



**Domaine Chante-Alouette-Cormeil
(Vignobles Delol)**

Region: Bordeaux

Village: Libourne

Appellation: 11 ha Saint-Emilion Grand Cru

Growers: Yves Delol Samuelle Delol

Website: <http://www.vignobles-yves-delol.fr/>

Saint-Emilion is one of the most beautiful wine producing villages in the world. It is nestled into the same limestone hills that provide the unique ground for the illustrious vineyards that surround it. The local architecture is built from the quarried limestone and features roofs of earth toned tiles giving the town an historic charm that is “postcard perfect.”

The Delol family has owned the Domaine Chante-Alouette-Cormeil since 1818 and Chateau Gueyrosse since 1862. Since 1995 the wine has been made by Samuelle Delol who took over from her father Yves. Perhaps it is the 200 years of farming or perhaps it is the personal philosophy of Samuelle and Yves, but the viticulture and winemaking practices are old enough to be new again, literally. The farming is organic and the wine making non-interventional. As a way of celebrating 200 years of organic farming, Samuelle has decided to apply for official certification. Recently, the vineyards were certified “Bee Friendly”. There is nothing flamboyant or out of balance with Samuelle’s wines. Grapes are hand harvested and then pressed in a traditional basket press from the 1940’s. The wines ferment with their indigenous yeasts and macerations last between 3 and 5 weeks. In their youth, the wines are discreet and Samuelle says that it is not until after 10 years that the wines start to reveal themselves. It is fortunate and rare to have families such as the Delol’s who are willing to keep stock in their cellar for more than a decade before releasing wines to the market. The Delols are admired by many of the old guard aristocracy of Saint-Emilion vigneron for their refined aesthetic and commitment to craft at the highest level but they have largely escaped the notice of the press. For the experienced Bordeaux drinker or someone interested in discovering the style of wine that made Bordeaux internationally recognized centuries ago, these wines are a rare treat.

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Domaine Chante-Alouette-Cormeil takes its name from the two parcels of land that it combines: Cormeil and Chante-Alouette, “The Song of the Skylark”. It is in the northwest quadrant of the Saint-Emilion appellation near Figeac and Pomerol. The soil is called “sables anciens” and consists of windblown sands on top of iron-rich sandstone. There is also blue clay mixed throughout. The grape varieties planted are: 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. The average age is 40 years. The wine is celled in 2 and 3-year-old barrels for 24 months before bottling. The wine is not filtered and therefore will throw a deposit. It is recommended that the wine be decanted before serving to avoid any sediment and to let the wine breathe.

