



DOMAINE PONSOT

## APPELLATIONS

### CLOS DE LA ROCHE

Already in the middle age, the Clos de la Roche (Field of the Rock) was planted with vines and had this name which appears so simple, but which actually is quite mysterious.

If it appears so simple, it is that in Burgundy, the rock which composes the basement of our vineyards is only covered by a few centimetres of soil and it seems that this logical explanation is at the origin of the name of place. And much of people accept this explanation. But it is not that at all!

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At the time of the Celts, the Gallic people had habit to proceed to sacrifices. These rites were commonly carried out on big stone called "dolmens" but also on large and flat rocks. There is one of these rocks on the hill of Morey St Denis, just above the vines of the Clos de la Roche, on the locality " Pierre Virant" (literally stone that moves).

It is certain that the druids used this rock and that why it become famous. Quite naturally, when in the middle age one gave names to the vines which was newly surrounded by a wall, one wanted to pay homage to this rock by naming the best vines of Morey : Clos of the "Rock"

The Stone is still there, but only the sun let there heat its rays and no more sacrifice dirties its whiteness. With the origin, the Clos de la Roche comprised only 4 hectares, and still today the ground named Clos de la Roche preserves this surface.

In 1936, the law on the “Appellations d’Origine Contrôlée” decided to classify the Burgundian soils in several categories, of which most prestigious, reserved for the best wines would be the “Grands Crus”.

The Clos de la Roche was naturally classified in this category, as all the vines which surround it directly, like Fremières, Mauchamps, the Monts Luisants and others.

And it was decided that this entire surface would be good enough to produce high-class wines under the single name of Clos de la Roche. That gives today a surface of production of 17 hectares. The Domaine Ponsot is the most important owner in Clos de la Roche, having 3,4 hectares, including 3 ha in the original ground named Clos de la Roche.

But already even before the law on the AOC, the wines of Clos de la Roche were considered as the best of the village and the Domaine Ponsot exported to the USA and to many other countries all its vintages since 1932 until our days.

The wines of Clos de la Roche are always very virile and elegant with a very long finish. They can have a very long life, reaching easily a venerable age.

If the Chambertin is the king of the wines and the Musigny the queen, the Clos de la Roche is the Emperor!

#### **Note on the Cuvée William.**

William Ponsot was the founder of the Domaine Ponsot in 1872.

He first bought the Clos des Monts Luisants, which is still today a monopoly of our estate. In 1936, the lower part of the slope of this vineyard has been classified by the AOC into Grand Cru under the name of Clos de la Roche (see explanation above).

The surface is about ½ hectare and it has been replanted in 1951. In 1988, I had the idea to vinify this section apart as a sort of homage to my ancestor.

I did it again in 1989 and I named the wines Clos de la Roche Cuvée William.

In 1988 we have made around 1200 bottles and 60 magnums.

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