

History of the Trimbach Family, winemakers since 1626 in Alsace, France.



THE TRIMBACH FAMILY

The viticultural origin of the Trimbach family dates back to 1626, when Jean Trimbach, who had come from Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, was recognised as a citizen of Riquewihr. From then on, the Trimbachs became renowned for their wine-growing.

In fact, Jean-Jacques Trimbach, born in Riquewihr on the 6th February 1633, and later his son Jean, born on the 18th March 1677, were successively mayor of the little village.

The next Jean-Jacques Trimbach, born in 1750, decided to become a master cooper - an activity which fitted in admirably with the viticultural vocation of the family.

The family tree continues with Jean-Louis Trimbach, born on the 12th May 1783, whose son Jean-Frédéric, born on the 18th June 1811 took an important position in what used to be called the wine „gourmetage” in the village of Hunawehr, well known for its excellent wines and especially for

its Rieslings. The transfer of his activities to Hunawehr dates back to the 1840's. He was the mayor of the village for many years.

His oldest son, Frédéric-Emile, born in Riquewihr on the 20th December 1839, stepped into his shoes in Hunawehr. Frédéric-Emile really developed the business on the lines of the present House of Trimbach. He gave the Firm his two initials „F.E.” which have been kept ever since.

The highest quality certificate given to Mr. F.E. Trimbach for his wines at the international show of Brussels in 1898 testifies to their already established prestige. Frédéric-Emile was also mayor of Hunawehr for many years.

To extend the business his son Frédéric-Théodore, born in Hunawehr on the 5th November 1875, transferred the Trimbach firm to the medieval town of Ribeauvillé soon after World War I. He was one of the founders of the wine-growers and merchants' Association and one of the first promoters of Alsatian wine. As an outstanding taster, his judgment was sought after in the whole Alsatian wine-growing area.

The House of Trimbach is still at Ribeauvillé, directed by the two grandsons of Frédéric-Théodore, Bernard and Hubert, since their father's untimely death in 1945. Bernard and Hubert are very ably following in the footsteps of their ancestors - their dual aim is maintaining their firm's reputation for high quality Alsatian wines and extending the sales of Trimbach wines both in France and overseas.

Their specialization in high quality will guarantee the prosperity of the firm as their reputation is based on the finest quality - a fact which is demonstrated by the many prizes won by the Trimbach family for its wines and especially for the „Clos Sainte-Hune” which is rightly named the „King of the Riesling”.

This vineyard is unique by reason of its soil, its climate and its southern aspect on the best slope of Hunawehr. It contributes to the pride of the Family as well as the very rare collection of Alsatian wines of the 19th century, of which the oldest are of the 1834 vintage.

