

## PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS

**Laure Bijot** is an interior designer who is passionate about her work, graduating at the top of her class in 1991 and gaining OPQAI status in 2000. She has worked for a number of architectural practices in Auvergne, Saône et Loire and Normandy before joining the APO agency in Reims. She has been working there at the heart of a multi-disciplinary team for over 16 years. As a specialist in materials and colours, she has worked for professional experts as well as demanding private clients.

**Bruno Veauvy** is a Franco-Brazilian architect. His project approach is based on a rigorous observation of the context and dialogue with the customers. He holds a degree in architecture from Campinas University (Brazil), Turin Polytechnic University (Italy) and is HMNOP architect of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles. His professional portfolio includes work in the residential and museum fields, between contemporary architecture and heritage.

**Luigi La Ferla** is a mosaic artist originally from Sicily, now residing in Paris. His astonishing and original mosaic work gives a unique texture to his creations, which he designs with a painterly sense of style. The play of light and shadow and the rhythm that he breathes into his materials have led him to recognition in the field of contemporary mosaics across the globe, from Paris to Los Angeles and from Rome to Versailles. For the Champagne Bollinger *La Réserve* project, he offers a liberal interpretation of the themes of champagne and its production, telling the story of this exceptional wine from the soil to the effervescence of the bubbles.

# GALERIE | 1829

## LA RÉSERVE



## CONTACT

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Serve cool and open gently. Contains sulphites. 

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY.

CHAMPAGNE  
**BOLLINGER**  
MAISON FONDÉE EN 1829

# ■ SHOWCASING OUR LEGACY ■

## HOW THE PROJECT WAS BORN



In 2010, whilst taking an inventory of the House cellars, an abandoned wine cellar containing bottles and magnums of reserve wines was discovered. It was clear from the outset that they were very old. Hidden behind a wall of empty bottles, this forgotten cellar had miraculously preserved small wooden panels used to identify the bottles. We were then able to use the inscriptions on them to determine the origins and vintage of certain batches, for example an 1886 Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, an 1893 Verzenay and even a 1914 Aÿ.

With the help of some archive research carried out that same year, other mysterious inscriptions gradually began to make sense, revealing the true extent of this discovery. Indeed, the wine archives enabled us to unveil the exact meaning of the inscription “CB 14” – an 1830 vintage! With the foundation of the House dating back to 1829, this is a real treasure for Champagne Bollinger. It was from here that the idea of showcasing this extraordinary legacy was born.



## UNDERSTANDING THE HOUSE LEGACY

In 2012, under the guidance of Cellar Master Gilles Descôtes, the House embarked upon a vast restoration project, aiming to save these rare old wines. With all of the bottles originating from different cellars - some of which were more forgotten than others – the state of preservation was somewhat varied. Nevertheless, over 4,000 bottles were successfully and meticulously restored in the end. From changing corks and wire caps to disgorgement, each bottle required special attention. Having been aged for over fifty years, some bottles needed flying disgorgement, in order to restore the natural cork and its traditional staple, still used by Bollinger to this day. To judge whether flying disgorgement was required and better understand and preserve this legacy, an innovative tool known as a laser aphrometer was used to measure the pressure inside the bottles without opening them.



This major project has taken three whole years and a lot of dedication to complete. In addition to preserving these exceptional bottles, it has furthermore enabled us to better understand the history of the House, its winemaking traditions and unmistakable style, which still survive to this day. The oenology team have tasted and analysed over 150 wines, found in bottles, magnums or jeroboams. This extraordinary organoleptic library, encapsulated in the Bollinger House historic archives, has revealed the origin of certain practices, in addition to shedding light on their contribution to the unique Champagne Bollinger style.

Hidden behind our prized reserve magnums, one of the five pillars of the Bollinger style, is a tradition dating back to 1892 - the year in which they were first used in the blend of non-vintage cuvées. More than 120 years later, Special Cuvée still proves a worthy successor, with over 50% of reserve wines in its blend, at least 10% of which are stored in magnums – a rarity for Champagne. The collection of the vintage wines reconstructed likewise fostered a better understanding of the three main “terroirs” of the House, namely Aÿ, Verzenay and Cuis.

*“The in-depth analysis performed on all of the wines now being presented in the wine libraries and our very rich and comprehensive House archives has helped us enormously in furthering our understanding of the unique and inimitable style of Champagne Bollinger.”*

**Gilles Descôtes**, Cellar Master

## GALERIE 1829



Having successfully restored these old vintages, Champagne Bollinger will unveil *Galerie 1829* and *La Réserve* - two new wine libraries in June 2016. It hopes to share the legacy it has preserved over the course of the centuries.

**Galerie 1829** will showcase old Bollinger wines preserved since the House was founded in 1829. The spotlight will shine particularly brightly on the vintage Bollinger R.D. collection, created in 1952, in addition to the vintage Vieilles Vignes Françaises collection, developed since 1969 and the red wine collection. All of the House’s oldest wines pre-dating 1952 are preserved and displayed at the back of the gallery.

**La Réserve** will showcase the very foundations of Bollinger style - our reserve magnums. Preserved grape by grape and vintage by vintage, this collection of over 3,000 magnums is completely unique to the Champagne region. Emphasising this tradition, which is nowadays exclusive in the area, makes it possible to better understand the complexity and richness of the process used to make this exceptional wine. *La Réserve* will take you back on a journey through time, as you discover rich, powerful aromas that will awaken your senses, just as they have refined the taste of our products for over a century.

These remarkable collections, preserved in two made-to-measure galleries located in the historic cellars of Aÿ House, pay tribute to our rich heritage. Their purpose is not commercial, but to celebrate our legacy. Some racks have been intentionally left empty so that some bottles of each vintage can be preserved at the side of the greatest vintages to have been produced over the past two centuries. Indeed, Champagne Bollinger strives to preserve its legacy, whilst enriching it in preparation for the future.



*“We are proud and humbled to present our two wine libraries, “Galerie 1829” and “La Réserve”, that bring together wines from over 65 different vintages, all produced by our House since its creation in 1829.”*

**Jérôme Philippon**, President of Champagne Bollinger



## THE BOLLINGER WINE LIBRARIES IN FIGURES

3 years of restoration and cataloguing of vintage wines  
4,000 restored bottles  
150 wines tasted during the restoration period

### Galerie 1829

7,330 containers (in bottle, magnum and jeroboam format)  
65 different vintages  
The oldest wine found dates back to 1830 (one year after the House was founded)

### La Réserve

3,125 containers  
45 different vintages  
16 different crus