

Vilmart & Cie NV Grande Réserve **89 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2025

The NV Grande Réserve is a super-attractive entry-level Champagne from Vilmart. All the house signatures are in place, most notably an extreme textural finesse – all in an airy, light to mid-weight Champagne that hits all the right notes. Sweet floral, spice and toast notes grace the soft, open-knit finish. The current release is based on vintages 2014 and 2013. Dosage is 9 grams per liter. Disgorged October 2016.

Vilmart & Cie NV Cuvée Grand Cellier **90 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2025

The NV Grand Cellier is soft, open-knit and creamy, but as always done in the restrained, mid-weight style that is the house signature. Lemon confit, white flowers and mint open up first, followed by bright, chalky notes that extend the finish. This is a terrific showing from the Grand Cellier. This release is based on 2013, with reserve wines from 2012 and 2011. Dosage is 9 grams per liter. Disgorged December 2015.

Vilmart & Cie 2012 Cuvée Grand Cellier d'Or **91+ pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2027

Vilmart's 2012 Grand Cellier d'Or is bold, racy and seductive, with all of the radiance of the vintage very much in evidence. Lemon confit, jasmine, vanillin, herbs and dried flowers are all pushed forward. Expressive and inviting, the 2012 will drink well with minimal cellaring. Even so, my impression is that the 2012 will be a bit more giving with further time in bottle. Dosage is 8 grams per liter. Disgorged June 2016.

Vilmart & Cie 2011 Cuvée Grand Cellier d'Or **91 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2023

The 2011 Grand Cellier d'Or is an unqualified success for a year that gave so many growers fits. Soft, open-knit and inviting, the 2011 possesses lovely balance and class. The aromatics are a bit diffuse and also forward, which suggests the 2011 won't be an especially long-lived wine, yet all the elements are very nicely balanced. Most importantly, there are no signs of the greenness that plagues many 2011s. Those notes may show up in time, so I would not push my luck in cellaring the 2011 for more than a few years. Lemon confit, dried flowers, chamomile and sage linger in the background. Dosage is 8 grams per liter. Disgorged November 2015.

Vilmart & Cie 2009 Coeur de Cuvée **94 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2019 – 2029

A racy, exuberant wine, the 2009 Coeur de Cuvée offers up a super-appealing mélange of apricot, butter, baked apple tart and vanillin. The combination of the ripe, warm vintage along with fermentation and aging in small French oak barrels yielded an especially opulent Coeur de Cuvée with plenty of exotic and tropical overtones. The 2009 will be ready to drink with minimal cellaring. Disgorged March 2016. Dosage is 8 grams per liter.

Vilmart & Cie 2006 Coeur de Cuvée **95 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling White wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2026

The 2006 Coeur de Cuvée is just starting to enter the early part of its plateau of maturity. Lemon confit, apricot, spice and lightly toasted notes give the wine much of its aromatic and flavor complexity. The 2006 was quite powerful at the outset, but over time it has become much more finessed and nuanced. I would prefer to drink it over the next decade or so. This is a terrific showing. Disgorged July 2013.

Vilmart & Cie NV Brut Rosé Cuvée Rubis **92 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling Rosé wine from France
Drinking window: 2018 – 2022

The NV Cuvée Rubis is pretty and nicely lifted, with plenty of cranberry, chalk and white flower nuances. Understated and polished to the core, the Cuvée Rubis is done in a brisk, taut style built on persistence and energy. Drink this understated, classy Rosé over the next few years. This release is based in 2012, with a touch of 2013. Dosage is 10 grams per liter. Disgorged October 2015.

Vilmart & Cie 2010 Grand Cellier Rubis **93 pts**

Rilly La Montagne, Champagne
Sparkling Rosé wine from France
Drinking window: 2017 – 2025

A classy, understated wine, the 2010 Grand Cellier Rubis offers striking depth and nuance. Now, nearly two and half years after its disgorgement, the 2010 is just starting to open up aromatically. The Rubis is deceptively medium in body, yet it possesses notable drive. There is plenty of depth in the glass, but it is more implied than overtly stated. The Rubis is 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay. Dosage is 8 grams per liter. Disgorged November, 2014.