

# CHAMPAGNE AYALA

Long known as the "sleeping beauty of Champagne" because of its prominence in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century.



## Le Blanc de Blancs 2016

Champagne, France

### ESTATE

Ayala is one of the most exciting stories in Champagne today, and the definition of a boutique Champagne producer. This historic house has been rivitalized by a small, young and dynamic team that handles every step of production, from grape reception to labeling, in their jewel of a facility. Ayala crafts Chardonnay-focused wines that deliver immense precision, elegance and pleasure.

### WINE

Ayala's Le Blanc de Blancs is 100% Chardonnay, produced in small quantities in exceptional years only and fully expresses the superb caliber of great Chardonnay from the best Crus of the Côte des Blancs. It is truly a unique vintage offering.

### VINEYARD

Ayala owns 35 acres in Champagne. Thanks to its privileged location in the heart of the Grand Crus of Montagne de Reims and its link to Champagne Bollinger, the House has unique access to top quality grapes. The 2016 vintage is sourced from Grand Cru and Premier Cru villages (Chouilly, Cramant, Cuis, Graves and Oger).

*Farming:* Ayala encourages their growers to use organic fertilizers and avoid insecticides, herbicides and pesticides.

### WINEMAKING

*Variety:* 100% Chardonnay

*Fermentation:* Everything from grape reception to vinification, aging, riddling and disgorgement is done in the traditional method at the Ayala cellars, allowing for an intense focus on freshness and precision.

*Aging:* 6 years on the lees after disgorgement to develop complexity, intensity and roundness on the palate.

*Dosage:* 5 g/L

*Alcohol:* 12.0%

### VINTAGE

2016 was a year of extreme weather in the Champagne region. After a sunny fall and a mild winter, the spring was cool and extremely wet. The scorching temperatures in the summer enabled the grapes to attain a nice balance and full maturity resulting in a magnificent harvest, yielding beautifully balanced Chardonnay wines with great aging potential.

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**JAMES SUCKLING.COM** 

"This is really delicious, with buttered-brioche and bread-dough character. It's full bodied but not heavy. Just rich and plush. Creamy and round-textured. Extremely long aftertaste. Pure chardonnay." - J.S 8/23

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Wine Enthusiast

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