

DOMAINE FRANCIS ORBAN Coteaux Champenois Blanc 'Les Hauts-Beugnets' 2022

From a very early age, Francis Orban knew he'd follow in the family tradition of tending Pinot Meunier vines on the sandy, clay-rich soils of the Marne Valley. Too long seen as "just" a blending grape in other Champagne regions, Meunier has pride of place here. Nearly 90% of Francis' vineyards are dedicated to this singular grape, as it is in the Marne where Pinot Meunier reaches its full potential. Above all, when allowed to shine as a single-varietal Champagne, 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.

WINERY: Domaine Francis Orban **WINEMAKERS:** Francis Orban

ESTABLISHED: 1929

REGION: FRANCE • Champagne • Leuvrigny **APPELLATION:** Coteaux Champenois AOC

BLEND: 100% Pinot Meunier

VINEYARDS: A selection of fruit from vineyard 'Les Hauts Beugnets,' a plot just under one acre of land, located in Leuvrigny, winemaker Francis Orban's home village. Soils include green (iron-rich) clay, Lutetian limestone and Cuisian sand.

AGE OF VINES: 60 years, on average

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Pressed directly; fermented on indigenous yeasts in 500L cask. Aged 24 months in cask, one year in bottle. Only 650 bottles produced.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of blond toast, vanilla bean, warm tarte tatin, poached quince, fresh yellow plum. Textured and suave, mouthwatering

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Seared scallops and risotto; fois gras on toasted brioche; smoked fish; wild mushrooms in cream

