

# Champagne Lilbert-Fils Cramant



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*The style here is chiseled and intensely flavored, invariably rewarding bottle age, and Lilbert enjoys a discreet celebrity among savvy collectors.*

–William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, December 2023

*This winemaker of great tradition has long been the reference point for grand cru Cramant.*

–Bettane & Desseauve

*Lilbert makes classic Côte des Blancs champagnes of great purity, finesse and expression. They emphasize a brisk raciness and intensely chalky minerality, and while both the Perle and the vintage wine demonstrate the intensity and complex depth of old-vine chardonnay, they are focused much more on elegance and harmony than on power. The only problem with these wines is finding them, as the tiny production is eagerly snapped up upon release by a near-cult following of clientele around the world.*

–Peter Liem, Champagne Guide 2014

## Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs NV

*(50% 2019, 50% reserve wine, disgorged spring 2022, dosage 3 g/L, 12%). As is consistently the case with this wine, the nose is airy and almost delicate with its softly yeasty aromas of Granny Smith apples, lemon-lime and a floral top note. The ultra-fine if firm mousse contributes to the impression of refinement on the equally pure middle weight flavors that terminate in a clean, dry and delicious but not really austere finale. This is lovely.*

92 pts–Allen Meadows, Burghound #94, April 2024

The following have also reviewed this wine:

- 91 pts- William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, December 2023
- 90+ pts- John Gilman, View from the Cellar, January-February 2023
- 91 pts- John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-June 2022
- 92 pts- Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media, November 2021
- 93 pts- Alison Napjus, The Wine Spectator, November 2020
- 92 pts– Wine & Spirits, December 2020
- 92 pts– International Wine Review, January/February 2020
- 92 pts- Allen Meadows, Burghound, October 2019
- 91+ pts- John Gilman, A View from the Cellar #81, May-June 2019
- 92 pts- William Kelley, Wine Advocate, April 2019
- 91 pts- Allen Meadows, Burghound #72, October 2018
- 90 pts- Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media, November 2018
- 92 pts- The Wine Spectator, November 2018
- 90 pts- John Gilman, View from the Cellar #76, July-August 2018

## **Blanc de Blancs “Perle” NV**

*(75% 2017, 25% 2016, disgorged winter 2021, dosage 3 g/L, 12%). While not quite as airy or elegant, there is better layering to the wafting nose that is comprised by aromas that include the essence of green apple, spice, more obvious yeast and a whiff of lemon zest. There is better volume and mid-palate density to the relatively powerful flavors that deliver slightly better length and notably better depth on the clean and equally dry finish. Lovely and note that this could easily be enjoyed now. With that said, I would be inclined to cellar this for a few more years first.*

**93 pts**– Allen Meadows, Burghound #94, April 2024

The following have also reviewed this wine:

- 92 pts– William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, December 2023
- 92+ pts– John Gilman, View from the Cellar, January-February 2023
- 92 pts– Wine & Spirits, Winter 2022
- 94 pts– Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media, November 2021
- 92 pts– William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, April 2020
- 92+ pts– John Gilman, A View from the Cellar #81, May-June 2019
- 93 pts– William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, April 2019
- 92 pts– Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media, November 2018
- 93 pts– Allen Meadows, Burghound #72, October 2018
- 92 pts– John Gilman, A View from the Cellar, #76, July-August 2018

## **Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Cramant 2018**

*Disgorged a few months before I tasted it with three grams per liter dosage, the 2018 Grand Cru Cramant Blanc de Blancs is dominated in its composition by a parcel of 87-year-old vines in Cramant. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of sweet yellow orchard fruit, green apple, white flowers and pastry cream, it's medium to full-bodied, bright and chalky, with racy acids and a pillowy mousse. This dependably long-lived bottling invariably delivers considerably more complexity with extended bottle age.*

**93+ pts**– William Kelley, The Wine Advocate, December 2023