



Since September 2017, there is another Cristal: Vinothèque! With only “a few bottles” released in a few, hand-selected markets, the “other Cristal” is more than the late-release edition of Cristal. In fact, it has been 20 years in the making: 14 years sur latte and seven years sur bouchon. “Twenty or so years is a good time lapse to show the best of Cristal,” says cellar master Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon, who adds a significantly lower dosage to the Vinothèque than he did for the original Cristal.

—Stephan Reinhardt, *The Wine Advocate* 

In 1876, Tsar Alexander II—already a great lover of Louis Roederer wines—asked Louis Roederer to ‘take the exercise still further’ and create a cuvée for his personal use which was unique, in terms of both its style and the bottle. Louis Roederer offered him an exceptional crystal bottle, holding the fruit of vines selected from the seven great crus on his estate. The Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes provide the subtle, precise balance that has now become synonymous with the leading prestige cuvée of Champagne, composed of Grand Crus from the Montagne de Reims, the Marne Valley and the Côte des Blancs.

Cristal Vinothèque radiates the notes of the original Cristal, as well as notes of iodine, salinity and a surprising youthfulness. Not quite the same, but not really different either. More “Cristal” than ever. At the end of a long meditation lasting two decades, combined with late disgorgement and fine-tuning to the point of perfect equilibrium, it emerges as a fresh perspective of champagne, an even more perfect and exciting vision.

Cristal Vinothèque 2000



VARIETALS
58% PINOT NOIR
42% CHARDONNAY

95
POINTS


WINE ADVOCATE

Disgorged four years ago, with four grams per liter dosage, after a decade sur lattes and six years sur pointes, the 2000 Cristal Vinothèque bursts with notes of golden orchard fruit, mandarin, white flowers and iodine. Full-bodied, ample and powerful, with a deep and layered core, lively acids and a beautifully pearly mousse, it’s a long, sapid Champagne that’s showing very well today. As Lécaillon observes, the Vinothèque is the house’s riposte to “everyone who says Cristal is released too young—with the Vinothèque releases, we’ve exaggerated the aging process to make Cristal more powerful and more dramatic.” And this release is certainly a formidable effort in a vintage impacted by hail in the Montagne de Reims.

95
POINTS


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Very fine bubbles and a gold color with a tinge of orange. Aromas of pie crust, cooked apple, honey, dried apple and pear crumble follow through to a full-bodied palate with a soft and round texture. This is silky and very rich and flavorful. It’s showing its age now, with toffee, biscuit and hints of candied walnut in the aftertaste. This is a Champagne that’s showing age and complexity now. Drink now.

Cristal Rosé Vinothèque 2000



VARIETALS
56% PINOT NOIR
44% CHARDONNAY

96
POINTS


WINE ADVOCATE

The 2000 Cristal Rosé Vinothèque is similarly striking, soaring from the glass with notes of confit orange and stone fruit mingled with honeycomb, freshly baked bread and subtle hints of fresh field mushrooms. Full-bodied, vinous and multidimensional, it’s ample and layered, with a concentrated core of fruit, lively acids and a long, sapid finish. It’s a remarkable wine in its prime today.

