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DOMAINE LABRUYÈRE

MOULIN-À-VENT

Owned since 1850 by the ancestors of Édouard Labruyère, the eponymous Domaine Labruyère is the oldest estate in Moulin-à-Vent.

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It consists of 14 hectares of vines. Geographically, this is Beaujolais, albeit with influences from Burgundy to the north and the Rhône valley to the south.

We have been Domaine Labruyère's exclusive UK agent since the 2013 vintage, in which time it has become a core name in the C&B list. Low yields, supreme drinkability, a sense of place and fabulous ageing potential – what more could you want?

Édouard Labruyère, who grew up at the estate, is the seventh generation to run it, having taken over in 2008. Together with winemaker Nadine Gublin and viticulturalist Michel Rovère, he is on a mission to bring Moulin-à-Vent and the Gamay grape the recognition they deserve.

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DOMAINE LABRUYÈRE

MOULIN-À-VENT COEUR DE TERROIRS 2022

A blend of four parcels in Moulin-à-Vent, planted with 10-25 year-old vines. This is a selection from 10 hectares. The granite soils are abundant in manganese and quartz. Bright, juicy red berry fruit, framed by supple tannins. Very Gamay, lovely and approachable. This was bottled in spring 2024. Maturation in old 600 litre *demi-muids*.

Corney & Barrow Score 17
Recommended drinking from 2025 - 2029

£125/Case of 6 bottles, in bond UK

MOULIN-À-VENT CHAMP DE COUR 2022

Champ de Cour is a 1.42 hectare south-east facing site, planted with 50+ year-old vines on granite soils, with pebbles under thick, dense clay. Dark, spicy, bitter cherry aromas, leading into a juicy palate of exotic sappy spices and bright raspberry and wild strawberry fruit. 30% whole bunch fermentation. 90% of the wine was aged in 600 litre old oak *demi-muids*, the other 10% in Burgundy barrels, for 18 months.

Corney & Barrow Score 17.5+
Recommended drinking from 2026 - 2033

£145/Case of 6 bottles, in bond UK

MOULIN-À-VENT LE CARQUELIN 2022

Le Carquelin is a 1.75 hectare south-facing slope, with 50 year-old vines planted on friable granite. As winemaker Nadine Gublin says, this is "the heart of the best granite soils of Moulin-à-Vent". A dark, spicy, mineral-laden nose. The palate is wonderfully textural, with bright dark cherry fruit and vibrant raspberry. A powerful Carquelin. 100% destemmed, following which 40% is aged in oak barrels and 60% in 600 litre *demi-muids*.

Corney & Barrow Score 18
Recommended drinking from 2026 - 2033+

£170/Case of 6 bottles, in bond UK

LE CLOS DU MOULIN-À-VENT, MONOPOLE 2022

Le Clos, beside the iconic windmill, is the only *monopole* in Moulin-à-Vent. It is a 0.92 hectare south-facing walled vineyard, planted with over-70-year-old untrellised vines. Arid soils of hard granite and sand, with rocks and no topsoil. A nose of great purity, intense dark berry aromas, sweet spices and pepper. The palate is powerful, framed by imposing tannins. 100% destemmed, with ageing in 228 litre oak barrels, with 10% new oak.

Corney & Barrow Score 18
Recommended drinking from 2026 - 2036

£285/Case of 6 bottles, in bond UK

THE 2022 VINTAGE AT DOMAINE LABRUYÈRE

2022 was the second-earliest harvest since the notoriously hot 2003.

Winter was dry. A cold January was followed by a mild February and March. Despite snow on 1st April, buds formed under warmer and drier conditions in the second part of the month. Budburst was rather late.

May was hot, dry and sunny. The second ten days were 6°C above normal, with almost no rain. Flowering started around 22nd May. Mid-flowering was the earliest of the last 30 years, other than 2011 and 2007.

After a mild and wet start to June, the second half was hot, sunny and dry. Month end was, by contrast, cooler and very humid, with more than four times the normal precipitation. Overall, June was the wettest month of the year.

Conversely, July was very dry, sunny and warm, which triggered *véraison* between the 14th and the 19th. This was very early, equivalent to 2011. The temperature on 18th and 19th July was over 40°C.