

GETAWAY / CÔTE DES BLANCS

CHARLES AND EMMANUEL FOURNY

VIRTUOUS VERTUSIANS

Terre de Vins Dec. 2016

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In all the wines, one constant six-lettered feature : V.E.R.T.U.S. *“Our ten vintages are different expressions of Vertus,”* explained Emmanuel Fourny, the younger brother of the Fourny house, in charge of vinification. *“We made the choice to concentrate on this village which we are so passionate about.”*

Vertus, the most southerly of the Côte des Blancs, the only place where 15% of pinot noir thrive next to the sacrosanct chardonnay, is set out like an amphitheatre to diverse kinds of soil. *“We have made numerous soil pits in order to understand the terroir”*, the oenologist continued. Every year, the Fourny house brings in 23 hectares of Vertus grapes from 90 cultivated or scrutinised plots. From that they obtain 76 wines and as many vinification models that are then assembled into ten vintages, all of which could be discussed, so inspiring is the range.

The blanc de blancs, has a powerful lemon nose, followed by crunchy stone fruits, hints of vanilla, almond powder and a lacy lemon zest finish. The brut nature, despite its pronounced acidity, avoids being too sharp due to careful work on the stirring of the lees.

*“In so doing it brings a roundness and slickness in order to be able to move on to the dosage stage.”* To end up with an opulence of citrus *“essential oils”* and a concentrated finish *“covered in silver”*.

Monts de Vertus 2009 is almost a single vineyard vintage, in that the three plots from which it is made are situated on similar geological formations. With its prominent chalky taste giving a very elegant texture in the mouth, 2009 conveys a mature aroma of pastry, sponge fingers and rice powder. Finally, we cannot complete this Prévert-style inventory without mentioning the Les Rougesmonts rosé. A real treat, this clever pure pinot bled rosé is produced on the edge of the woods in the foothills *“hard limestone with a layer of pink clay”*. In the glass, a papaya robe, a Zan violet nose, ending finely and delicately with aromas of pink berries. Definitely one of the most beautiful Champagne rosés.