

Le Vigneron

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du Val de Loire

» EQUIPMENT NEWS

A monster made in Chalonnnes



14 meters long, 5 meters high, 5 meters wide and 27 tons. This is the latest press coming out of the production line at Bucher Vaslin and it is off the scale.

It can contain 750hl of fruit, the equivalent of a 15 to 20 hectare Loire Valley vineyard harvest in one single press load. The press has been ordered by the Gallo family in the USA for their production site in California. Once dismantled, the monster will be shipped by sea and will arrive on the American con-

tinent in May. There it will be reassembled by the Franco American team.

For the Chalonnnes factory this is the second time that a press of this size is making the news. In 2007 the company had delivered a press of equivalent size to Australia.

Before the departure of the press, Bucher Vaslin, world leader in press market, invited a hundred guests, amongst them many wine growers, to visit the factory which counts 280 employees.

This was the opportunity to explain that all is ma-

chined, manufactured and assembled on site in Chalonnnes sur Loire. The wiring, the electrical cabinet, the press membranes... just about everything is done internally. "From A to Z we want to control the production" insists Corinne Delpy, Marketing Manager. Living proof that Industry can still have a place in France...

A success which comes from working on innovation. 10% of all personnel is dedicated to Research and development and design. "We also have inventors who

come to us with new ideas. This is how we have created a vertical press for the red wines called JLB, the initials of its creator. We have then developed it with him."

Every year the factory produces about 1,000 machines, a majority of presses, but also filters, sorting tables..., with 66% sold to export markets. Bucher Vaslin runs sales operations in Italy, Chile, USA and Australia. The company works with 60 dealerships in France.

» Patrick Touchais