

# CHAMPAGNE AYALA

Long known as the "sleeping beauty of Champagne" because of its prominence in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century, Ayala has risen to prominence again under the guidance of Caroline Latrive, one of the few female cellar masters in Champagne.



## Le Blanc de Blancs 2015

Champagne, France

### ESTATE

Ayala is one of the most exciting stories in Champagne today, almost the definition of a boutique Champagne producer. Independently owned, a small, young and dynamic team, lead by the immensely talented female winemaker, Caroline Latrive, handles every step of production from grape reception to labeling in their jewel of a facility with incredible precision. The House's style based on Chardonnay-focused wines that deliver immense pleasure, freshness, and elegance.

### WINE

Ayala's Le Blanc de Blancs is 100% Chardonnay, produced in small quantities in exceptional years only and fully expresses the superb caliber of great Chardonnay from the best Crus of the Côte des Blancs. It is truly a unique vintage offering.

### VINEYARD

Ayala owns 35 acres in Champagne. Thanks to its privileged location in the heart of the Grand Crus of Montagne de Reims and its link to Champagne Bollinger, the House has unique access to top quality grapes. The 2015 vintage is sourced from three Grand Cru villages (Chouilly, Cramant, Le Mesnil sur Oger) and two Premier Cru Villages (Cuis and Vertus).

*Farming:* Ayala encourages their growers to use organic fertilizers and avoid insecticides, herbicides and pesticides.

### WINEMAKING

*Variety:* 100% Chardonnay

*Fermentation:* Everything from grape reception to vinification, aging, riddling and disgorgement is done in the traditional method at the Ayala cellars, allowing for an intense focus on freshness and precision.

*Aging:* 6 years on the lees after disgorgement to develop complexity, intensity and roundness on the palate.

*Dosage:* 6 g/L

*Alcohol:* 12.0%

### VINTAGE

2015 was a year of exceptional weather conditions and warm temperatures in the Champagne region. A dry growing season led to lower yields during harvest, which took place from September 7-23. The intensely concentrated musts were well-balanced and of outstanding quality; Chardonnay from the Côte des Blancs performed particularly well with lively, complex character and excellent cellaring potential.

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

Top 100 "Best of Year" Issue, December 2021