



2004 Charles Heidsieck Blanc des Millenaires

Price: \$329.95 + refundable bottle deposit and handling fee

Varietal: Chardonnay

Brand: Charles Heidsieck

LCBO Product #: 850057

LCBO:

Region: Champagne, France

Category: Regular Consignment

Bottles Per Case: 3

Bottle Size: 750ml

Availability

Availability in consignment

Background

Charles Heidsieck's "Blanc des Millénaires" is one of the most complex, seductive, age-worthy prestige cuvées I've ever encountered. It is a Blanc de Blancs made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes harvested in 4 Grand Cru and 1 Premier Cru village. Oger brings that beautiful Burgundian patine, concentration and structure to the wine. Le Mesnil-sur-Oger stands for balance; Avize for mineral complexity. There's Cramant with the finesse and flinty character and, last but not least, Vertus and its tropical floral spectrum. All wines at Charles Heidsieck are entirely vinified in stainless steel with full malolactic fermentation. The previous vintage, 1995, is already a legendary wine and then there are of course the older vintages like: the athletic 1990, sensual 1985 and overly romantic 1983.

Tasting Notes

Only Chardonnay is used in the blend of this exceptionally textured cuvée. 5 major crus from the Côte des Blancs have been meticulously chosen for their ability to evolve, but also for their ability to express their full richness during the maturation period: Oger for its lushness and structure, Mesnil-sur-Oger for balance, Avize for its minerality, Cramant for its complexity and Vertus for its freshness and floral side. A shimmering golden robe highlighted by delicate effervescence. Elegant notes of lemon, apple blossoms, salted butter and almonds along with a toasted, buttery nuance of crème anglaise. An initial palate of fresh citrus gives the wine a taut crispness, followed by a gradually persistent force and intensity. The mouthfeel is dynamic and perfectly structured with a long and well-rounded finish. The Blanc des Millenaires style far surpassed the 2004 vintage. The rich texture is rooted in a vintage still young and taut: the refined elegant effervescence reveals a still juvenile minerality.

