An XO that is powerful yet tender, sensual and generous.

The attack is triumphant, with the mild and spicy aromas vying for supremacy. The extraordinarily long-lasting finish reveals all the complexity of the blend.

## MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE

## XO

## Data sheet

Min age: 10 years

Max age: 15 years

Average age: 12 years

Number of eaux-de-vie: 75

Crus: 50% Petite Champagne, 30 % Fins Bois,

20% Grande Champagne

The XO blend is crafted when new eaux-de-vie are selected.

The eaux-de-vie first spend 10 to 14 months in new oak casks (heavy toast). Next come 9 years of maturing in red (aged) casks.

The step-by-step ageing process gradually brings the alcohol content from  $55^{\circ}$ , when the spirit first goes into barrels, down to  $40^{\circ}$ . There are four ageing steps, with a tasting session at each phase  $(55^{\circ}, 47^{\circ}, 43^{\circ}, 40^{\circ})$ .

## The cellar-master's notes

• Bouquet: hazelnut, prune, cinnamon, coffee, caramelised orange, coffee-roasting notes, grilled almonds, white truffle, star anise, Sichuan pepper, ginger.

• PALATE: starts off powerfully and develops towards complexity and incomparable aromatic

FINISH: very long and intense, backed up by magnificent rancio notes.

