



Great wines are made in the vineyard, not the winery. Domaine Bertagna is a 30 hectare estate in Burgundy's Côte d'Or, with 14 hectares of vineyards in some of the top Grand Cru and Premier Cru sites, including the walled monopole vineyard Vougeot Clos de la Perrière, plus 16 hectares in the Hautes-Côtes de Nuits. This domaine was established in the village of Vougeot in the late 1940s by Monsieur Bertagna, an Algerian businessman. In 1982 it was bought by Eva Reh, whose family has a long wine growing tradition in Germany, and whose sister Annegret runs the world-famous Reichsgraf Von Kesselstatt estate in the Mosel. Since its purchase in 1982 many years of hard work, devotion and attention to detail followed based on a strong ecological philosophy have now paid off in Domaine Bertagna's wines. Indeed they are now among the best that Burgundy has to offer, they have received much critical acclaim and are highly sought after by lovers of fine Burgundy the world over. Wine should taste of the character of the particular vineyard site, not of a particular forest. Fruit flavor and complexity is very important, with the oak giving structure. Domaine Bertagna wines are densely colored and fleshy, packed with spicy fruit and well-integrated oak. They are seamless wines that can be enjoyed young but deserve cellaring to show their best. The Côte d'Or or Gold Coast, so called after the spectacular autumn colours in the vineyards, is made up of the Côte de Beaune, principally renowned for white wines and the Côte de Nuits where some of the world's most acclaimed red wines can be found. Situated on the main route from Dijon to Beaune is the village of Vougeot, home to the Domaine Bertagna, site of the cellars and their most important vineyard holdings, Vougeot Grand Cru and Vougeot Premier Crus. Domaine Bertagna was purchased in 1983 from the then owner Claude Bertagna by the GÜNTHER REH family who also owns and runs many other international wine interests. Since 1988, the domaine has been directly controlled by Eva REH Siddle. Over the past ten years the Domaine has undergone a complete transformation. In addition to the original Vougeot vineyards, Bertagna today boasts no less than five Grands Crus and seven Premiers Crus vineyards stretching from Aloxe Corton in the South to Gevrey Chambertin in the North (Refer to the Grands Crus Map). It is thanks to such a diversity of appellations that the Domaine Bertagna now ranks amongst the top estates in the area. All of the vineyards can be found on fairly steep slopes, enabling excellent drainage and as they face eastwards, they thus enjoy the advantages of early morning sunshine. Here the vineyards lie on Bathonian limestone, with scattered calcareous clay soils. The Hautes Côtes de Nuits wines come from soils lying directly above the white limestone rock. The Grand and Premier Crus are planted on soils whose constituents of stone, limestone, clay and iron oxides vary from one site to another. It is this geological diversity which is at the origin of the magic of Burgundy where vineyards, in some cases only a few metres apart, can have completely different taste profiles, this is commonly referred to as "TERROIR". As with most European wine regions their development is closely linked to the church. Wine-growing in Burgundy can be traced back to Roman times but it is the powerful Cistercian monks who, from their base in Cîteaux, began in the 14th century to plant vineyards in Vougeot and later constructed the magnificent Château to house their presses. Following the French Revolution the land belonging to the church and to nobility was broken up. This explains the social tissue still in evidence today where most Domaines are made up of small parcels of vineyard in any number of different villages rather than one large holding surrounding the winery as is common in most other wine regions. Les vins Bertagna en 4 saisons L'hiver / Le printemps The working of the vines is continual and follows the natural vegetative cycle of the plant. Through the harsh winter months, pruning is the key process for the renewal and durability of the plant and has a fundamental influence, second only to the wine-making process itself, on the quality of the finished wine. The Guyot style of pruning is most commonly used at Bertagna with vines trained low to the ground allowing the grapes to benefit during the night from warmth radiated by the stony soil. The arrival of spring triggers the flowering and the birth of a new vintage. The vines release subtle and delicately unique scents of the flower. During this early season the vineyards are at their most vulnerable with late heavy frost being the principle danger as well as the first signs of the many threats to the vine such as mildew, oidium, leaf-moth, spiders and weeds. L'été... Mother nature continues to be the predominant force in summer as far as the growth of the vine and the outcome of the vintage is concerned. However, hailstorms are a real threat at this time of year and violent storms can cause irreparable damage to the grapes...