



ENGRAVED ON MY HEART.

## The faces of Valais – June.

Line Dorsaz, flag-bearer of Valais – and of Switzerland, in a way – at the Fête des Vignerons.

Line Dorsaz will be the proud ambassador of Valais at the Fête des Vignerons taking place this summer in Vevey. The young winegrower from Fully, who was only 2 years old when the last edition was staged in 1999, is taking on the role of official flag-bearer for the whole duration of the event. Under the gaze of spectators from all over the world, she hopes to draw attention to her profession as well as showcase the many different grape varieties of Valais. She also wishes to encourage all cantons to work hand-in-hand to make Swiss wines known across the globe.

When she was little, Line Dorsaz dreamed of becoming a radio presenter. She became a winegrower. What appealed to her about radio was being able to tell stories about her region – her *terroir*. She has ended up expressing her talent through her hands rather than her voice. Instead of caressing the ears of listeners, she caresses the taste buds of wine enthusiasts. Her goal is achieved: she is saying things about her land through her profession. When she explains, for example, why her favourite wine is Humagne rouge, you can almost taste her words: *«I love this variety. It's a bit wild, but fairly easy to tame. It demands attention on the vine and in the cellar. It's a bit like mountain people, especially the people of Valais. It has character but it's also very pleasant.»*

### Vines and wines: a family story

With a nurseryman for a grandfather and a winegrower for a father, Line was born with green fingers. The young winemaker loves working the land – in fact she prefers to be called a farmer. She pampers and coaxes the vines for them to produce the finest grapes and the best wines. With her father, she has set up a project to open a small family cellar. Together, they cultivate ancient grape varieties that are native or that have a history linked to the region: Goron de Bovernier, for example, Petite Arvine, Païen, Diolinoir and Durize (also called Rouge de Fully). This year, for the first time, they are producing about 1,500 bottles. Her goal with this project is to showcase the work of the winegrowers. *«You can work on a thousand different factors taking care of the plants or the soil to get an exceptional harvest. After the work on the vines, you can follow your product in the cellar and see the people who are going to taste it and appreciate it. As they savour the wine they'll encounter the work on the vines, the place where they grow, the character and the special touch of the winegrower. He or she works a bit in the background but has the most important role of all. If you don't have a good harvest, you'll never make a good wine,»* she says proudly.



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**«For me, being a winegrower is all about working with other winegrowers.»**

When she was asked to put her work aside for a few weeks to represent Valais at the next Fête des Vignerons, Line Dorsaz did not take long to make up her mind. To help her decide, she even consulted the Valais flag-bearer from the last Fête des Vignerons, who simply replied: *«Go for it!»* Line Dorsaz explains: *«For me, this will be the chance to represent the colours of Switzerland's largest wine-growing canton and to say what I think about winegrowing and the way we perceive it today, in a broad sense. I will be able to showcase my profession and, in a way, thank the people who have helped me get here. It is also the chance for us all to come together, we Swiss, to show the whole world the diversity of our grape varieties. We have to sell a dream. And that dream is that each time you drink a sip of Swiss wine, you enjoy a unique experience. We don't really have the choice, we have to work hand-in-hand.»* This will be the perfect opportunity for Line Dorsaz to do that, because in 2019, for the first time, the Fête des Vignerons is inviting all the cantons of Switzerland to Vevey to present their region. The Valais day is on Friday, 26 July 2019.

*Would you like to know more? We will happily give you further information or organise an interview for you with Line Dorsaz.*