



FAMILLE HUGEL



Gewurztraminer VENDANGE TARDIVE 2002

AOC Alsace, Alsace, France

great specialty for several generations of the Hugel family, who drafted the law on late harvest.

Wine with great power and longevity to taste religiously by itself during a special occasion.

QUICK VIEW

These wines made from overripe grapes are picked well after the classic vintage and in the greatest years only. The action of noble rot (*botrytis cinerea*) gives them an almost unlimited ability to age. They are part of the elite of the greatest wines in France.

THE VINTAGE

In Alsace, the year 2002 began with an extremely cold January, and the ground was frozen solid for one whole month. Spring was alternately sunny and rainy with no spring frost. Flowering took place in mid-June, very quickly and very evenly, with neither coulure problems, nor even any millerandage. As a large harvest looked likely, in early July we began an unprecedentedly severe green harvest programme that continued until mid-September. Alsace escaped the bad summer weather that affected other parts of Europe, and by mid-September we were expecting an abundant crop of good quality. Harvest began on 30 September with good weather conditions but a few days of gloomy weather caused deterioration in the sanitary state of some grapes and kept levels of acidity high. Overall, ripeness levels were excellent and beaumés range from 11.4% for Pinot Noir to 13.4% for Gewurztraminer. A good surprise came at the very end of our harvest. In the last days of October strong dry southerly winds allowed us to harvest our best Gewurztraminer vineyards at Vendange Tardive levels (over 16% potential) and even a fair quantity of Sélection de Grains nobles at a record 24% potential.

IN THE VINEYARD

Produced from over-ripened grapes in a selection of the oldest plots of the Hugel estate in the heart of the grand cru Sporen made up of Lias clay-marl, decalcified on the surface, exceptionally rich in phosphoric acid

Harvest date: 28 Oct. 2002 Potential alcohol: 16°8

WINEMAKING

The grapes are taken in small tubs to the presses, which are filled by gravity, without any pumping or other mechanical intervention.

After pressing, the must is decanted for a few hours, then fermented in temperature-controlled barrels or vats (at 18 to 24°C). The wine is racked just once, before natural clarification during the course of the winter. The following spring, the wine is lightly filtered just before bottling, and the bottles are then aged extensively in our cellars until released for sale.

PRESENTATION

Photos of bottles and labels, 3 definitions, max 300dpi

Famille Hugel

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ABUSE OF ALCOHOL IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.



VARIETAL

Gewürztraminer 100%

12.8° % VOL.**TECHNICAL DATA**

Residual Sugar: 67 g/l

Tartaric acidity: 4.99 g/l

pH: 3.79

Age of vines: 40 years old

Yield: 35 hl/ha hL/ha

TASTING NOTES BY SERGE DUBS, WORLD'S BEST SOMMELIER 1989

Intense pale golden colour with deep yellow reflections, a visibly rich, silky texture, unctuous, opulent and beautifully bright. A concentrated, honeyed bouquet of very ripe fruit : yellow peach, greengage, mirabelle, apricot, mango and lychee, nicely harmonious and integrated, the obvious over-ripeness of the grapes enhanced by great elegance.

A fleshy, juicy sensation on the palate, tenderly voluptuous, its supple, appealing body never ceases to ravish the senses with a subtle, refined distillation of all its gustatory and aromatic qualities, all in perfect harmony.

A wine to drink for itself, a dessert wine with fruit tarts : apple, apricot, mango, quince, pear etc... with terrine of foie gras, with blue-veined cheese : fourme, St. Agur, Stilton..

Keep it for 10 to 15 years and serve it at 6°C.

14 May 2006

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