

CHAMPAGNE AYALA

Long known as the "sleeping beauty of Champagne," because of its prominence in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century, Caroline Latrive, one of three female cellar masters in champagne, now reigns queen over the stunning Art Deco cellars dating to 1912.



Le Blanc de Blancs 2014

Champagne, France

ESTATE

Ayala is one of the most exciting stories in Champagne today, almost the definition of a boutique Champagne producer. Independently owned, a small, young and dynamic team, lead by the immensely talented female winemaker, Caroline Latrive, handles every step of production from grape reception to labeling in their jewel of a facility with incredible precision. The House's style based on Chardonnay-focused wines that deliver immense pleasure, freshness, and elegance.

WINE

Ayala's Le Blanc de Blancs is 100% Chardonnay, produced in small quantities in exceptional years only and fully expresses the superb caliber of great Chardonnay from the best Crus of the Côte des Blancs. It is truly a unique vintage offering.

VINEYARD

Ayala owns 35 acres in Champagne. Thanks to its privileged location in the heart of the Grand Crus of Montagne de Reims and its link to Champagne Bollinger, the House has unique access to top quality grapes. The 2013 vintage is sourced from 3 Grand Cru villages and 2 Premier Cru Villages: Cramant, Chouilly, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, Cuis and Grauves.

Farming: Ayala encourages their growers to use organic fertilizers and avoid insecticides, herbicides and pesticides.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Chardonnay

Fermentation: Everything from grape reception to vinification, aging, riddling and disgorgement is done in the traditional method at the Ayala cellars, allowing for an intense focus on freshness and precision.

Aging: 6 years on the lees after disgorgement to develop complexity, intensity and roundness on the palate.

Dosage: 6 g/L

Alcohol: 12.0%

VINTAGE

2014 is a superb year for the Chardonnays from the Côte des Blancs. It is a very consistent vintage with grapes that were perfectly ripened, yielding an abundant harvest especially in the Grands Crus villages. Following a winter "without winter", a spring worthy of a summer, an autumnal August, it was an unexpected harvest thanks to the 4 sunny weeks leading up to the first grapes being cut!

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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"[...] wafts from the glass with lovely aromas of crisp orchard fruit, honeyed pear, English walnuts and freshly baked bread. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and incisive, its ample core of fruit is underpinned by brisk acids and complemented by a pillowy mousse. After the chiseled 2013, this is a precise but somewhat more generous, enveloping wine. Even if that makes it quite approachable today, it will really come into its own when it picks up more complexity and texture with another year or two on cork". - W.K.I, 3/2021