

Hennessy

HENNESSY COMMEMORATES THE ARRIVAL OF ITS 8th GENERATION OF MASTER BLENDERS

A special series by award-winning Belgian photographer Carl de Keyzer captures the Maison Hennessy's 250-year legacy of transmitting savoir-faire and passion.

In February 2016, the Maison Hennessy proudly announced the arrival of Renaud Fillioux de Gironde, its 8th generation Master Blender. Renaud Fillioux de Gironde is to succeed his uncle, 7th-generation Master Blender Yann Fillioux, following 14 years of apprenticeship. For the occasion, Hennessy revealed Yann Fillioux's last masterpiece, Hennessy•8, a blend of 8 eaux-de-vie representing 200 years of uninterrupted legacy.

"Honoring a legacy is about passing on what we do best, the best of what we have in us," noted Yann Fillioux upon the presentation of Hennessy•8.

The announcement of Renaud Fillioux de Gironde as the Maison Hennessy's 8th generation Master Blender follows a worldwide celebration of the house's 250th anniversary. With the passing of the torch, the Maison Hennessy upholds a legacy dating back to 1765 and prepares to open a fresh new chapter in its history. In due course, once he officially assumes his new role as the "Guardian of the Temple", Renaud Fillioux de Gironde will build on the vision of his predecessors to create Hennessy cognacs of the future, passing along his passion and experience in turn.

"HOW TO BECOME A MASTER BLENDER": A SERIES OF PORTRAITS

To commemorate this milestone event, Hennessy commissioned the award-winning Belgian photographer Carl de Keyzer to document key moments in the process of acquiring a Master Blender's savoir-faire.

Composed around the theme of "How to Become a Master Blender", this exclusive series of eight black and white portraits shows Yann Fillioux and Renaud Fillioux de Gironde within their work environment. In capturing the two Master Blenders in emblematic places at the Maison Hennessy — from vineyard to cellar and cellar master's office to the Tasting Committee — Carl de Keyzer offers a glimpse of a hallowed ritual. Above all, the photographer demonstrates the sharing of knowledge and complicity between uncle and nephew, one Master Blender to the other, in a striking and intimate way.

ABOUT CARL DE KEYZER

A member of the MAGNUM photo agency since 1994, the award-winning Belgian photographer Carl de Keyzer has taught in such prestigious institutions as the the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent (Belgium), where he lives. His work has been the subject of dozens of solo and group shows worldwide as well as numerous books and documentary films.

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ABOUT HENNESSY

In 2015, the Maison Hennessy celebrated 250 years of an exceptional adventure that has linked two families for seven generations, the Hennessys and the Fillioux, and spanned five continents. It began in the French region of Cognac, the seat from which the Maison has constantly passed down the best the land has to give, from one generation to the next. Such longevity is thanks to those people, past and present, who have ensured Hennessy's success both locally and around the world. Hennessy's success and longevity are also the result of the values the Maison has upheld since its creation: unique savoir-faire, a constant quest for innovation, and an unwavering commitment to Creation, Excellence, Legacy, and Sustainable Development. Today, these qualities are the hallmark of the Maison – a crown jewel in the LVMH Group – that crafts one of the most iconic, prestigious Cognacs in the world.