

**Champagne José Michel "Prémices"
Moussy, France**

This traditional house has been the site of vineyards since 1847. It has been led by the Michel family since 1912 when Paul Michel became the first in the family to harvest grapes and bottle the wines. His son, Raymond, improved the domaine's oenological techniques and expanded the vineyards. From 1955, José Michel was the winemaker, focusing on quality and adapting the three Champagne varietals to the estate's particular terroir. His grandson, Antonin, now leads the domaine, refining José's 60 years of winemaking accomplishments while pursuing his own style.

The estate's vineyards are planted in 45% Pinot Meunier, 45% Chardonnay, and 10% Pinot Noir with vines averaging 30 years old, with some up to 50. This evening's bubbly is 70% Pinot Meunier and 30% Chardonnay.

**Domaine Tempier Rosé 2023
Bandol, France**

Located on France's Mediterranean coast between Marseilles and Toulon, the first vineyards in the Bandol area are believed to date to arrival of the Phoenicians around 500 years BCE. The Tempier Domaine was established in 1834 when the *bastide* (country house) was built on the site. Its wine received its first gold medal the next year. Léonie Tempier replanted the vineyards after the 1880 phylloxera epidemic. In 1936, Léonie's great-granddaughter, Lucie Tempier, married Lucien Peyraud, and in 1940 the couple settled at Domaine Tempier. They bottled their first wine, a rosé, in 1943, followed by the first red Bandol wine in 1951. Their seven children remain active in the management of the domaine.

This evening's wine is 50% Mourvèdre with Grenache and Cinsault from vines averaging 20 years old. Fermentation is in stainless steel or concrete vats.

**Château de Crézancy Sancerre 2023
Loire, France**

Located on the western bank of the Loire River in central France, Sancerre was known for red Pinot Noir wines until the region was devastated by phylloxera in the late 1800s. The vineyards were replanted mostly with Sauvignon Blanc. Sancerre's white wines were granted AOC (*Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée*) status in 1936 and the reds in 1959.

Château de Crézancy was founded in 1956 by Robert Chevreau, and originally had just half an acre of vines. He recognized the area's potential for growing quality grapes and, in 1962, began expansion of the vineyards. Today, the estate is managed by his daughter-in-law and grandson.

This Sancerre is 100% Sauvignon Blanc.

**Château Simian, Les Clefs du Caladas, 2023
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France**

The original estate dates to the end of the 19th century and became Château Simian in 1920 upon the passing of its owner, Sophie Simian. As she had no family heirs, an employee of the estate, Marcelle Laudret, inherited it. Today, the Château is owned and managed by a direct descendant of the Laudret family, Jean-Pierre Serguier, who studied oenology at the University of Beaune in Burgundy.

The Château's vineyards – certified organic and biodynamic since 2011 – now include a total of 62 acres of which 18 are in the Châteauneuf du Pape AOC. The name *Clefs du Caladas* derives from two ancient Provençal words – *Caladas*, the large stone path that ran from Orange to Châteauneuf-du-Pape in ancient times, and *Clefs*, or keys, meaning the keys to the estate.

Tonight's wine is a blend of Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, and Mourvèdre.

**Domaine Danjean-Berthou, Givry Meix au Roi, 2022
Côte Chalonnaise, Burgundy, France**

In 1958 Georges Berthou took over the family farm and, in addition to raising sheep, began to cultivate vines to produce his wine. For the next 40 years he acquired parcels to expand his vineyard and in 1993 decided to stop raising sheep to focus exclusively on the vines. Today, Pascal Danjean, Georges' son-in-law, manages the estate. Pascal's son, Charles-Antoine, joined the domaine in 2002 following two years of winemaking in New Zealand. The estate now comprises 32 acres and five appellations planted 80% with Pinot Noir.

This evening's wine is 100% Pinot Noir from vines planted between 1970 and 1994 in a 3-acre south-east facing plot that features limestone soil. The wine is aged for 9-10 months in oak barrels (25% new).