

Daniel & Martine
(and Julien)
BARRAUD

Vergisson

www.domainebarraud.com



The Rock of Vergisson



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France

BURGUNDY
Mâcon

OVERVIEW

The Mâconnais was dedicated to Chardonnay back when the towns of Chassagne and Puligny, beyond the tiny circle of today's Grands Crus, were planted all red. Yes, there is an ocean of mediocre Mâcon, but the ocean has been shrinking thanks to the Sargasso Sea of increasingly more expensive Côte d'Or whites! Daniel and Martine Barraud are among the most diligent and exacting producers of white Burgundy in the entire region, not just among the Mâconnais, and the proof is in the bottle. They carefully consider every step, from vineyard practices to vinification methods, and their strategic planning for fruit ripening and the harvest has not yet failed to prove prescient and yield the wines they seek: pure, crystalline wines with unencumbered expressions of minerality, each reflective of its *terroir*, and possessed of long-term cellar potential. In 2006, Daniel and Martine's son Julien joined them in the winery, taking over *élevage* of the largest production cuvées, and his role will continue to expand with the passing of each vintage.

Varieties: Chardonnay

Total Acreage: 15 acres, all around Vergisson, incorporating all three appellations in the Mâcon

Average Production: 3,000 cases

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Organically farmed vineyards, extensive green-harvest mid-summer, harvested by hand.
- Gravity-fed cellar, wines racked once (into the barrels), and are bottled unfiltered.
- Slow, wild yeast fermentations; long lees contact in mostly new barrels; no *batonnage*.

WINES

Mâcon-Chaintré "Les Pierres Polies"

A recent acquisition for Barraud, these 25-year-old vines, planted on silt and stones, produce wine brought up in both vats and barrels with fresh and lively fruit and breadth.

Mâcon-Vergisson "La Roche"

From 30-year-old vines planted on limestone, it's the poster-child for Barraud's judicious use of oak—a delicate sense of butter cream is a fine cushion for fresh citrus & floral notions.

Pouilly-Fuissé "Alliance Vergisson"

A cuvée blended from multiple vineyards (hence the "alliance") of disparate sourcing. Still representative of Vergisson, it possesses a lemon-cream tone & a forward, rocky minerality.

Pouilly-Fuissé En France

From a single parcel of vines planted on chalk, which drives the wine with a powerful minerality and multi-dimensional sense of character.

Pouilly-Fuissé La Roche

From two parcels of 35-year-old vines, this wine is unusually fruity (for Chardonnay...) and power-oriented with great length and purity.

Pouilly-Fuissé La Verchère Vieilles Vignes

The cuvée made from the old vines outside the Barraud's home is a bit of a *vin de garde*: reticent in youth, but after five years (more is better) it is an expansive, breathtaking wine.

Pouilly-Fuissé Les Crays Vieilles Vignes

These vines that cling to the side of the limestone Rock of Vergisson (see photo) yield a sensorially refined, delicate wine harboring latent energy that blooms over a long evolution.

Pouilly-Fuissé En Buland Vieilles Vignes

From vines planted on the side of the limestone Rock of Solutré, this wine is mysterious, subtle & powerful. After a few years in the cellar, its minerality sings and blooms with seemingly endless nuance in the glass.

ACCOLADES

"Daniel Barraud is without question one of the finest growers in all of the Mâconnais and there is a credible argument to be made that his remarkable consistency vaults him right to the very top of the list. Yes, there are other fine growers who sometimes make wines equal to those of Barraud but this man almost never misses."

Allen Meadows, Burghound