

# DOMAINE FRANÇOIS RAQUILLET MERCUREY VIEILLES VIGNES



100% Pinot Noir. Deep ruby red color. Lovely aromas of red fruits and berries with hints of spice. Refined flavors of strawberries and plums with a hint of tobacco and sandalwood. Lively, easy-drinking, smooth and elegant. Tangy acidity and spicy tannins. An excellent choice to accompany meat dishes such as braised beef with sauce, grilled pork or roast. Pairs also with poultry, soft cheeses and pasta dishes.

This cuvée comes from three Estate plots in Mercurey, France that are all over 60 years old: Chazeaux, Ormeaux and Meix. The exposure is between the South and the East. The soil is clay-limestone. The grapes are picked by hand and crated. They are then sorted in the cellar, 100% destemmed then put in stainless steel bins. The grapes are then gravity fed to concrete tanks for a pre-fermentation cold soak to extract color and fruit. Fermentation occurs naturally (no added yeast) for 12-15 days. Very little punching-down. Gently pressed in a pneumatic press. Press juice and free-run juice are blended together. Aged in barrels of 1 to 3 wines for 12 months. Bottled after a light filtration.

Domaine François Raquillet has records showing that the same family have made wine in Mercurey (one of the most important wine appellations in Burgundy) since the 1600s. François Raquillet is an 11th generation vigneron and widely recognized as the best producer in the village and one of the leaders in the region generally. In 1990, he and his wife Emmanuelle took over his family's vines from his father Jean. He reduced yields, introduced higher quality oak barrels and significantly increased the quality of grapes produced in the vineyard. As the years have gone by, he has also refined his techniques in the cellar. He has 25 acres of superbly sited, mostly old vines and believes in low yields, mature (rather than super-ripe) fruit and a severe selection. "[François] delivers generous, gourmand wines that are succulent and pleasure-bent but also possess levels of complexity and depth that distinguishes them from many of their peers." William Kelley, Wine Advocate.

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## Tasting Note:

### DOMAINE FRANÇOIS RAQUILLET MERCUREY VIEILLES VIGNES

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## Shelf Talker:

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