

DOMAINE FRANCIS ORBAN

Coteaux Champenois Rouge 'Les Petits Faux' 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 Petits Faux,' a plot just under one-third acre of land, located in Leuvrigny, winemaker Francis Orban's home village. Soils include green (iron-rich) clay and Lutetian limestone.

AGE OF VINES: 60 years, on average

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Destemmed. Fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled tank. Aged 24 months in 400L cask, one year in bottle. Only 500 bottles produced.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of crushed black currant, grilled toast, light pepper, raspberry, brown spice. Juicy and textured, fine tannins

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Roast game birds with wild mushroom; braised

beef with polenta; oeufs en meurette

