

OLIVIER BERNSTEIN
ROMANÉE-SAINT-VIVANT
2017



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OLIVIER BERNSTEIN

Olivier Bernstein's wines offer some of the most distinctive experiences that stir emotions like few other fine wines. As one of the most successful producers in Burgundy, he produces a stellar line-up of Grand Crus, from Chambertin to Bonnes Mares, and now a Romanée-Saint-Vivant. It is the unique personalities of each of Olivier's wines that makes them special and a must-have for true Burgundy devotees.

“Making wine is a personal interpretation. Every year, I imagine what we can do with the grapes of each plot” explains Olivier. “Burgundy is the ultimate region for making delicate wines that capture people’s emotions. That’s why it’s so challenging.”

Olivier's love of Burgundy is why he demands so much from himself, always striving to improve each part of the winemaking process from the vineyard to the cellar. This dedication may stem in part from his upbringing in a family of classical music publishers, which taught him the importance of paying attention to every detail of his craft.

“In my family, we were always demanding; achieving the best by exploiting every detail and nuance. In German, there is a saying that if you start something, you need to do it at your best, otherwise you shouldn’t even start.”

In 2012, Olivier purchased two vineyard plots within the commune of Gevrey Chambertin - Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru and Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru Les Champeaux. Since then, he has accumulated an exclusive farming agreement for the other stellar Grand Crus he currently produces - Chambertin, Chambertin Clos-de-Beze, Charmes-Chambertin, Bonnes Mares, Clos de La Roche, and Clos de Vougeot. With the land he owns and these unique contracts, he has full control of the vines during the whole year, managing them to his own specifications. Olivier works primarily with old vines, which give more complex aromas and incredible finesse, while also coping better with the recent warmer vintages. He aims to produce very low yields, often cropping at 25hl/ha. He believes that these methods enhance the fruit concentration while preserving the character of each terroir.



“I never thought I would make Burgundy wine. I studied one year in Beaune but never imagined I would become a producer here; it seemed too ambitious to reach. My eagerness to learn and improve every year has led to success.”



Olivier’s dedication to detail in the vineyard carries over to the winemaking process as well. Olivier works his craft in a winery that is itself a piece of art. The acclaimed architect Michele de Lucchi helped him redesign his dream Maison from 2005 to 2010 after Olivier bought an old house in the center of Beaune. Balancing contemporary and rustic styles, the restoration prioritizes three pillars: authenticity, functionality, and beauty.

Perfect grapes must arrive in the winery to allow for a high proportion of whole-bunch fermentation, typically from 60% to 80% depending on the vintage. Olivier employs pump-overs during fermentation, taking the

juice from the bottom of the tank and pumping it back on the top of the tank, allowing gentle skin contact to extract tannins and color. In this way, he preserves purity of the fruit aroma and finesse in the tannins.

After fermentation, the wines are gently pressed, briefly blended and then transferred to the barrels for ageing. Olivier works directly with the celebrated cooper Stéphane Chassin who tastes the wines with Olivier before barrel ageing to select the best wood for that specific cuvée. As a result, each of the wines express a sense of individuality that can transform them from a great drink to a contemplative experience.



ROMANÉE-SAINT-VIVANT

We are proud to be promoting the sale of a 1-of-1 unique Jeroboam of Romanée Saint Vivant, produced by Olivier Bernstein in 2017.

The vineyard is located in the Vosne-Romanée village, the jewel of the Cote de Nuits. Romanée-Saint-Vivant takes its name from the Benedictine monks of the Saint-Vivant order, who recognised this small plot of land's potential for great wine nearly a thousand years ago.

In 2017, Olivier was lucky enough to get his hands on a coveted parcel of the Grand Cru vineyard of Romanée Saint Vivant from a few southeast-facing rows at altitudes of 260 to 300 meters. The excellent soil of this parcel contains a layer of clay marls sprinkled with stones. Under the clay layer lies a majestic limestone platform of Jurassic origin that emerged from the sea millions of years ago.

The complexity of this terroir famously creates wines with impressive balance and nuance. The best examples of Romanée-Saint-Vivant abound with elegant floral aromas alongside luxurious fruit flavours. The wines then only become more profound and complex with the benefit of time.



OLIVIER BERNSTEIN ROMANÉE-SAINT-VIVANT 2017

Olivier's Romanée Saint Vivant is an incredible reflection of the place where it comes from, an admirable achievement in a wine that is still very young.

Intense aromas of strawberry, rose petals and enchanting spices introduce a refined, yet structured, palate with lingering acidity, high amounts of chalky tannins and juicy red bramble. A long and elegant finish full of sweet spices, fruits and a mineral backbone confirms this wine's astonishing quality.

Olivier's clear style is on full display, which balances elegance with muscularity in a sleek and precise profile. It was dream vintage for Olivier and, consequently, for many wine lovers.

What you get from the glass is harmony; a result that points to an incredible complexity yet is also very immediate to interpret. This expression of Romanée Saint Vivant is the logical consequence of the myriad of details and the love that Olivier infused in the vineyard and in the winery. Olivier is not just a winemaker; he is able to forge wines that everyone can appreciate, much like a Beethoven sonata.

[WATCH THE FILM](#)



THE 2017 VINTAGE



The 2017 vintage was excellent in the Côte de Nuits, probably falling just short of the great 2005 and 2010 vintages.

The winter was cool and dry without snowfall. Budburst came early after a warmer than usual February and March. Temperature drops in April lead to some frost damage in the Côte d'Or but the impact was limited. May and June were quite warm with some occasional, well-timed rain. August was dry and warm, with only few days of heat that Olivier managed deftly. The harvest started in early September and finished just before heavy rains at the beginning of October.

The consistent vintage became truly magical in Olivier's hands. He balanced the vintage's delicacy and accessible fruit with the concentration and the muscularity he seeks, producing some of the most phenomenal wines Burgundy has ever seen.

THE JEROBOAM



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THE AUCTION

- VINTAGE: 2017
- CLASSIFICATION: GRAND CRU
- VINEYARD: ROMANÉE-SAINT-VIVANT
- SIZE: JEROBOAM
- REGION: VOSNE-ROMANÉE, BURGUNDY, FRANCE
- AUCTION LIVE DATE: 1ST AUGUST 2022



Cult Wines has partnered with legendary Burgundy winemaker Olivier Bernstein to exclusively sell this unique, highly-collectible 1 of 1 jeroboam of his never-before-released Romanée-Saint-Vivant (RSV) 2017. As his first vintage of this legendary Grand Cru, this is the only time collectors have been able to gain access to this extremely rare wine. To celebrate the launch of this release we have created a short film capturing Olivier as he tells us his story and that of this impressive vintage.

The jeroboam is a uncommon and highly sought after large bottling format for Grand Cru Burgundy and as the only one from this vintage in existence it makes an instant collectible item. (Equivalent of x4 75cl bottles)

The successful bidder in this auction will own the hand-signed bottle and be invited to join Olivier at his Maison in Beaune with five guests for a memorable vinous experience. For collectors and enthusiasts alike, this is not one to miss out on.

You can now register for the auction, hosted by CultX on the link below. Bidding commences on 1st August 2022 and will run as a timed auction for one week finishing on 7th August 2022.

[VIEW THE AUCTION](#)

[WATCH THE FILM](#)

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