

A Culture of Fine Wine:

Rooted in Family, Inspired by Community

OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 2023 OFFERING

A Vintage of Balance and Brilliance

Following the release of the 2021 vintage of Esprit Leflaive earlier this year, we are thrilled to present the 2023 vintage of **Domaine Leflaive's** iconic range from **Puligny-Montrachet**, which is now available nationally.

With 24 hectares under vine — including 4.8 hectares of grands crus and 10.8 of premiers crus — Domaine Leflaive has been the quality benchmark in Puligny-Montrachet since 1717, consistently showcasing the elegance and purity of Chardonnay from this famed terroir.

Reflecting on the 2023 vintage conditions, 4th generation Proprietor **Brice de La Morandière** shares, *“It’s a rare enough fact worth noting: this vintage is generous in quantity and balanced in quality, following an equally magnificent and tasty 2022 vintage.”*

The growing season was marked by a mild winter and a temperate, frost-free spring, turning cooler and wetter in May — ideal conditions for healthy vine and flower development. Warm days and cool nights in June continued to support optimal growth.

August, however, brought a dramatic shift with heat waves and thunderstorms, pushing temperatures as high as 99°F. This incited rapid vine development and uneven ripeness across the vineyards. Harvest began on August 29th with a small team to give extra ripening time to parcels that needed to wait and expanded on September 2nd when the heat intensified. For the first time, Domaine Leflaive adjusted their harvest schedule to beat the midday heat.

Brice adds, *“2023 was the first year that we stopped harvesting at 2:00pm to avoid the heat. It is to be expected that we will have to adopt this tempo in subsequent years.”* The resulting wines are characterized by their generosity, texture, and finesse.



Brice de La Morandière

KUMEU RIVER CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

A Legacy of Chardonnay Excellence

Winemaking has been a proud tradition in the Brajkovich family for three generations. Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome 3rd generation Proprietor **Paul Brajkovich** for a week in the U.S. as [we celebrated the 80th anniversary of Kumeu River](#) – a winery defined by its deep roots, innovative spirit, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

As one of the pioneering wineries in Auckland, **Kumeu River** has earned international acclaim for crafting Chardonnays that consistently hold their own alongside some of the world's finest from the heart of Burgundy. The secret? A winemaking philosophy built on a single, powerful principle: **quality**.

When asked what 80 years of Kumeu River means to him, Paul shared: *“It’s quite a milestone: 80 years since my father, Maté, and his parents bought the property in Kumeu. Dad always valued quality over quantity and never wanted to become too large a producer. He wanted control over everything he did, and that’s carried through to our generation.”*



Paul Brajkovich



A CULTURE OF FINE WINE

2025 Harvest Around the World

As we shared in our [September newsletter](#), many of our producers have been in the thick of harvest over the last several weeks, with some unexpectedly picking into early October! We caught up with a few of them to see how harvest has been going.

“After a very warm, and particularly one of the driest growing seasons in memory, Bergström Wines has kicked off its 27th vintage with a first pick of Pinot Noir at the Bergström Vineyard in the Dundee Hills under clear skies and perfect conditions. This small but concentrated harvest is destined to become a classic in both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, with yields down upwards of 20-25% but flavors and concentrations giving way to very pure and delicious juice samples. We look forward to celebrating this momentous vintage over the next eight weeks of diligent picking, fermenting, and bringing these great terroirs to life in vinous form.”

– **Josh Bergström, 2nd generation Proprietor and Winemaker of Bergström Wines**

“The last day of harvest always carries with it special feelings. We free ourselves – in a way – from all the thoughts that have accompanied us over the past months. We all feel lighter, our faces smiling and relaxed; there are tears of relief after the great tension and effort of the past weeks, with many hugs and pats on the back. For me, this was my 25th harvest, one of the most beautiful. My greatest thanks goes to our team, who with passion and dedication have once again made all of this possible.” – **Federico Radi, Winemaker of Biondi-Santi**

“Our 2025 harvest is now complete and we are quite satisfied by what we have in the winery today, both in terms of quality and quantity! A few spells of rain during the harvest meant that we were unable to achieve the volumes we had initially hoped for, but we are still delighted. We harvested a total of 34 plots between August 27th and September 4th. To date, we estimate an average yield of between 35 and 40hl/ha.” – **Erwan Faiveley, 7th generation Proprietor of Domaine Faiveley**



Bergström Wines



Biondi-Santi



Domaine Faiveley

“After a mild winter and an unusually cool, rainy spring, the vineyards showed strong growth but experienced a slight delay in development. Summer brought intense heat and drought, which quickly caught the vines up to a normal cycle. The early August heatwave sped up ripening in white and early grape varieties, leading to an early and rapid harvest starting August 13th. White grapes showed good quality and lively acidity. Red varieties were less impacted by the heat, with their harvest beginning at the usual time and displaying fresh, aromatic profiles.” – **Josep Sabarich, Chief Winemaker of Familia Torres**

“After a dry and warm summer, we started to pick grapes quite early by August 26th with some early ripening varieties and plots in Châteauneuf du Pape. During the night of September 1st, a big storm with 6 inches of rain hit Châteauneuf, but there was absolutely no damage or hail – only pure water to help the vines ripen gently and slowly throughout September. Since then, harvest has gone very well with very healthy grapes, tempered alcohol potential, nice concentration, tannins and aromas. The whites look very balanced and aromatic. We just hope to finish the second part of harvest in those same great conditions.”

– **Victor Coulon, 8th generation Proprietor of Domaine de Beaucenard**

“This has been a very positive year for Sagrantino. The grapes are healthy, with thick skins and excellent concentration, showing a fine balance of ripeness and freshness that points to wines with both structure and elegance. Also the Sangiovese and Merlot are equally promising, with rich color and supple tannins, while the Grechetto has delivered beautifully aromatic, vibrant fruit. Overall, the quality and the quantity across the vineyards is high, and we’re very encouraged by what we’re bringing in this harvest.” – **Julien Viaud, Consulting Oenologist of Arnaldo Caprai**



Familia Torres



Domaine de Beaucenard



Arnaldo Caprai