liter barrels, and the rest in steel.
- *Premier Cru Beauregard*: The most southern of Chablis' premier crus, and the smallest. Pierrick buys a bit from a 10-acre parcel of Chardonnay planted in the early 1990s, making enough for two to three hundred cases, and raises it along the same lines as the Beauroy. This wine leans to the mineral spectrum.

- *Premier Cru L'Homme Mort*: The domain farms 2.7 acres in this subsection of Fourchaume, a top Premier Cru vineyard noted for growing on similar contours as the Grand Crus above the right bank of the Serein. His vines average 30 years.

In the future, he is thinking about making two premier crus from these vines. One would be labeled Fourchaume and be raised in steel; the other would be labeled L'Homme Mort and be raised partially in wood.

The origins of both names are complex. Concerning Fourchaume, one interpretation has the word as a derivative for the French term for lime kiln. Another has it referring to geographical crossroads (*fourche*, or fork; fork in the road). Local tradition, however, has the name being a contraction of *fourche à hommes*, or fork for a man, referring literally to the cross beams of a gallows. Back in the day, the lord of Maligny did indeed have a gallows on this hillside.

L'Homme Mort, or the dead man, could logically refer directly to those gallows, and this, again, is the local interpretation—which we have chosen to use on our back label. But in the interest of confusion it should be noted that a Gallo-Roman cemetery existed at the entrance to the very small hollow that separates Fourchaume from its offshoot L'Homme Mort, and some say this is the basis of the term. To further complicate matters, a third interpretation has the name referring to a landmark tree, which was commonly used to reference boundaries.