



# COGNAC PRUNIER

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## PRUNIER AGE STATEMENT COGNACS – INFORMATION PACK

### The Prunier-Burnez Family

*Tracing the family history in the cognac trade back to 1701, the family owning and managing the business has now entered its 11<sup>th</sup> generation.*

The first member of the family to work in the cognac trade was Jean Prunier (1665-1732), a “freeman” of La Rochelle, the main port in those days, and renowned cognac expert, who began shipping wine and cognac across the world from around 1700.

For a century and a half the family remained in La Rochelle where Jean was succeeded in the business by his son Gabriel Prunier (1711-1790) and his grandson Jean Prunier (1741-1804).

François Prunier (1768-1843), the fourth generation, began to acquire vineyards in the Cognac district around St-Jean-d’Angély in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, leading him to envisage moving the family and business to the town of Cognac itself.

This move was finalised in 1850 by his son Jean Prunier (1816-1872) who built the premises where the Firm still stands today.

Jean had three sons : the first, Alphonse Prunier (1850-1918) became head of the family and took charge of the general management of the company in Cognac.

The second son, Marcel Prunier (1860-1916) lived in Central Europe where he acted for the Maison Prunier, spending most of his time between the capitals of Vienna and Moscow.

The third son, Gaston Prunier moved to Australia where he established a branch of the company based in Melbourne.

Alphonse Prunier died in 1918 leaving the family with no direct descendants. His widow, Camille, therefore called upon her nephew, Jean Burnez (1897-1969) who took over the management of the company.



**Jean Prunier (1816-1872)**

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Jean's son Claude Burnez (1927-2011) succeeded his father as head of the company before handing over management to his wife Susan Burnez in 1987.

Since 2009, Claude's son Stéphane Burnez has ensured the continuity in this family company, joined in 2016 by his daughter Alice, the 11th generation (pictured).



**Stéphane and Alice Burnez**

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