

Vinum EXTRA

TEN OF THE BEST CHAMPAGNES

© **Champagne Veuve Fourny**
Clos du Faubourg Notre Dame
Premier Cru 2005
18.5 points | 2016 to 2018

We only have one criticism to level at the Fourny brothers: they are too small to pass as a "big brand". Their greatness instead lies in their wines, in particular this stunning single-site wine, one of the very best champagnes available.



THE TOP HOUSES OF THE YEAR

The classification system in Champagne relates officially to villages and sites rather than wines or brands. For this reason, every year we produce our own (of course terribly serious) classification of the best producers, based on current and past tasting notes. Here is 2015's version:

Première Grande Marque Deutz, Gosset, Krug, Jacquesson
Deuxième Grande Marque Charles Heidsieck, Pol Roger, Dom Pérignon
Troisième Grande Marque Billecart-Salmon, Bollinger, Dom Ruinart, Louis Roederer, Taittinger

Top Small Wineries of the Year Veuve Fourny, de Sousa
Top Cooperatives of the Year Mailly Grand Cru, de Saint Gall
Discovery of the year Champagne Dom Caudron (Passy-Grigny winemaking cooperative, Marne valley)

CHAMPAGNE VEUVE FOURNY

www.champagne-veuve-fourny.com

Since 1993 this house in the farthest corner of Côte des Blancs has been run by Charles and Emmanuel Fourny, the sons of the widow Fourny from whom the brand gets its name. The approximately 30 Premier Cru plots (which deserve to be elevated to Grand Cru level!) are harvested and vinified separately. They produce a wide range of impressive wines for connoisseurs and those who like something special, some of the best and most authentic examples in the Champagne region.



Clos du Faubourg Notre Dame Premier Cru 2005

18.5 points | 2016 to 2018

Perceptible but unobtrusive oak development notes with wonderful coffee, clove and vanilla spice, the whole is dense and very spirited yet very elegant, with immensely fine and creamy perlage, and an endlessly long finish: wonderful and very characterful – with creative cuisine.



Blanc de Blancs Brut Premier Cru 2008

18 points | 2018 to 2025

A superb bouquet with the beginnings of bottle age, roasted and pastry aromas, coffee; superb structure, dense, very spirited and endlessly long, vinous, characterful with an elegant bitter note, for connoisseurs.



Rosé les Rougemonts Extra Brut Premier Cru

18 points | 2017 to 2020

With its wonderful ripe gooseberry notes, its mineral texture, its spirit and its density this is closer to a red wine than a rosé. Enjoy with a rack of lamb, a pork chop, poultry or pigeon.

Monts de Vertus Blanc de Blancs 2009

17 points | 2016 to 2017

Riper and more accessible than the 2008, not quite of the same class, but still elegant, creamy and fresh.

Brut Nature Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru BSA

16.5 points | 2016 to 2019

An immensely vinous Blanc de Blancs, well-structured with a wonderful, juicy expression of fruit, full of spirit, for fans of undosed wines.

Rosé Brut Premier Cru

16.5 points | 2016 to 2018

One of the best, crispest, most refreshing and characterful BSA rosés there is, fruity, light and very spirited. Enjoy with food.

Blanc de Blancs Brut Premier Cru

16 points | 2016 to 2018

A refreshing, very authentically local, fruity wine with notes of fresh herbs and starfruit, juicy, easy-drinking, enjoyable.

TEN OF THE BEST CHAMPAGNES

The top of the pile in Champagne is broadening. However, it is spearheaded by wines from proven brands which we have trusted for years: Jacquesson, Gosset, Deutz and Pol Roger. They've now been joined at the top by Charles Heidsieck, whose new owner still has plenty up his sleeve, and two top-level small wineries, Veuve Fourny and de Sousa, which astonished us with a new premium cuvée.



① **Champagne Charles Heidsieck
Blanc des Millénaires 1995
20 points | 2016 to 2017**

We very rarely award top marks. We have known and been tasting this exceptional wine for several years, and every time thought its decline would have to begin soon. Not in the slightest! An illustration of absolute elegance and perfect ripeness.

② **Champagne Gosset
Celebris 2002
20 points | 2015 bis 2030**

We tasted this wine repeatedly and in various circumstances, but failed to find any errors, only further qualities: this is a resounding success, the perfect combination of wine and sparkle, power and elegance.

③ **Champagne Jacquesson
Dizy Corne Bautray 2005
19 points | 2016 to 2017**

There are very few 2005s which we really like. However, once again Jacquesson has done things rather differently, and given us this stunning wine with its flawless expression of Pinot. For current and budding connoisseurs.

④ **Champagne Deutz
Amour de Deutz 2006
19 points | 2015 to 2017**

Deutz is Amour, Amour is Deutz, and the 2006 vintage particularly suits the incomparably delicate, airy style of this wine. One of the most beautiful, tempting, elegant, transcendent wines on the market.

5 Champagne Deutz
William Deutz 2006
19 points | 2015 to 2018

Amour's counterpart is William: intense, fruity, down to earth, tart, spirited yet incomparably elegant. This magnificent wine is proof that you can appreciate both blond and brunette, finesse and power.

6 Champagne Veuve Fourny
Clos du Faubourg Notre Dame
Premier Cru 2005
18.5 points | 2016 to 2018

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7 Champagne Jacquesson
Aÿ Vauzelle Terme 2005
18.5 points | 2016 to 2017

The weightier version of the two top single-site wines from this small yet perfectly formed Dizzy brand, even more vinous, Burgundian and intense, one of the best sparkling wines from this complicated vintage.

8 Champagne Taittinger
Comtes de Champagne 2006
18.5 points | 2016 to 2018

Style is everything in champagne, and this Comtes is so perfectly true to its own style that we can but cheer: not just at its perfect illustration of elegance and airiness, but also at this vintage, which has long been underestimated.

9 Champagne de Sousa
Mycorhize Extra Brut Grand Cru
18.5 points | 2016 to 2017

The discovery of the tasting – and what a discovery! Never before has this small winery astonished us with such outstanding wines, and this cuvée with its wonderfully delicate oak notes and stunning minerality is the icing on the cake.

10 Champagne Pol Roger
Sir Winston Churchill 2004
18.5 points | 2016 to 2019

One of our favourites from the tasting, not only perfectly developed and perfectly mature, but also immensely stylishly made, ideal now: currently the best example from this vintage, whose wines need to be drunk up soon.

