Champagne Lilbert-Fils
Cramant

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

(100% chardonnay, 50% 2021, 50% reserve wine, disgorged autumn 2024, dosage 3 g/L). An expressive and wonderfully layered nose is at once elegant and inviting with its fresh and cool aromas of yeast, Granny Smith apple, quinine and floral top notes. The super-sleek and almost painfully intense flavors enjoy a firm but fine effervescence that adds a real sense of lift to the bone-dry and sneaky long finale. For my taste this would benefit from additional aging and thus I would be inclined to cellar it for another 2 to 5 years first. Good stuff that should only get better with time in bottle. 2028+

92 pts–Allen Meadows, Burghound #104, October 2026

The following have also reviewed this wine:

92 pts–John Gilman, View from the Cellar, March-April 2025
90 pts- Kristaps Karklins, The Wine Advocate, November 2024
92 pts- Allen Meadows, Burghound #94, April 2024
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

Blanc de Blancs “Perle” NV

I love Bertrand Lilbert’s old vine Perle bottling, which is now made exclusively from fruit grown in his home village of Cramant. The vins clairs for this wine see an extended élevage and the current release is from the base year of 2019. However, the base year only comprises one-third of the cuvée, with the balance one-third each of 2018 juice and older reserve wines. It was disgorged in the spring of 2024 and finished with a dosage of three grams per liter. The wine delivers a beautiful bouquet of pear, apple, chalky minerality, fresh-baked bread, dried flowers and plenty of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is crisp, seamless and full-bodied, with a lovely core of fruit, superb mineral drive and grip, elegant mousse and a long, complex and impeccably balanced finish. Because this wine sees an extended élevage and is bottled with a bit lower pressure than most Champagne (four bars versus a customary six bars), it is already quite drinkable, despite its quite modest dosage. That said, it will certainly blossom and add more generosity and complexity with some time in the cellar. Fine juice. 2025-2055.

93+ pts– John Gilman, View from the Cellar, March-April 2025

The following have also reviewed this wine

93 pts– Audrey Frick, jebdunnuck.com, December 2024
91 pts– Kristaps Karklins, The Wine Advocate, November 2024
93 pts– John Gilman, View from the Cellar, September-October 2024
93 pts– Alllen Meadows, Burghound #94, April 2024
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- Willliam Kelley, The Wine Advocate, April 2020

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 invariable delivers considerably more complexity with extended bottle age.

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

Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Cramant 2017

Released after the 2018 vintage, Lilbert’s 2017 Blanc de Blancs Cramant Grand Cru was disgorged in June 2024 with three grams per liter dosage. Issuing from two old-vine parcels—one planted in 1936 (dominating the blend with about 75%) and the other in 1955 —this is a considerable effort from a vintage that Bertrand describes as “a year where two-thirds of wines in Champagne, mainly from red grapes, delivered mediocre results, often with a taint of champignon de Paris, but Chardonnays from grands crus performed very well.” Soaring from the glass with aromas of toasted nuts, dried white flowers, spices and peach, it is medium to full-bodied and layered, underpinned by racy acids and concluding with saline finish.

92 pts– Kristaps Karklins, The Wine Advocate, November 2024