

James Turnbull

Alsace, Kientzheim

DOMAINE PAUL BLANCK



Fine FRENCH WINES

In true Alsace tradition the Blanck dynasty has been making wine since time immemorial. The business is a veritable family affair today, and seemingly set for a long future in the hands of coming generations. The family produces an extended range of wines of very high quality from their splendid holdings around their village of Kientzheim and in the vicinity.

Wines for every occasion

The Blancks' aim is to provide a range of wines perfectly representative of their grape varieties and *terroirs*, which show well at the dining table. Working in large cellars lined with stainless-steel vats and *foudres*, Frédéric, the wine maker, makes three levels of wine: the generics, what they term *rins de fruit*, which are made for easy drinking, and which will hopefully seduce the novice into a deeper brush with the Alsace experience; the *rins de pierre*, in which the characteristics of the various named sites are brought out, giving another dimension to the fruitiness; and the late-harvested wines, which are a demonstration of the wonders of nature: rare, opulent, exuberant wines for the special occasion.

Gewurztraminer Fürstentum Vendanges Tardives

It was Marcel Blanck who clamored for the recognition of Fürstentum, a steep, hot, south-facing slope in which Mediterranean-type flora thrive. In its marl/sandstone/limestone soil the Gewurztraminer produces wine of great finesse and aromatic power, reaching Vendanges Tardives maturity with easy regularity. The 1997, relatively dry on the palate, has an intense bouquet of rose-petal and pineapple, with a splendid concentration of spicy flavor on the palate and enough acidity to balance its alcohol and give the wine freshness. It signs off with a splendidly long, slightly smokey finish, and is a wine to please the most exacting Alsace aficionado. Serve it from a decanter, suggest the Blancks, with natural goose livers.