

Devaux,
Sténopé (Gift Box) 2012
Côte des Bar, Champagne, France



PRODUCER

Founded in 1846 by the brothers Jules and Auguste Devaux, today Devaux is owned by the Union Aubeoise in the Côte des Bar – the heartland of Pinot Noir in Champagne. Physically closer to Chablis than Reims or Épernay, the vines grow on Burgundian soils of Kimmeridgian marl and Portlandian limestone. Chef de Cave since 1999, Michel Parisot was named the 'Sparkling Winemaker of the Year' at the 2020 International Wine Challenge – an achievement that is testament to Michel's pioneering approach to winemaking.

VINEYARDS

Sténopé is a collaboration between Michel Parisot and renowned winemaker from the Rhône Valley, Michel Chapoutier. Sharing the same philosophy around vineyards and respect for the land, they decided to create an exceptional Champagne that takes a snapshot of a particular vintage – the name means 'pinhole camera' in French. Sténopé is a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir carefully selected by Michel Parisot from his preferred plots. This includes En Chanseux and Val Bazot, sites which Devaux and Chapoutier purchased together. Located in Les Riceys, these sites produce Pinot Noir with a distinctive Burgundian character, with richness and length, while retaining finesse. The vines are 50 years old on average, resulting in excellent concentration.

VINTAGE

2012 was a complex vintage in the vineyard, but yielded excellent quality fruit. A mild winter was followed by intense cold spells in February and some incidences of spring frost, which affected flowering. Late spring and early summer were very wet, but dry and sunny conditions from July onwards and into harvest resulted in concentrated and healthy grapes.

VINIFICATION

Only the initial, lightly-pressed juice (première serre) was used for the base wine, the majority of which was fermented in 300 litre oak barrels, aged between one and five years. All of the barrels are made from locally sourced wood, which comes from three forests in the Champagne region. Following the second fermentation in bottle, each bottle of Sténopé was aged for a minimum of 7 years on lees. An extra brut dosage of 5g/L was selected for best expression of the vintage. The total production of Sténopé 2012 was 6215 bottles and 880 magnums, each one of which is numbered.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose, aromas of white blossom, red apple and lemon peel are followed by hints of sourdough and roasted almond. The palate is bright and fresh, with creamy mouthfeel and notes of bergamot, candied fruit and brioche. The finish is long and complex.

Winemaker	Michel Parisot
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	12%
Bottle Sizes	75cl, 150cl