

Sometimes, Smaller is Better

เล็กกว่าอาจจะดีกว่า

Dom Pérignon, Louis Roederer, Laurent Perrier. These are the names that most of us think of when we are ordering Champagne. Usually it's for a special occasion so of course we want the very best. However, being big or well known doesn't necessarily mean top quality.

Champagne drinkers have come to realize that quality comes in all shapes and sizes. There are 'boutique' Champagne producers just as there are boutique wine producers. And quite frankly, they are corking some astonishing examples of bubbly.

One particular producer that has recently re-introduced itself to the Thai market is Salon Delamotte. The name may not excite the masses, but people who know Champagne, know that when it comes time to celebrate a special occasion (or just celebrate life) a bottle of Salon stands second to none. *(All labels are offered exclusively through Italiasia with prices noted. www.italasiagroup.com)*

Delamotte's entry-level selection is the Delamotte Brut. Blended from 50% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir and 20% Pinot Meunier, this is marked by its power, its pleasant freshness, its fullness and clean fruity finish. It is balanced and elegant, displaying a light golden color. The nose reveals hints of citrus, white flowers, lemon peel and moss. Wonderful as an aperitif. *(THB1,600)*

In the mid-price range, Delemotte is offering two selections. The first is a 1999 Blanc de Blanc. Made of 100% Chardonnay from the Côtes des Blancs, it is rich, with a surprising delicateness, round yet mineral. Its golden body offers floral fragrances (especially rose), angelica, citrus, with a hint of ginger. In the mouth you'll find hints of biscuit and bread crust on the finish. Perfect with grilled fish, langoustine and shrimp, oysters, poultry and all cream dishes. *(THB2,500)*

The second mid-price offering is Delamotte Rose. A blend of mostly Pinot Noir with some Chardonnay gives the wine its pale pink color and delicate hints of red fruit – strawberry, raspberry and even wild strawberry. A refined, somewhat smoky wine, it is perfect in the afternoon or at dessert time. *(THB2,500)*

In the premium category, Salon is offering an incredibly well received 1996 Salon Blanc de Blancs. This is an exceptional vintage from Chardonnay picked at their peak ripeness. The pale yellow color shows hints of green with a bouquet of green apple, followed by citrus, lemon and grapefruit and, after aeration, more subtle notes of pear and kiwi. The mouth is complex and fresh with pronounced minerality and displays fine, active bubbles. This vintage should age far over twenty years. *(THB8,900)*



CHAMPAGNE
DELAMOTTE
FRANCE

