

fine wine March 2007

INSPIRATIONAL WINE KNOWLEDGE AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE DRINK

Unique and refreshing Chablis



THE VILLAGE CHABLIS, BOURGOGNE, AND THE LES CLOS GRAND CRU VINEYARD SEEN FROM TOP OF THE HILL



MICHEL LAROCHE, OWNER AND WINE MAKER OF DOMAINE MICHEL LAROCHE, CHABLIS, BOURGOGNE

THE VILLAGE CHABLIS itself is insignificant but quite rare, with a little more than 2000 inhabitants. You can easily spend a couple of nights here, because there are at least four excellent restaurants and one luxury hotel, not bad for a village. In the middle of the town we find the family business Domaine Laroche, to be more exact in one of the oldest houses of all, the beautiful old monastery l'Obédiencerie. Michel Laroche took over the family business, as

the head of the fifth generation, in the year of 1967. Back then it consisted of 6 hectare vineyards. It was a time when Chablis, as a wine district, was faced with big changes and Michel, then a newly graduated oenologist, had big plans for how to develop the property. His goals were to change, improve, and not the least, increase the volume. You can not say anything other than he was successful, because now he owns 130 hectares in Chablis and in addition 30 hectares in Languedoc (and a number of hectares in South Africa and in Chile). And he is still expanding. Right opposite l'Obédiencerie, Laroche recently opened a wine store and restaurant where you can taste Laroche wines from all over the world.