



domaine national de Chambord

**ADOPT
A CHAMBORD VINE STOCK**

THE CHAMBORD NATIONAL ESTATE



The Domaine National de Chambord (Chambord national estate) is a public establishment of industrial and commercial character (EPIC), created in 2005 under the auspices of the French Ministries in charge with the topics of Agriculture, Culture and Environment. It is placed under the high protection of the President of the French Republic. It comprises the Chambord chateau, the entire village, as well as the forest.

The Board of Directors of the state-funded establishment is chaired by Guillaume Garot, sitting Member of the French Parliament and former Minister of State, and Jean d'Haussonville, who has been managing the Chambord national estate since January 2010.

In 2014, the Chambord national estate attracted 770.000 visitors to the monument

and 1.5 million visitors to the site. It employs 126 people on a permanent basis and welcomes 50.000 pupils for learning sessions aligned with national curriculum.

The budget of state-funded establishment corresponds to USD 23 million in operating costs, 86% of which are self-funded, and USD 5.850.000 in investment, 2 million of which is self-funded.

Chambord is a chateau very unlike any other. Going off to explore Chambord will take you to a different world, a world full of mystery that will immerse you in the marvels of the French Renaissance.

Supporting Chambord through your donations will help us to preserve, develop and enhance their remarkable feat of engineering created by François I.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHAMBORD VINEYARD



The construction commencement of Chambord is parallel with the arrival of the Romorantin varietal in the Sologne. In fact, as early as 1518, a year before the château was founded, François I decided to import 80,000 Burgundy varietal vines into the region.

The vineyard then began to spread into the surrounding areas. In 1547, upon the sovereign's death, a census of the farm buildings on the Chambord royal estate revealed that the majority of them were home to small plots of vines.

Since the 18th Century, the old plans for Chambord have borne testimony to a plot of vines on the land surrounding the Ormetrou farm. The existence of this enclosed six-hectare plot is confirmed by the 1786 plan and by a notarized deed concerning the plantation and maintenance

of this vineyard dated 9 February 1787. As of the late 18th Century, Pierre Delacour, steward for the Marquis of Polignac, governor of Chambord, decided to complete work on an enclosed vineyard on the land belonging to Ormetrou. The plantation was entrusted to father and son Sylvain and Jacques Briou, both wine-growers living in Muides-sur-Loire, and came into operation in the spring of 1787, spanning a plot of ten acres: “...the planting of compatible white and red Auvernat grape cultivars, next spring, in the best of conditions, on ten acres of land intended for this purpose on the grounds of Chambord, between the Saint-Dyé pavilion and the Ormetrou gate...” (lease agreement dated 9 February 1787 before notary François Tassin). Chambord can therefore claim to be a ‘conservatoire’ of historic natural vines.

CHAMBORD AND THE RESURGENCE OF ITS VINEYARD

Worldwide considered to be a symbol of the French Renaissance and featuring on the World Heritage of Humanity list since 1981, Chambord occupies a 5,440-hectare estate encircled within a stone wall, making it Europe's most extensive enclosed property. 500 years after they were first introduced to the Val de Loire at the order of the King himself in 1518-1519, the resurgence of the vineyards established in Chambord by François I is not without historical significance.

Three different varieties will be planted on an area covering 12 hectares, including 8 hectares of Romorantin, introduced to the Val de Loire at the order of François I in 1518-1519, 4 hectares of Pinot Noir and 2,000m² of Gamay.

More than 5 hectares were planted in June of 2015 (1.3 hectares of pre-phylloxera Romorantin and 4 hectares of Pinot Noir), with a further 5.7 hectares of Romorantin and 2,000m² of Gamay set to be added to the plantation in 2016. The remainder will be planted in 2017.

Overlooking the château of François I and comprising varieties chosen by the King himself, this vineyard is truly exceptional. Part of it is believed to be pre-phylloxeric, that is comprising authentic, non-grafted vines produced from a plot of land that is certified by the public authorities as dating back to before 1840. This project is truly unique in all respects - historical, aesthetic and indeed environmental.

The first grape harvest is set to take place in 2019, marking the anniversary

of the beginning of the construction of Chambord, with production expected to be within the range of 50,000 to 60,000 bottles.

Chambord operates in accordance with the traditional methods used in the region and incorporates the wine-making expertise of the Maison Marionnet to safeguard a certain vision of the French way of life. Chambord will offer an exceptional, organic and natural wine.

A walkway around the Chambord vineyards is due to be completed in June 2016, at which point the site will open to the public. Tours by horse-drawn carriage or bicycle, as well as the opportunity to take part in the grape harvest, will also be allowed.

The Ormetrou farm buildings, located at the entrance to the vineyard, will then undergo an eco-friendly renovation project (complete with wine warehouse, fermenting room and youth hostel), representing great future prospects for the wine tourism sector in Chambord.

THE EXPERTISE BEHIND THE MAISON MARIONNET



The Maison Marionnet, embodied by Henry and Jean-Sébastien Marionnet, both international experts renowned for their knowledge of both the wines of the Loire and ancient vines, is the key partner in the project.

Henry Marionnet's goal, as a member of the Académie des Vins de France, is to create pure, sulphur-free wines that have not been modified by human hands, meaning that the vines have not been grafted. In keeping with this, he also strives to respect and promote forgotten wines, such as Red Gamay.

In 1999, Henry Marionnet discovered a vine planted prior to 1840 that was not grafted and pre-phyllloxeric on what is believed to be one of the oldest plots in France.

This vine belongs to the Romorantin varietal - a white grape brought from Burgundy by François I in 1519. The wine differs from those produced in the region in that it is a wine with mineral notes, characterized in that it is very pure, with a very complex range of flavor including white-fleshed fruits and a hint of hazelnut, honey and white flowers, such as honeysuckle.

The Chambord vineyards are operated by a wine-grower recruited by the estate which is additionally bound by a contract with an eco-certified laboratory and who will also receive knowledgeable advice from the Marionnet family.

HOW TO ADOPT A CHAMBORD VINE STOCK



As from autumn 2015 a donation will enable you to adopt great Romorantin vine stocks (for USD 1300 each).

Your name will be assigned to the vine for life and you will also benefit from the opportunity of purchasing on a priority basis three bottles per year starting from the first harvest of grapes, including a premium non-grafted Romorantin vintage, a French Pinot and a grafted Romorantin. Furthermore, you will receive a 'Chambord Vine Sponsor' certificate and an annual newsletter keeping you post on the progress of the vineyard.

Tax deduction is also available to American nationals via the King Baudouin Foundation United States. **For information about terms of payment and the tax deduction, pay a visit to website www.kbfus.org**

CONTACT



The teams at Chambord remain at your disposal for discussing any personalized sponsorship options

■ **Marie-Emmanuelle Parison**

Head of Public Relations and Sponsorship

mecenat@chambord.org

marie-emmanuelle.parison@chambord.org

Tel.: +33 (0)2 54 50 40 03

Mob.: +33 (0)6 82 35 84 40

■ **Pascal Thévard**

Building works and gardens director, responsible of vineyard project

pascal.thevard@chambord.org

www.chambord.org



domaine national de Chambord



Domaine National de Chambord
(‘Chambord National Estate’)
41250 Chambord
www.chambord.org

Publisher:

Chambord National Estate – 2015
Head of Publication: Jean d’Haussonville,
General Manager of the Chambord National Estate
Project coordination:
Pascal Thévard, Building works and gardens director;
Marie-Emmanuelle Parison, Head of Public Relations and Sponsorship;
Marion Hugues, Project Leader

Cover photo:

View of the Chambord vineyard, 2015 © Léonard de Serres

Design and production:

Efil - www.efil.fr

Translation and DeskTop Publishing: Traducteo EMEA - <http://www.traducteo.com/>