



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. Our Gravières Premier Cru Chardonnay comes from mature vines with southeastern aspect and row orientation.

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

Rich, intense flavors of citrus and apple are the hallmarks of this elegant, handsomely opulent White Burgundy. Offering a stylish, ripe-apple Chardonnay nose, the wine's beautiful fruit profile is complemented by a crisp, slightly mineral acidity that carries seamlessly through a harmonious finish of remarkable length.