



French Red Burgundy is perhaps the most expensive, the most complicated and some say, the sexiest of all the world's wines. The region's fame is primarily due to one grape: Pinot Noir – which (it is said) creates a wine of “Scintillating flare of emotion and pure-being that eclipses throughout like the sound of an operatic aria or the sight of the Northern Lights”.

Burgundy is made up of hundreds of individually owned vineyards, each with their own expression and each possessively passed down from one generation to another. So the creation of the Domaine de la Vougeraie by the Boisset family in 1998 was a unique undertaking for such a traditional and restrained region, for it brought together 70 acres and 29 different appellations under one roof. The result is a wine-brand that has quickly emerged at the top of the vastly competitive and very gourmand wine hierarchy of the Cote d'Or.

Domaine de la Vougeraie includes six grands crus (5 red and 1 white) as well as two monopoles in Vougeot and Le Prierure. All of the vineyards of the Domaine are farmed by organic methods of agriculture, most which follow the more stringent biodynamic method that includes horse-plowing whenever possible. The results are very small yields of tremendous quality, that are producing wines which have been receiving scores of 90+ from Wine Spectator and Robert Parker.

Nathalie Boisset, daughter of the founder Jean –Claude Boisset will be representing the winery.



CASTELLO DELLE REGINE

Umbria's relationship to its next-door neighbor Tuscany is in many ways like Sonoma's relationship to Napa, the latter receives most of the press and the crowds, but the former is where those in the know go for beauty, people and for the wine.

Castello delle Regine is the vision of Paolo Nodari - a successful Milenese lawyer partnered with Livia Colantonio, a Cordon Bleu trained chef and event planner with an eye for quality, design and detail. Their vision was to produce Italy's best red wine, and to do that, they hired one of the country's most celebrated wine winemaker to focus on Merlot, Cabernet and Sangiovese. The winery raised eyebrows when their first release received the top award by Gambero Rosso, Italy's most famous wine publication, and then did it again the following year.

The wine estate is approximately 600 acres, located near the ancient village of Amelia. The estate farms grapes and olives, and raises much of their own food, including a herd of Chianina beef – an ancient breed dating back to the Etruscan era.