



The greatest French wines CHAMPAGNE ! The history of the wine of Kings



CHAMPAGNE ! the cry of champagne-lovers the world over, since the precious discoveries made by the Benedictine monk, Dom Perignon.

Several records maintain that Saint Remi (Bishop of Reims), after baptising King Clovis in 496, miraculously caused wine to spring forth from an empty barrel.

During the Middle Ages, Champagne fairs were organised so that merchants from all over Europe could come to taste and buy the wine of the vineyards of Champagne.

The technique consisted of producing white wine but pressing the grapes very slowly, and using both white, and red grapes.

The wine of Kings, and of the aristocracy, Champagne became known as a symbol of celebration during the parties of the Belle Epoque in the famous Maxim's Restaurant.

Today it is impossible to imagine a party without Champagne, whether it be in a Music Hall, such as the Moulin Rouge, or a celebration of a Formula 1 prize, or a Sailing Regatta.

How did the « wine of Satan » come to be respected by Emperors, loved by Duchesses, and envied by the English?

It is here, in the heart of the great Champagne houses, keepers of the age-old secrets, that wine-masters, oenologists, and grape-pickers, reveal to us the key to the enigma.

Directed by Jacques VICHET A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

Digital Betacam 16/9

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