

A family history shaped by the love of vine and wine

Jean-René Germanier Winery is one of the oldest Swiss wineries founded in 1896. Urbain Germanier harvested his first vintage in 1896 at Balavaud and devoted his life to his vineyards. His three sons, Francis, Paul, and Charles later took over. The winery is now in its third generation under Jean-René Germanier and his nephew Gilles Besse. Gilles Besse was 24 when he was approached by his uncle, who is only seven years his elder, to join the family winery. He accepted the challenge and began studying enology in the Swiss school of Changins and, in 1993, vinified his first wines at the estate, nestled in the heart of the Valais.

Together, Gilles and Jean-René have been farming sustainably for nearly twenty years and have ultimately pioneered a qualitative winemaking revolution in Switzerland.

The Swiss valley of the Rhône offers an extraordinary Alpine *terroir* and they spare no effort to ensure that their wines will be its worthy reflection. The young team led by the talented oenologists Richard Riand and his wife Delphine practice traditional and barrel vinification with exceptional rigor and passion.

Numerous international awards have crowned this commitment to excellence, among them more than 30 wines rated at over 90 points in Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate*.

*Out of love for the art of winemaking,
quality remains the utmost priority at the Domaine.*



Winemaking in service of the grape and the terroir

Located in the hamlet of Balavaud in Vétroz in Valais, the Jean-René Germanier estate covers 170 hectares and produces 800,000 bottles. About thirty hectares are cultivated to BIOSUISSE standards. Its vines benefit from the hot and dry micro-climate of the region. They grow on varied soils: schist, alluvial deposits, and glacial moraines.

16 different grape varieties are cultivated for a range of 38 wines. The main grape varieties grown are Chasselas, Amigne, Arvine, Johannisberg, Chardonnay, Païen, Pinot Noir, Gamay, Syrah, Humagne, Cornalin, Gamaret, and Merlot. The best grapes are handpicked and used to make their high-quality red, white, rosé, and dessert wines.

The notion of *terroir* describes a specific harmony between characteristics of soil, microclimate, and grape variety. In certain vineyards, estates or localities, this threesome brings forth traits that allow the creation of highly unique wines, clearly marked by their vintage and ennobling the grape variety itself.

Organic viticulture in close partnership with nature

More than 25 years ago, they became pioneers in methods of sustainable viticulture out of respect for the environment. Due to practice use of integrated production, they have successfully eliminated the use of pesticides and other treatments. Today they have reached another milestone by eliminating the use of synthetic products in all our vineyards, comprising more than 25 hectares. As a result, they have become one of the largest winemaking *domaines* in the country to be certified as BIOSUISSE.

