



Domaine de la Tour du Bief

Moulin-a-Vent

Domaine de la Tour du Bief Moulin-a-Vent 2014

The 2014 Moulin a Vent comes from the oldest vines in the vineyard and was matured in barrel (around 20% new). It offers dark cherry, iodine and blueberry scents on the nose, gently unfolding in the glass but never getting carried away (after all, this is 2014 not 2015!). The palate is medium-bodied with slightly chewy tannin on the entry. Quite firm at first, a touch of spice at the tip of the tongue with black fruit dominating the back palate tinged with licorice and sea salt. I noticed the long, spicy aftertaste here, lingering 30 seconds after the wine has departed.

This has commendable substance and length, a Moulin-à-Vent determined to make an impression while remembering that the bottom line is that it has to give pleasure. This gives pleasure.

91
Points

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

- About the Domaine -

Vincent Girardin, a highly-regarded producer from Burgundy, purchased the historic La Tour du Bief estate in Burgundy in September 2010. The property is located near the town of Chénas, and the purchase includes the winery as well as 50 acres of vines, all within the Moulin-à-Vent appellation. The price was undisclosed.

The acquisition adds to a growing trend of Burgundy investing in Beaujolais. In 1996, négociant Louis Jadot purchased Château des Jacques in Moulin-à-Vent, and another respected négociant, Maison Louis Latour, acquired Henry Fessy soon afterward. More recently, Henriot, which owns Henriot Champagne and Burgundy's Bouchard Père & Fils, bought the Château de Poncié estate in Fleurie in 2008.

Girardin began looking at La Tour du Bief almost three years ago. "After much consideration [and] multiple trips to judge the soils, vineyards and [the] exceptional location, I was motivated to take up the challenge," he said. Girardin's export manager, Marco Caschera, cites the undervalued potential of the region, particularly of the area's crus (the 10 AOC-named communes that represent the area's pinnacle in terms of quality), as the driving force

behind the decision to purchase the estate, but admitted that Beaujolais' attractive land prices make it, "easier to invest now."

Negotiations for the property lasted almost a year, and part of the agreement gave Girardin the right to select and retain 40 percent of the estate's production of the excellent 2009 vintage, completing the élevage and ultimately bottling four different cuvées. These cuvées were selected in order to express the estate's varying terroirs, and they will be available in the U.S. in October. About 10 percent of 2009's production went to well-known Beaujolais négociant Georges Duboeuf, who has regularly bottled a Domaine de la Tour du Bief label since the early 1990s, while the rest of the production was sold to other négociants. Going forward with the 2010 vintage, the estate's production will be wholly for Girardin, and in preparation for the 2010 harvest, the majority of the winery equipment was replaced.

Wine Spectator

September 29, 2010