



## CHÂTEAU DU MOULIN-À-VENT



### 300-YEAR HISTORY

#### **17th Century ~ King Louis XIV selects the wine of Thorins hillsides:**

Legend has it that a winemaker named Claudius Brosse reached the capital of Versailles after 33 days of travel by oxcart, which he had filled with wine from the Thorins hillsides. King Louis XIV himself tasted the wine and declared it fit for a king (and his court).

#### **1732 ~ The first recorded history of the Château:**

In the 18th century the château was called Château des Thorins for the hamlet named “Les Thorins” where it was located. Vineyards on the Thorins hillsides had already gained a reputation for wines of high quality, as attested by historical records and their success at the royal court. In a Mâcon dictionary published in 1801, an old proverb is quoted: “Every wine is good with a meal, but a meal can not be enjoyed without Thorins. The merit of this wine is that it is firm, but supple, it has good body but also has lightness, it is ruby colored and transparent, with a flattering nose and a delicate taste. . .”

#### **The Pioneer ~ Madame Philiberte Pommier:**

The exceptional qualities of Moulin-à-Vent were first detected by Philiberte Pommier (1763-1862), who noticed that the plots surrounding the château had distinct features which were reflected in the wines. She noted that a plot next to the château had the perfect soil for bringing out the characteristics of the Gamay grape, and she set about delineating the individual terroirs of the estate (which was then called Château des Thorins). In 1862, at the age of 99, Madame Pommier finally achieved the recognition she deserved for her efforts when her 1854, 1858 and 1859 vintages were ranked at the Universal Exhibition in London as the best wines from the Mâcon region. The award for the 1854 vintage, bottled some eight years earlier, highlighted another aspect of Philiberte’s pioneering work: her insistence that the wines of the Château could age successfully. The precious secrets of Madame Pommier — her philosophy of parcel selection, pruning work in the vineyards and aging of the wines — have been transmitted over the past 150 years to Jean-Jacques Parinet and his family, who purchased the estate in 2009. Jean-Jacques’ son, co-proprietor Edouard Parinet, has taken the reins as director, demonstrating a passion for excellence that is evident from the vineyards to the cellars. Once again, the highest quality of terroir-expression in age-worthy wines is paramount at Château du Moulin-à-Vent.

