



### Domaine de la Vougeraie, Burgundy Harvest 2005

Sept 13th - First Day of Harvest !- Ideal conditions to start, a fruit day on the Biodynamic calendar gives us a cool morning and a summer afternoon with a high of 82° F. Our team of 15 pickers and 10 wine growers began as we have often done in the past with Beaune 1er Cru Clos du Roi, beautiful grapes, tiny berries with good depth of color and a high PH.

We then went on to harvest our jewel the Clos Blanc in Vougeot as weather conditions have given us the maturity we want and we were able to have the INAO (Institute controlling Appellations of Origin in France) come and confirm the maturity of the grapes and to allow us to harvest before the official opening date of the harvest set for this coming Thursday. Vougeot Premier Cru le Clos Blanc de Vougeot, better known as the "Clos Blanc" is our mythical Cistercian vineyard which belonged to the monks for centuries. Clos Blanc was the wine used for their mass starting as early as 1110 AD. We had fewer berries on the vine this year due to a small hailstorm at the time of budburst which perturbed the development of the vine, reducing the yields. This combined with beautiful summer weather, ripened the berries earlier than usual. Fewer grapes will mean less wine for this great appellation for the 2005 vintage. We had beautiful golden bunches to the eye, ripe and crunchy in the mouth, an excellent physiological maturity confirmed by analyses. A very good sign!

No sorting necessary at the winery as all the grapes were healthy, a light pressing and then left to settle over night.

Tomorrow we start again, Pascal Marchand our winemaker wants to begin slowly and then little by little to gather speed. A demain!.

by Natalie Boisset Berges