



Who are we?







French oak forests



France is a large country, with many forests, many terroirs and 2 species of oak - Sessile and Penducule. It is dangerous to generalize about a certain forest or certain style



So, in our experience, selecting the wood according to its origin and / or silviculture method is not enough because each tree is different even in the same plot. Even the same tree has different types of wood.





We believe that there are 4 key factors that will have a significant impact on the quality of oak:

The colour of the wood (and so the aromatics)

The size of the grain

The soil and terroir

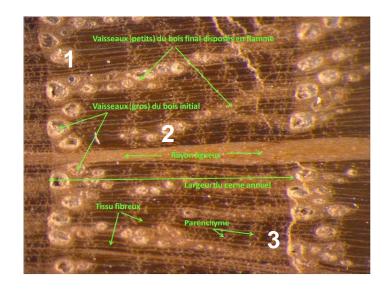
The forestry







Depending on the competition (light, growth under cover, ...) or conditions (poor soil, low water content, ...) the tree grows more or less quickly.



Spring wood (1)

Summer wood (2)

Autumn wood (3)

Impact on density

Impact on chemical composition (cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin, tannin)





<u>Terroir</u>: reflect the nature & chemical composition of the oak, and especially for the reserves (lipide & hemicellulose) and the grain size.



Terroir sand & clay



Terroir chalk



Terroir stone







Forestry Management: impacts the growth of the oak (height, diameter) quantity of reserves



Taillis sous futaie Heterogeneous growth



Haute - futaie Homogeneous growth





Color variations are a direct consequence of soil composition, sap pressure, growth, forestry management, climate ...

















Pink



Orange

Brown: presence of ground compounds, moisture, fungi smell,

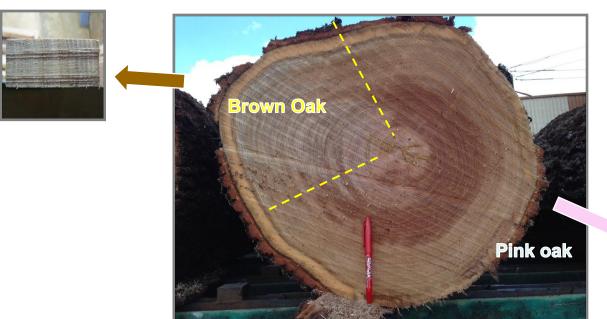
Pink: rocky soil, mineral smell,

Orange: sandy soil, sappy smell





The colour of staves







Incredible complexity and variation within the same tree, depending on the exposure of the trunk





Our stave mill: NT Bois





All oak pallets are sorted by:

- Date (minimum 2 winters),
- Provenance (forest management and soil composition)
- Grain quality (fine and extra fine)
- Aromatic profile and colour (brown, pink and orange)







Our stave mill: NT Bois

Wood yard

The goal is to wash/remove the sap from the wood and release the "coarse" tannins to avoid bitterness from the wood.

'Seasoning' is exactly what it says – we use the seasons to improve the organoleptic qualities of the wood.











SO....

in each forest, each tree will have its own individual characteristics.

There will be common aspects due to:

- Climate, forestry management, its species

BUT variations due to:

- Soil and the position of the stave within the tree

In order to ensure regularity in the quality of our wood, we can sort by grain, by colour, by origin or by a combination of all three.





FINE GRAIN SELECTION 2-YEAR

24 months of open air drying in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated, we select wood from a minimum of three different forests.

This blend consists mainly of fine grain with additional of very fine grain and a few staves with grain sizes over 3mm

>3 mm: 4 staves // Fine grain: 18 to 20 staves // Very fine grain: 8 to 10 staves

Dedicated selection for "medium & heavy toasts", where we are looking for a mix of "rich and long oak"

ST - M - M + - GC





VERY FINE GRAIN ASSEMBLAGE 3-YEAR

After 36 months of open air drying in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated, we select wood from a minimum of three different forests.

The blend consists mainly of very fine grain, with the additional fine grain sizes single stave with a grain size over 3 mm

>3 mm: 1 stave at the most // Fine grain: 10 staves // Very fi ne grain: 20 staves

The concept is identical to the 2-Year Fine Grain Selection but with higher criteria in terms of grain and colour.

Compared to the 2Y selection, more precision & finesse – more elegance due to a high level of ellagitannins ST – M – M+ - GC



SELECTION NICOLAS

After 30 months of open air drying in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated, we select wood from a minimum of three different forests.

This blend consists mainly of very fine grain, completed with fine grain sizes and a single stave with a grain size over 3 mm

>3 mm: 1 stave at the most // Fine grain: 10 staves // Very fine grain: 20 staves

This blend follows the same rules as the 3-Year Very Fine Grain Selection in terms of grain size. However the specific location of the forests and the quality of the soils chosen for the Selection Nicolas present lighter, pinker colors to perfectly match our CLL toast.

A dedicated blend of oak for our CLL toast, to bring elegance, length and freshness to your wines & to keep the fruit alive.





HAUTE FUTAIE

Haute Futaie is a selection of wood that comes solely from forests managed using this special technique. The trees are planted very densely (100,000 per ha) and are progressively thinned out during growth until, almost two centuries later, only 150 trees per hectare remain.

In these forests, the high level of competition pushes the trees upwards as they search for light. This produces extra-fine grain sizes with a special aromatic profile. The wood is air-dried for 30 months in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated.

A higher level of freshness & precision given by this oak blend dedicated for CL & CLL toast – purity & crystalline effect





PIERRE SELECTION

"Pierre" wood comes exclusively from forests on the top of several hills in the North of Burgundy, where there are dry rocky soils - limestone.

This results in lower and larger trees, with more chaotic growth. But they act as a vector for the mineral, poor soil. Like a vine they translate the energy of the soil into the tasting profile.

A single stave of this wood possesses different aspects of grain and color.

Pierre woods are air-dried for 30 months in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated.

This quality is available in CLL+ It brings a more mineral finish.





"CRAIE" OR "CHALKY" SELECTION

When fresh oak enters the stave mill we set aside from the chalky soils of Champagne and North Chablis. After 24 months of open air drying in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated.

We select the lightest colored woods from that stock. This wood is sourced from a minimum of three different forests with the same type of "terroir".

Grain sizes from the Craie selection are identical to the 3-Year Fine Grain Selection.

A dedicated solution to highlight the best of the chalk terroir from Champagne – roundness, sweetness will help the wine, without any toasty notes.





PRESTIGE

This specific blend comprises exclusively extra fine grain woods, from a selection of our best Haute Futaie oak grown solely on sandy / clay soil.

This is a unique and exclusive selection, presenting a clear pink color and mineral cedar-like smell. The pink color comes from the combination of the Haute Futaie forestry management and the specific sandy and clay terroir.

This wood is air-dried for 30 months in the high rainfall area of the Côte de Bar, Southern Champagne, where our stave mill is situated.

We find this quality of wood in certain small state-owned forests.

An exclusive oak selection, made after several sortings of colour and grain, our process will bring purity and structure (length & width dimension) to your wine – for long ageing...





The Tonnellerie de Mercurey offers a **unique proposition**:

- A cooperage driven by its stave mill the raw material dictates the finished product
- Historically TM was known for heavy, impactive toasts (which we still offer)
 - Our knowledge and experience has led us to find purer, more terroirdriven woods
 - So now we can offer light, subtle and refined toasts that can lift and showcase your wines.
 - Our toasts are dictated by our wood, not the other way round.
 - TM has one of the **broadest and most adaptable ranges of wood/toast** combinations on the market suitable for all varieties, in all styles.

