

Biography

Olivier Rousset, Winemaker



Olivier's exceptional palate and winemaking abilities come from his thirty-two years of wine tasting and fifteen years of winemaking experience. Born in Paris, France, Olivier spent much of his childhood in his family's winery in the Bordeaux region, developing an early passion for the growing and making of exceptional wines. Being the grandson and great-grandson of renowned French chefs also inspired Olivier's gastronomic appreciation and flair for cooking and wine pairing (he first began tasting wine and helping in the kitchen when he was only eight years old!).

Upon completion of secondary school, Olivier joined his cousin in Libourne where they grew and produced different Bordeaux varietals. Later his family purchased Château La Roche Beaulieu, a winery in Côtes de Castillon and they expanded their harvest to include Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec.

It had always been Olivier's dream to travel to California to explore the wine regions along the Central Coast, so it was with much excitement he accepted an internship at La Crema Winery in Sonoma in 1996 to learn the complexities of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

After returning to his family's vineyard in France, Olivier worked as the Winemaker and the Vineyard Manager to grow the family's Côte de Castillon label. Once again, in 2000 Olivier returned to California for the unique opportunity to work for Kendall-Jackson Farms as the winemaker for the highly acclaimed Archipel winery, and as the assistant for Vérité and Anakota wines.

Archipel wines were originally created solely for the enjoyment of the winemakers. The team developed a series of three wines, La Muse, La Joie and Le Désir, and decided years later to share a limited amount with the public, creating the exclusive Archipel label in 2002.

Recently accepting the Winemaker position at Koehler Winery, a 100-acre Estate vineyard on the Central Coast of California, Olivier is now exploring the rich soils of Northern Santa Barbara County in the Santa Ynez wine region. He is excited about the diversity and quality of the fruit grown on the Koehler estate and looks forward to creating and achieving great wines here. Olivier's first harvest with Koehler will premiere in 2009.

(over)

Some of Olivier's notable wine ratings and reviews include:

La Muse 2000	Parker score 90
La Joie 2000	Parker score 89+
Le Désir 2000	Parker score 89-92
La Muse 2001	Parker score 94-97
La Joie 2001	Parker score 94-97
Le Désir 2001	Parker score 93-97
Anakota Helena Montana 2002	Parker score 93+
Anakota Helena Montana 2003	Parker score 91-94
Anakota Helena Dakota 2002	Parker score 92
Anakota Helena Dakota 2003	Parker score 94-96
Archipel 2002	Parker score 90
Archipel 2003	Parker score 88-91
La Muse 2002	Parker score 94
La Muse 2003	Parker score 91-93
La Joie 2002	Parker score 98
La Joie 2003	Parker score 94-98
Le Désir 2002	Parker score 97
Le Désir 2003	Parker score 95-97
Archipel 2004	Parker score 89
La Muse 2004	Parker score 93/Tanzer score 94
La Joie 2004	Parker score 93/Tanzer score 94
Le Désir 2004	Parker score 94/Tanzer score 96
La Muse 2005	Parker score 89-91/Tanzer score 94-97
La Joie 2005	Parker score 96-98/Tanzer score 94-97
Le Désir 2005	Parker score 94-96/Tanzer score 95-98

Robert Parker just released his score for Archipel 2005 in December 2008. Below is how he described the latest rated vintage:

Archipel Wines- 2005 Bordeaux Blend - Sonoma County

93 points

This 1,000-case blend from various Sonoma County vineyards owned by Jess Jackson is composed of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. A smoky, black currant, licorice, and toasty oak-scented bouquet is followed by a full-bodied red displaying an expansive mouthfeel, a muscular, broad shouldered texture, and a deep, rich, moderately tannic finish. The tannins are sweet, the acidity is low, and the wine is already drinkable. Enjoy this **seriously endowed** red over the next 15+ years. -Robert Parker