



2013

*Santenay Premier Cru
Gravières*

APPELLATION AND VINEYARDS

The southernmost village within the Côte d'Or, Santenay is located just south of Chassagne-Montrachet. Santenay's etymology probably derives from the Latin word "Sanctus," implying a place considered sacred even before the Christian era. Although recognized for its graceful Pinot Noirs, Santenay also produces intense, mineral-rich Chardonnays of great depth and structure. The Gravières vineyard lies close to the border of Chassagne-Montrachet, and may be the most prestigious parcel in Santenay.

VINTAGE

After daunting weather problems in both 2011 and 2012, Burgundy growers were hoping for a reprieve in 2013. This was not to be. An exceptionally cool, wet spring resulted in floods and muddy vineyards throughout the region. Rain continued during flowering in June, and July hailstorms in the Côte de Beaune further reduced the fruit set and subsequent grape yields to historic lows. Biodynamically farmed grapes like those of Château de la Créé tended to ripen more fully than others, a crucial advantage in one of the longest Burgundy growing seasons on record. Despite early concern about the vintage, wine critics are now finding most 2013 Burgundies to be delightfully terroir-specific, with excellent suppleness and clarity of fruit.

TASTING NOTES

This intense, ruby-red wine showcases a floral, spicy nose with an excellent register of aromatics. Good balance in the mouth harmonizes both freshness and roundness perfectly, while bursting with fruit-driven energy. Its fine tannins and supple yet intense finish confirm a wine that will well reward five to ten years of bottle aging.