

'IMPORTER OF THE YEAR'

-WINE&SPIRITS 2019, 2020, 2022 & 2023!

DOMAINE FRANCIS ORBAN

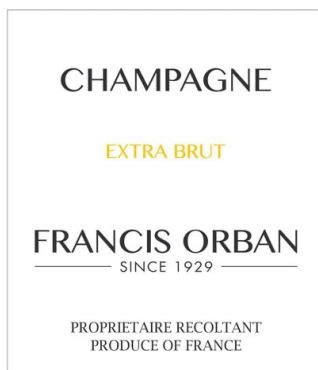
Year Founded: 1929**Region: Leuvrigny, Marne Valley, Champagne, France****Winemaker: Francis Orban****Known for: Leopold Orban, winemaker Francis Orban's great-grandfather, was one of the first recoltant-manipulants in the small village of Leuvrigny.****-Sustainable-**

From a very early age, Francis knew he'd follow in the family tradition of tending Pinot Meunier vines on the sandy, clay-rich soils of the Marne Valley. Indeed, after finishing his enological studies at the ripe age of 19, he joined the family business, imbued with a generations-deep passion for making pure Pinot Meunier wines. Too long seen as "just" a blending grape in other Champagne regions, Pinot Meunier has pride of place in the Marne Valley. Nearly 90% of Francis' vineyards are dedicated to this singular grape, as it is here where Pinot Meunier reaches its full potential. Above all, when allowed to shine as a single-varietal Champagne, Pinot Meunier delivers a vinous wine full of fresh fruit and lightly spiced with notes of vanilla and pepper. Full-bodied, vivacious and pure, it is a Champagne for true gourmands, who appreciate its flexibility at the table.



Crucially, Francis adds some 50% reserve wine from recent vintages to his non-vintage Champagnes, for wines of incredible character and flavorful depth. Francis Orban (as a grower Champagne producer, or récollant-manipulant) tends some 18 acres of south-facing vines in and around the villages of Leuvrigny and Sainte-Gemme. Soils are rich in sand and clay—different terroir than the chalky soils found around the Montagne de Reims or in the Côte de Blancs—a mix that suits Pinot Meunier vines well, and explains why the Marne Valley is the center point of Meunier production. Some 90% of family vineyards are planted to Pinot Meunier, with the rest dedicated to Chardonnay. Vines are on average between 30 and 40-years-old. Vineyards are cared for sustainably, and grapes harvested by hand. Grapes are pressed gently and fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. Francis adds some 50% of reserve wines to his non-vintage Champagnes, for wines of impressive depth, character and length.

Domaine Francis Orban Extra Brut

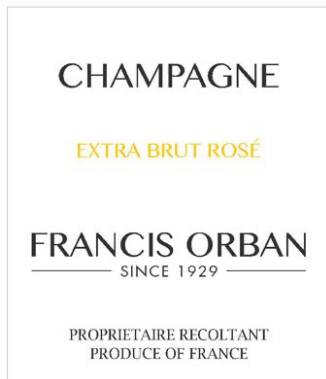
**'Wine of the Week'** - Wine&Spirits December 2021

100% Pinot Meunier. Hand-harvested. Pressed directly; fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. Malolactic conversion allowed. 50% reserve wine added. Dosage 3 grams/L. Drink as an aperitif; with sushi or other fresh seafood; dishes with cream sauce; white meat; very flexible at the table

91 Points - Wine&Spirits

90 Points - Robert Parker - *"Disgorged in June 2019, the latest release of Orban's NV Extra Brut offers up generous aromas of honeycomb, pear and stone fruits, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and enveloping palate that's open and gourmand, with an ample core of fruit that's complemented by succulent acids and a pillowy mousse. Expressive and charming."*

Domaine Francis Orban Extra Brut Rosé



This Champagne is an exclusive to North Berkeley Imports

100% Pinot Meunier. Hand-harvested. Pressed directly; fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. Malolactic conversion allowed. Pinot Meunier still red wine added (14% of blend) for color; 50% reserve wine added. Aged for three years in bottle. Dosage 3 grams/L. Drink as an aperitif; with air-cured meats or terrines.

92 Points - Robert Parker - *"Disgorged with nine grams per liter dosage after three years sur lattes, Orban's NV Brut Rosé is produced entirely from Pinot Meunier; based on the 2014 vintage, it also incorporates 50% reserve wines from vintages 2011 to 2013, as well as still red wine for color. It's a lovely wine, offering up aromas of redcurrant, citrus, wheat toast and hints of licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy palate with pinpoint bubbles, mouthwatering acids and a pure, flavorful finish. This is a charming and distinctive rosé that is well worth seeking out."*