



## **JEAN HUGEL – A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY**

**Born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1924, Jean Hugel (or "Johnny" as he is popularly known), has never restrained his irrepressible energy and volubility of the so-called "Hugel Bugle", who has galvanised whole generations of the Wine Trade, and spread the word about fine Alsace wines all over the world.**

**Married to Simone, Jean has two daughters and 4 grand-children. He holds a Masters Degree in Agronomy from the University of Montpellier, and confides that because his number one hobby is work, he has always been lucky enough to devote himself to what he likes to do the most, in other words, tending his vineyards and trying to produce the best possible wines from the grapes that Nature gives him.**

**Before he "officially" retired in 1997, Jean shared the operational responsibilities of the family company with his two brothers, concentrating mainly on the vineyards, the all-important vinification and, as he puts it, "transmitting the Hugel virus to wine lovers" across the globe. The next generation of the family, the twelfth in direct line, Jean-Philippe, Marc and Etienne, has now taken over the reins.**

**At the request of the French Government, Jean Hugel was the founder-president of the Alsace Grand Cru commission, which was appointed to define the precise boundaries of the Alsace vineyards that had traditionally produced the finest wines. Their pioneering work led to the creation of the present Alsace Grand Cru system, albeit in a somewhat less elaborate form than he first envisaged.**

**Jean Hugel was also the guiding force behind the preparation and introduction of the French law governing the production of the rare Alsace late-harvest wines: "Vendanges Tardives" and "Sélections de Grains Nobles". This incidentally is the strictest and most rigorously enforced wine law yet in place anywhere in Europe, and one that is so logical and transparent that cheating is impossible.**

**Awarded the Ordre du Mérite by the French Government, and promoted to Officier du Mérite Agricole for services to winegrowing and the successful promotion of his wines worldwide, Jean Hugel has been honoured with numerous national and international awards. He is a former Grand-Maître of the Confrérie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace, and a former President of the International Wine & Spirit Competition. A member of the Académie du Vin de France, he was also awarded the Catherine de Medici Prize for services to Oenology.**

**Over the past 370 years in Riquewihr, at the heart of the Alsace vineyards, the Hugel family has endured every troubled period of history that brought destruction to this pretty province of France. Each generation has picked up the pieces and started again. Jean Hugel continued the traditional work of his ancestors with pride and enthusiasm.**