

LAY & WHEELER  
FINE WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1854

# Loire



2020 RELEASES

DECANTER'S LOIRE  
SPECIALIST OF 2019





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## Using this Guide

**W**e are thrilled to present the latest releases from the Loire Valley.

**The Loire is France's longest river**, and it covers quite a range of *terroirs*, and so here you'll find brilliant wines in many styles.

It is most often broken down into three areas, working inland from the Atlantic: fresh whites of **Muscadét** in the west, ageworthy Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc in **Anjou and Touraine**, and steely Sauvignon Blanc and fresh Pinot Noir of the **Central Vineyards** at the eastern end. That's where you'll find **Sancerre**, which is just 100 kilometres away from Chablis.

Many wine styles are produced in the Loire, so we have been careful to indicate which colour each wine is in this guide.

### Grapes & Maps

Given the wide range of varieties, we have included a guide to the key grapes, as well as a map of the region, to help bring this diversity to life.

### Prices

At the time of print, all prices are up to date, and quoted in bond. Any changes will be reflected on our website.

### Instagram

Our growers are generous with their social media presences, so we encourage you to follow them, and to see behind the scenes. We'd like to help you discover their accounts by indicating their handle, where applicable, next to this symbol. [ @laywheeler ]





# White Grapes



## Melon de Bourgogne

The star of Muscadet, this grape was first planted in Burgundy, hence its name. But it was ripped out in the 1700s, though not before it took hold in another important region: the Loire Valley. Its wines are dry, mineral and slightly yeasty, often best with a year or two of bottle age.

## Chenin Blanc

This grape's ability to find the perfect balance at a range of sweetness levels and its magnificent acidity are two good reasons why Vouvray and Savennières are considered amongst the most ageworthy whites in the world. Medium-bodied, with soaring acidity and tangy minerality, the best Chenin Blanc offers gorgeous aromas of honey and apples in dry, sweet and sparkling styles.



## Sauvignon Blanc

The steely, flinty wines of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé are considered the finest expression of Sauvignon Blanc in the world. This grape has, arguably more than any other, an ability to reveal *terroir* and vintage with such transparency. It thrives on the Kimmeridgian chalky soils and flinty sites found across the appellations of the Central Vineyards.



# Black Grapes



## Cabernet Franc

Although this grape is an integral component of many right bank Bordeaux wines, Cabernet Franc finds its fullest expression as a single variety in Chinon and Bourgueil. It often has a distinctive graphite and red raspberry aspect, with firm tannins, gorgeous aromas and an intensity of flavour that belies its elegance.

## Pinot Noir

The capricious-to-grow, notoriously challenging-to-vinify grape of Burgundy has long been planted in the Central Vineyards of Sancerre, yet it is only in recent years that the wines here have shaken off their image of slightly awkward, weak imitations, to emerge as genuinely delicious and attractive wines with a style all of their own: refreshing, juicy, and so drinkable.





# Region Report

**This is my first vintage as Loire buyer for Lay & Wheeler, and it's exciting to bring this fabulous range of wines to your door.**

The Loire Valley is a region close to my heart. I've been lucky enough to work two harvests in Sancerre, in 2014 and 2015, and even wrote my Master of Wine research paper on the vineyards of this beautiful appellation.



When I travelled along the length of the river in February this year, from Muscadet in the west to Pouilly-sur-Loire in the east, I was blown away by the friendliness and talent of each and every producer in our range: these are wines I'm now adding to my own cellar.

I'm also thrilled to make a few additions to the range, particularly in the area I know best, Sancerre, introducing the wines of Domaine Vincent Pinard and Domaine Paul Prieur. I hope you grow to love their wines as much as I do.

## **Dazzling diversity**

There is no region in the world that can rival the Loire Valley for diversity. The range of *terroirs*, grape varieties, microclimates, and local traditions have engendered a dazzling array of styles along the banks of France's longest river. No matter your preferences, there is sure to be something for you here.

This brochure offers wines from three fantastic vintages in the region: 2017, 2018, and 2019. It is hard to generalise in such a diverse region, but the good news is that all three are high quality, with particular highlights in the sweet white wines and

dry red wines of 2018, and the stunning dry whites of 2019. And where 2017s are available, their classical balance and poise with a few years in bottle make them quite irresistible. Don't miss them.

## **Superb in their youth, the wines of the Loire have serious cellaring potential we shouldn't forget**

One of the challenges facing this region is that its wines are so delicious in their youth, they often get drunk soon after bottling, and completely disappear from the market. Their affordability only exacerbates our propensity to pull the cork early on.

But anyone who has cellared a bottle of fine single vineyard Sancerre, or enjoyed the smoky tertiary notes of a mature Chinon, or the profound depth of a sweet old Vouvray, will tell you these wines are well worth the wait. Despite being one of the greatest wine regions in the world, its wines see little life on the secondary market. The only real opportunity to drink great old Loire wines comes about if you buy them young.



The relatively low prices of wines across the region in exchange for their huge quality make them an ideal starting point for anyone just beginning their cellar. A run of brilliant vintages coupled with advances in viticulture and winemaking practices means there has never been a better time to buy the wines of the Loire.

## **Exploring the range**

We have built a list that spans the length of the Loire Valley's wine growing regions, representing wines from all its best known appellations, including some of its finest growers.

But there are also plenty of surprises and new discoveries to be made. I had many such revelations during my trip earlier this year, my first with Lay & Wheeler, and I have since been filling my cellar with wines from the Loire.

More than anything, this is a fun region to explore. The wines are delicious and wide-ranging in style, fantastic value, and have never been of a higher quality. Get stuck in!

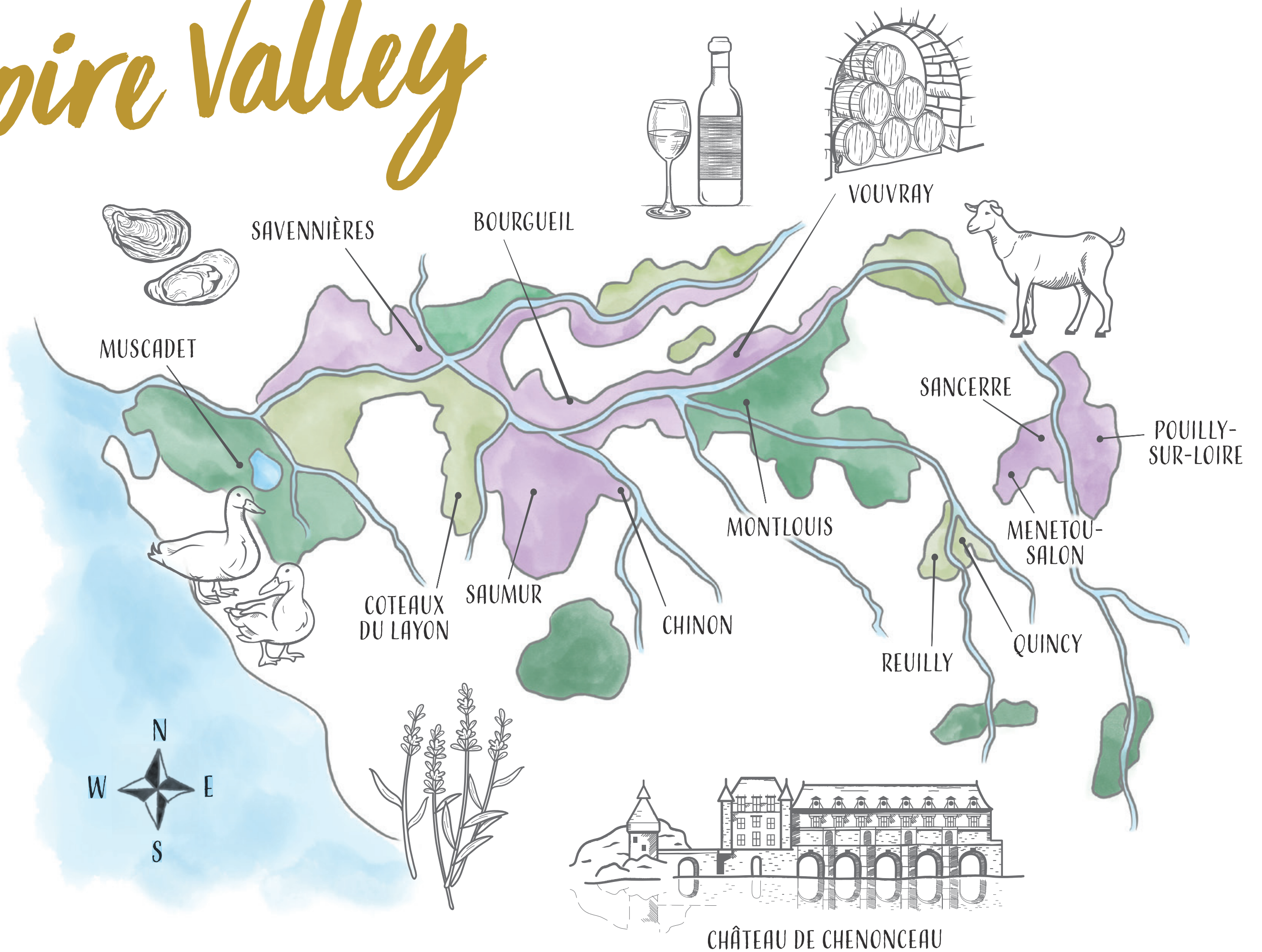
**Catherine Petrie MW**

*Catherine*

Buyer  
April 2020



# Loire Valley





# Muscadet

**The Muscadet area is massive, and there is a huge amount of wine produced here on the breezy Atlantic coast.** We've sought out growers who focus on quality, not quantity, and whose wines withstand the test of time.

Muscadet is made from the Melon de Bourgogne grape, and the finest examples are aged "sur lie", that is, on the spent yeast cells that are left after the wine's fermentation. This contact gives these wines added complexity and a slightly salty richness that makes them so distinctive, and such a good match with the local seafood fare.

2018 was the finest vintage that Muscadet has ever seen. The wines have a level of complexity, power, and balance, that is rarely seen in the region. While Muscadet is released in the summer following the harvest, we're adamant that the wines are even better a year later, as they develop complexity and weight.

There's one other thing you need to know about Muscadet: the prices are astonishingly low. This is some of the best value white wine anywhere.



## DOMAINE DES HERBAUGES



MUSCADET CÔTES DE GRANDLIEU

The affable Jérôme Choblet has run this impressive family domaine in the Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu appellation since 1994. The appellation benefits from an exceptional microclimate, moderated by the Atlantic Ocean and the large Lac de Grandlieu. Jérôme works organically in the vineyards, although he has chosen not to seek certification. The wines have a distinctive minerality and are a great expression of the region. In 2018 they simply are superb. They remain outstanding, almost unbelievable, value for money.

 @domaine\_des\_herbauges




### 2018 La Roche Blanche Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu sur lie

A consistently great wine, the 2018 gives a rich mouthfeel with well balanced acidity and ripe stone fruits. A clean finish with lingering grapefruit has you reaching for another glass.

 **£5 per bottle**  
 £30 per 6 bottles  
 Drink 2020 - 2023

### 2018 Château de la Pierre Vieilles Vignes Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu sur lie

This beautiful property was bought by Jérôme in 2007. He says that, as well as a perfect place to grow vines, it's also the ultimate picnic spot, where the family like to shuck oysters with a bottle of the château's beautiful wine. Château de la Pierre is the name given to the castle overlooking these 70 year old vines. This wine provides a freshness and concentration that epitomises Muscadet. Up to 14 months on the lees with regular stirring gives a wonderful texture.

 **SOLD OUT**  
 SOLD OUT  
 Drink 2020 - 2023





## LOUIS MÉTAREAU, DOMAINE DU GRAND MOUTON

### SÈVRE ET MAINE

2018 is the final vintage at Domaine du Grand Mouton under the family ownership of Louis Métaireau's granddaughter, Marie-Luce, and her husband Jean-François Guilbaud. Sèvre et Maine is where the most quintessential Muscadets are produced, and where lees ageing gives a wonderful texture and creamy structure to the wines. This 10 hectare vineyard was planted by Louis in the 1930s, so the vines have had plenty of time to dig deep roots into the gneiss soils. The minerality and tension in the wines is a rare find in Muscadet, and it is clear that old vines and attention to detail in the cellar pay dividends in these genuinely artisanal wines.

#### 2018 Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine sur lie Grand Mouton

This is Muscadet. There's pear, melon and a touch of oyster shell along with a complex lees character. So much texture and flavour: this will age very nicely.

£ **£8.50 per bottle**

🍷 £51 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2024

#### 2018 Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine sur lie Cuvée One

Cuvée One is made from the oldest parcel of vines at Grand Mouton, planted in 1937. This is structured and complex with exotic fruit and lovely acidity. After the wash of salinity in the first sip you won't want to put the glass down.

£ **£10 per bottle**

🍷 £60 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028



# Anjou & Touraine

In the heartland of the Loire, amongst the fairytale castles and stunning formal gardens, Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc reign supreme. Both varieties have a wonderful ability to age, so don't be afraid to go long here, and tuck a few bottles away for the years to come.

Chenin Blanc is an utterly unique variety: both highly distinctive, with its high acid and apple aromas, but also amazingly versatile. You can find exciting examples in the form of dry, savoury, structured **Savennières** or juicy, dry whites in **Montlouis-sur-Loire**, through to beguiling semi-sweet **Vouvrais**, to rich and magnificent wines from **Coteaux du Layon**, and even thirst quenching sparkling crémants in **Saumur**.

Cabernet Franc is in its finest and most elegant form in **Chinon**, where plentiful but fine-grained grippy tannins give poise and length to the wines. With a bit of age they transform into the most wonderfully aromatic old reds, with cigar smoke, crushed raspberry, leather, violets and spice all at once. In **Bourgueil** you will find slightly firmer structure, but also a fruitier style, and the wines from both appellations are deliciously juicy in youth and complex with age.

Many of the growers here were hit by frost in 2017 and drought in 2019, so these vintages are small, concentrated, and in demand. 2018, by contrast, was generous in size, and as more than one winemaker described it, a once-in-a-generation vintage for quality.



## DOMAINE DU CLOSEL SAVENNIÈRES

This is one of my favourite discoveries of the year. Evelyne de Pontbriand is not only exceptionally eloquent when talking about her own domaine, but is also a fount of knowledge on the Savennières appellation, and its place within the Loire canon. A few hours spent in her company enriched my wine knowledge no end. She is a passionate advocate of this characterful, tiny appellation, which, despite having just nine producers situated within its boundaries, attracts world-wide recognition for the quality of its savoury and structured dry Chenin Blancs. The appellation is dotted with large châteaux and parklands, and the biodiversity is remarkable. This quite singular appellation on a tiny belt of schist and sandstone scattered with volcanic stones produces wines that age with astonishing grace. The domaine's flagship wine is the Clos du Papillon, one of the finest sites in the appellation. But don't miss out on the other cuvées: each one is so distinctive, it's worth trying all three. They have a lightness of touch about them that belies their elegant power.

@domaineducloسل

### 2018 Savennières La Jalousie

This comes from various parcels of younger vines, aged around 20 years old. The name is a tongue-in-cheek nod to a dispute many years back with a neighbouring vigneron. In Savennières, the vignerons have a wicked sense of humour as well as great pride in their appellation. The grapes are picked at the beginning of harvest, and there is a pithy, almost spicy, salty tang to the dry but juicy palate. It has a floral elegance and its vibrant freshness makes it so delicious to drink right now. Light, but precise, and seriously refreshing.

£ £23 per bottle

£138 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2027

### 2018 Savennières Clos du Papillon

This is the flagship wine of the estate, and the 2018 is a magnificent example. There is such sweet purity to the apple blossom and orchard fruit aroma. On the palate this is exquisitely long and fine; this should age with grace, increasing in complexity as the years go by.

£ £29 per bottle

£174 per 6 bottles

Drink 2021 - 2032

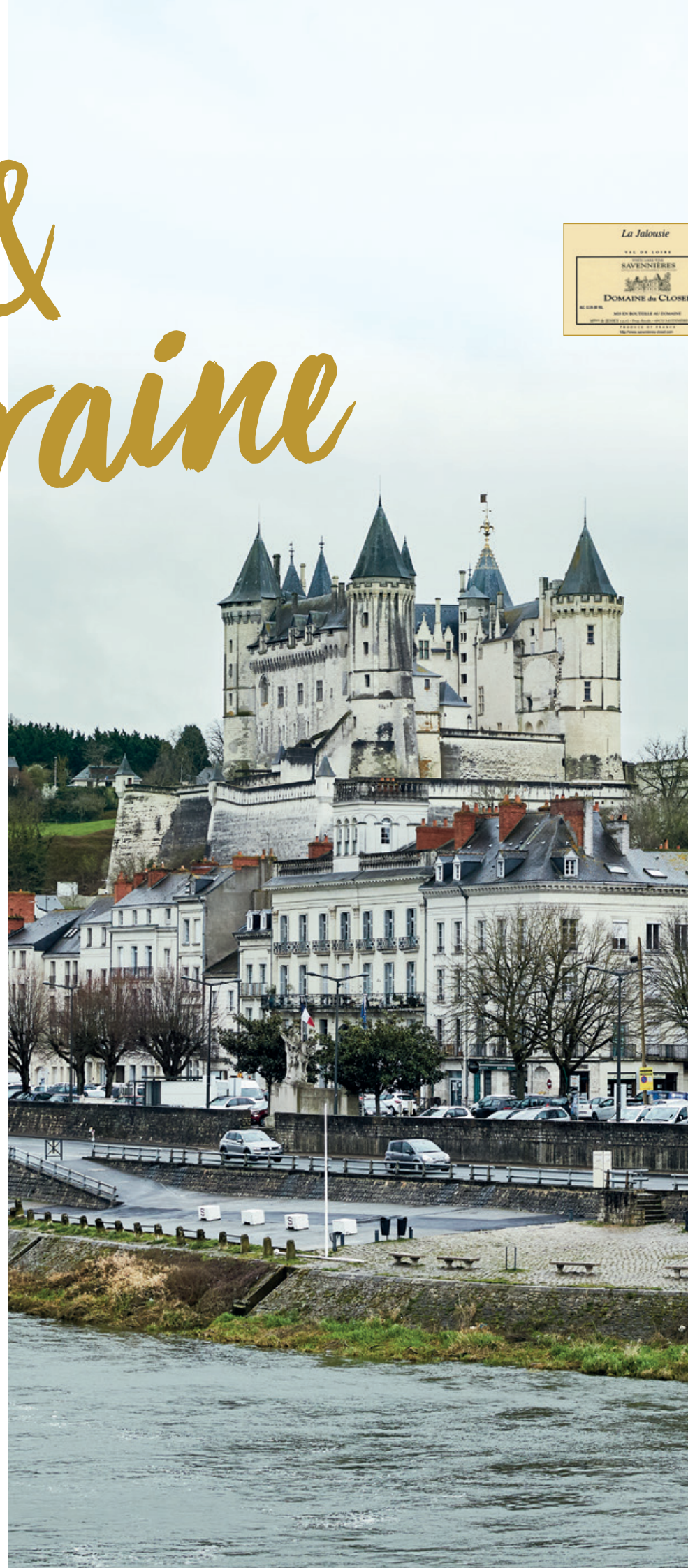
### 2018 Savennières Les Caillardières

These vines grow on sandstone soils, and are picked around 10 days after La Jalousie, when the skins are a little thicker and beginning to turn golden brown. The wine is aged for 18 months in *demi-muids*, and the result is a wine that so perfectly captures the essence of Chenin Blanc. This is all crisp russet apple with just a hint of nutty complexity emerging. The palate is, whilst arresting in its freshness, also so silky in texture—a quality Evelyne says is typical of Les Caillardières. Captivating.

£ £25 per bottle

£150 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2029







## DAMIEN LAUREAU

### SAVENNIÈRES

Damien is a rising star in the Loire Valley, but he's not a local: his father was a cereal farmer near Versailles. After studying agronomy, Damien started his career working for his uncle, farming pears alongside a few hectares of vines. In 1989 he bought some vineyards in Savennières to pursue his own ambitions, and now has nine hectares in the appellation. He pursues vine growing with the exacting attention to detail of an agricultural scientist. He is experimenting with high density planting, ploughing by horse, and adapting his pruning methods to keep yields low and concentration and quality high, all in the face of challenging global climate changes. This is a man who really understands his plants, and how to coax the best out of them in the vineyard. His wines have a striking character, with full bodied structure.

#### 2018 Savennières Les Genêts

Grown on sandy soils over schist bedrock. This is vinous and saline on the nose, with some wood structure on the palate, from 10% new oak, perfectly chiming with the concentrated ripe fruit flavours.

£ **£25 per bottle**

🍷 £150 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028

#### 2016 Savennières Le Bel Ouvrage

This parcel is one of Damien's most prized sites, with rhyolite soil (he is very precise when it comes to describing the geology here) that is a "hot" soil, giving greater maturity than the schist soils across most of the appellation where tension is the signature. This is rich, creamy, supple, peachy, and structured. With a few years in bottle this wine is hitting its stride. Apricots and mango are intensely entwined with the punchy acidity, giving this wine dramatic drive.

£ **£35 per bottle**

🍷 £210 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2030



## DOMAINE DES FORGES

### VAL-DU-LAYON

Situated in a beautiful corner of the Loire Valley, Domaine des Forges is run by Stéphane and Séverine Branchereau, and their sweet wines impress with their purity and lushness, and their staggeringly good prices. They have substantial holdings in some of the region's greatest vineyards for sweet wines, including the Quarts de Chaume Grand Cru, and 1er Cru Chaume. Stéphane says that a year like 2018 comes along just once in a generation. For a man who knows the epic 1997 vintage well, these are bold words indeed. The grapes were so perfectly ripe and healthy at harvest time, the bunches so big and juicy, and the acidity so high despite the elevated ripeness. Tasting through their range it was clear that as well as the perfect growing conditions, Stéphane and Séverine have been able to make the wines sensitively, capturing in bottle what Chenin Blanc is capable of in its sweet guise. Do not miss out on these.

📷 @domainedesforges

#### 2018 Coteaux du Layon 1er Cru Chaume

There is superb freshness and purity in this delicious premier cru. Despite its considerable richness, the zippy acidity makes this light as a feather on the palate, and it simply glides down, leaving a wonderfully perfumed aftertaste of quince, apricots and acacia honey. Unmissable at this price.

£ **£8 per 50cl bottle**

🍷 £48 per 6 50cl bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028

#### 2018 Quarts de Chaume Grand Cru

This is a masterclass in balance. The sweetness may be intense, but so too is the acidity, and the length is truly of grand cru standard. There is a salty freshness to the bitter orange marmalade palate, and a finish that goes on and on. This comes highly recommended; a truly great sweet wine that will evolve for years to come.

£ **£26 per bottle**

🍷 £156 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2021 - 2035



## MOULIN TOUCHAIS

### DOUÉ-LA-FONTAINE

35 hectares of vines in Coteaux du Layon have been in the Touchais family for eight generations, since 1787. Their cellars lie beneath the streets of the unassuming town of Doué-La-Fontaine. In this labyrinthine warren of a cellar, generations of vintages slumber in the cold and dark. The cellar's entrance is still well hidden today, and during the German occupation was even bricked over to save the many back vintages that lay within it. Ever since, Moulin Touchais has been famous for its late releases of sweet wines. Here we have two of our favourite examples.

#### 1997 Coteaux du Layon

1997 provided almost ideal conditions for Coteaux du Layon, with a large proportion of botrytised fruit (60-65%). Quince and walnut with a hint of saffron and classic Chenin acidity, this wine has the potential to go down as one of the greats. The sweetness is well balanced and not overwhelming.

£ **£38 per bottle**

🍷 £228 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink now - 2027

#### 2005 Coteaux du Layon

This is a honeyed wine with notes of peach and straw on the nose; sweet, but not cloying, with some refreshing pithiness on the palate.

£ **£26.50 per bottle**

🍷 £159 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink now - 2030





## BOUVET LADUBAY

### SAUMUR

If there were such a thing as the Seven Wonders of the Wine World, the cellars at Bouvet Ladubay would probably be in there. Visitors must tour them by bicycle, so long does it take to walk their 8km of underground paths. This domaine in the heart of the Saumur appellation was established in 1851 by Etienne Bouvet and his wife Célestine Ladubay. Since the mid-twentieth century the story of Bouvet Ladubay has been the story of the Monmousseau family, who bought the domaine in the 1930s and established its current reputation. Expertise from part-owners, the Taittinger family, informed the development of the business between the 1970s and 2005. Its history is long, complex, and revealing about twentieth century commerce. And through all this, it has retained its position as a premium producer of Saumur Brut wines in this special corner of the Loire. Their impressive range includes one of our best-selling wines: Saphir. Without exception, these wines are characterful, delicious, easy-drinking, and outstanding value.

@bouvetladubay

#### 2017 Saphir Saumur Brut

90% Chenin Blanc, 10% Chardonnay. Year in, year out, this is a firm favourite of ours for its deliciously smooth, creamy palate, and fresh, lightly citrus flavours as well as its unbeatable price. The 2017 is a bright and hugely enjoyable fizz, with such a charming appeal.

**£8 per bottle**

£48 per 6 bottles  
 Drink now - 2023

#### 2015 Zéro Dosage Saumur Brut

As the name suggests, this cuvée has no dosage, and so has not a drop of residual sugar. As a result, the wine expresses abundant freshness and minerality, supported by bright citrus and green fruit. Sharp, but not tart, and very refreshing.

**£11 per bottle**

£66 per 6 bottles  
 Drink now - 2027

#### 2015 Saphir Saumur Brut (magnum)

90% Chenin Blanc, 10% Chardonnay. 2015 is a superb vintage for this excellent value cuvée. With a few years in magnum this Saumur Brut has developed some complex savoury characters. With tension and energy on the palate, it has good depth of flavour. This is a great format for celebrations.

**£18.50 per magnum**

£111 per 6 magnums  
 Drink now - 2022

#### 2014 Instinct Saumur Brut

First made in 2000, this wine goes from strength to strength. It has a complex nose and loads of energy. The palate is nicely textured and vinous, with impressive length and lovely complexity. There's fresh bread, biscuits and bruised apple character throughout. This is really impressive for the price.

**£11 per bottle**

£66 per 6 bottles  
 Drink now - 2025



## CHARLES JOGUET

### SAZILLY

The sophisticated, nuanced, and delicious Cabernet Francs from Domaine Charles Joguet are not only some of the best Loire reds on our list, they are amongst our best reds full stop. The domaine was established in the 1950s by Charles Joguet, ahead of his time in his focus on single vineyard wines in Chinon. It was sold in the 1980s, and the domaine's reputation began to wane. But the appointment of winemaker Kevin Fontaine in 2006 marked a decisive change in the fortunes in this great estate. His dedication to organic farming and thoughtful, attentive winemaking have cultivated a superb range of single vineyard Chinons. We have picked our favourite three in 2018 that represent the diverse soil types found throughout Chinon, from the aromatic, fresh wines grown on sandy limestone, to the supple, deep-fruited wines grown on clay-limestone soils.

@charles\_joguet

#### 2018 Chinon Les Varennes du Grand Clos

Les Varennes du Grand Clos is like a mini Clos de la Dioterie. It lies near the winery in the south of the Chinon appellation on deep clay-limestone soils with colluvial topsoil. This typically shows great balance between tannins and acidity, and complexity. In 2018 it is floral, juicy, and completely delicious.

**£25 per bottle**

£150 per 6 bottles  
 Drink 2022 - 2032

#### 2018 Chinon Clos de la Dioterie

This vineyard lies right next to the domaine and was the first that Charles Joguet isolated in his vinification. Its north-east facing slope and old vines produce a wine with outstanding energy. This has profound depth, but with no heaviness. The texture of the tannins is silky and refined, and of the highest order.

**£31 per bottle**

£186 per 6 bottles  
 Drink 2023 - 2035

#### 2018 Chinon Clos du Chêne Vert

This parcel is quintessential Chinon: at the top of the hill overlooking the Loire river, its flood plains, and the charming eponymous town. It is named after the huge and statuesque oak tree that grows at its edge. Its excellent position affords it good ripening and drainage. The soil here is clay and sand, and produces a wine with a pretty, red fruit structure, and some distinctively spicy notes. In 2018 it has a wonderful volume in a ripe style that retains exceptional minerality.

**£30 per bottle**

£180 per 6 bottles  
 Drink 2022 - 2034





## SERGE ET BRUNO SOURDAÏS

### CRAVANT-LES-CÔTEAU

Bruno took over from his father, Serge, in 2008, and continues this domaine's excellent work in producing hugely enjoyable Cabernet Francs that are charming and drinkable, and seriously good value. These are juicy, refreshing red wines, perfect with a summer lunch. The winemaking is traditional and fairly low interventionist, with the wines spending a little time in old oak. The balance in these wines is great from the off, so they drink well young and with some age. A visit to Bruno's cellar always involves some older bottles served for useful comparison. Their complexity and seamless integration in bottle in spite of their humble price tags remind us that there is still jaw-dropping value in the Loire.

#### 2019 Chinon Logis de la Bouchardière

This is bursting with crunchy red berry fruit. It offers classic Cabernet Franc character, with cherries, smoke and spice, grippy tannins, and a firm backbone, all in an approachable, fresh and juicy style. Unbeatable at this price.

£ **£7 per bottle**

£42 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2027

#### 2018 Chinon Le Clos

This is made from various parcels of old vines that are all located on the hillsides, with good drainage. This is really benchmark Chinon, with smoky red fruits, a spicy, herbaceous character to the firm tannins, and mineral acidity. Serious structure for the money.

£ **£9.50 per bottle**

£57 per 6 bottles

Drink 2021 - 2035



## DOMAINE DE LA NOBLAIE

### LIGRÉ

Jérôme Billard is the exceptionally engaging and talented vigneron at the helm here. He studied winemaking in Burgundy, and trained at both Pétrus in Pomerol and Dominus in Napa before returning to Chinon to take over his grandfather's estate. Although he has built a new winery and is vigilant in his attention to detail in his vinification, he still likes to use some of the traditional equipment and old ways of making wines, such as the domaine's fifteenth century cuve, hewn from the local tuffeau rock, and built into the wall of the old cellar. His dedication is equalled in the vineyard, which is organically certified. He makes pure, *terroir*-driven wines that age beautifully. He mentioned that 2018 is his favourite vintage in the past decade: ripe but with wonderful freshness.

@la\_noblaie

#### 2018 Chinon Pierre de Tuf

This is made from two parcels, both planted in the 1940s. Jérôme uses the fifteenth-century tuffeau cuve in the old cellar to do a long, slow fermentation to bring out some delicious complexity in this Cabernet Franc. This has a subtle, sophisticated nose, and the palate is fine and enticing. Supple tannins, a juicy red fruit core, and a long flow with a mineral finish. With its precise fruit and gentle toast of oak, this feels almost Burgundian.

£ **£11.50 per bottle**

£69 per 6 bottles

Drink 2022 - 2034



## DOMAINE DE LA BUTTE

### BOURGUEIL

Jacky Blot is a living legend. Innovative in his winemaking and passionate about the region, Jacky has made a huge contribution to the wine world through his two estates, Domaine de la Butte and Domaine de la Taille aux Loups. There are very few world-class winemakers who are as talented with reds as with whites. But Jacky is one of this rare breed. These Cabernet Francs from Bourgueil are intense, balanced, and delicious. The names of the cuvées come from the plots' positions on the hillside.

#### 2018 Bourgueil Pied de la Butte

Made from two parcels with some vines aged 80 years. With flavours of freshly picked summer fruits and floral overtones, Jacky's wine from the foot of the hill is a pleasure to drink now and certainly has the legs to carry on for years to come.

£ **£12 per bottle**

£72 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2026

#### 2018 Bourgueil Le Haut de la Butte

This comes from the top parcel on the slope. It has lovely dark fruit and bright acidity. This is lively as well as elegant and precise. A silky mouthfeel and a long finish round off what is the dark horse of 'la Butte'.

£ **£15.50 per bottle**

£93 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2029

#### 2018 Bourgueil Mi-Pente

This comes from the mid-slope, where drainage and ripeness are at their best. It produces greater concentration than the others, and has the structure to age well. This is full of dark fruit, with smooth tannins mellowed by the slight increase in oak influence. This is the gem of Jacky's reds.

£ **£20 per bottle**

£120 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2033





# DOMAINE HUET

## VOUVRAY

The most famous of all Vouvray's producers, since its founding in 1928 Domaine Huet has become synonymous with the finest Chenin Blanc. Making still and sparkling, dry and sweet wines from some of the appellation's finest *terroirs*, Huet's hallmarks are freshness and legendary ageworthiness. It was Gaston Huet who put the estate on the map (and who also served as the mayor of Vouvray from 1947 until 1989), and while the estate has now passed out of family ownership, it remains one of the appellation's leading lights. Working biodynamically for 30 years now has set their wines apart. 2018 is an exceptional vintage for sweet wines in the Loire. Their sweetness and acidity are so expertly matched in this set of light-footed, precise, and stunning wines.

@domainehuet

### 2018 Vouvray Clos du Bourg Sec

This was the only dry wine Domaine Huet made in 2018. It is pale lemon yellow in colour, and has a delicate green apple and white blossom aroma. The body is so fine-boned it feels almost weightless on the mid-palate, whilst the concentration of fine acidity gives it a lasting presence. There is great tension and backbone running through the length of this very fine example of dry Vouvray.

**£26 per bottle**

£156 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2030

### 2018 Vouvray Le Mont Demi-Sec

The second of the two demi-secs made in 2018. This has such dancing grace to its delicate fruit, you almost can't feel the sugar at all. It is precise, mineral, and almost salty on the finish. Very energetic, this should age superbly.

**£28.50 per bottle**

£171 per 6 bottles

Drink 2021 - 2032

### 2018 Vouvray Clos du Bourg Moelleux

The Clos du Bourg has produced Huet's broadest and most powerful Moelleux, which will age superbly. Verve and freshness from the acidity keep this wine lively on the palate in spite of the sweetness.

**£30 per bottle**

£180 per 6 bottles

Drink 2022 - 2036

### 2018 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Demi-Sec

This was one of the two demi-sec wines made by Domaine Huet in 2018. Initially quite shy and tight on the nose, this unfurls magnificently in the glass with crisp orchard fruit and a salty freshness running through the subtle sweetness of the palate. Stunningly fresh and so pure.

**£24.50 per bottle**

£147 per 6 bottles

Drink 2021 - 2032

### 2018 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux

This is the most fruit-forward of the Moelleux range in 2018. The luscious pineapple and mango fruit palate is driven through with razor-sharp acidity. Perfectly balanced.

**£25 per bottle**

£150 per 6 bottles

Drink 2022 - 2036

### 2018 Vouvray Le Mont Moelleux

Stunning purity and fine, fresh sweetness are on full display in this wonderfully expressive Le Mont. There is such power and tension here, and jaw-dropping length.

**£30 per bottle**

£180 per 6 bottles

Drink 2022 - 2036



### 2018 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux 1ère Trie

The premières tries are the pinnacle of the Huet production, and the quality in these cuvées speaks for itself. There is exotic fruit with spice, and crystallised ginger. Taut but generous, and so deep.

**£42 per bottle**

£252 per 6 bottles

Drink 2023 - 2038

### 2018 Vouvray Clos du Bourg Moelleux 1ère Trie

Another exceptional example of the great potential of Chenin Blanc. Chiselled and superbly rich, without being heavy in the slightest.

**£47.50 per bottle**

£285 per 6 bottles

Drink 2023 - 2038

### 2018 Vouvray Le Mont Moelleux 1ère Trie

One of the finest sweet wines of the vintage. This has precision, lift, drive. The finish is almost endless. Just imagine what this could be with some bottle age. Don't miss.

**£47.50 per bottle**

£285 per 6 bottles

Drink 2023 - 2038





## DOMAINE DE LA TAILLE AUX LOUPS

### MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE

Jacky Blot has put the small appellation of Montlouis-sur-Loire, just across the river from larger Vouvray, on the map. In this practically unknown appellation, Jacky saw potential early on, and did not hesitate to buy the best spots when he had the chance. He also built a gravity fed winery and repurposed a troglodyte cave as a barrel hall. Once known for his generous use of oak, Jacky is reducing the amount of new wood in his wines these days. His son Jean-Philippe has recently joined the domaine, and is just as dedicated as his father in the vineyard and cellar. As well as their smashing set of dry Chenin Blancs, we are thrilled to include for the first time their unique sparkling wine: Triple Zéro.

#### N/V Triple Zéro

Zero chaptalisation, zero liqueur de tirage, zero dosage, 100% organic Chenin Blanc from Montlouis-sur-Loire that finishes fermentation in bottle. This is as delicious as it is unique, and one of our favourite wines from Jacky. The crisp orchard fruit aromas combined with the complex biscuity autolytic character are wonderful. On the palate there is such taut precision and depth of flavour. And the texture of the bubbles is spot on: creamy and persistent. This is a delectable glass of fizz at a seriously sharp price.

#### £13.50 per bottle

£81 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2030

#### 2018 Montlouis-Sur-Loire Clos Mosny

Yet another fantastic Clos Mosny from Jacky. This monopole vineyard is one of Jacky's calling cards. There is always some juicy, plump fruit beneath the fresh top notes, thanks to the naturally low yields. The 2018 has succulent apricot and peach notes with a touch of intense white flowers, topped off with a long, precise finish.

#### £20 per bottle

£120 per 6 bottles  
Drink now - 2033

#### 2018 La Bretonnière

This vineyard is actually within Vouvray, but cannot use the AOC name since it is vinified in Montlouis. It has sensational freshness and acidity. There's lemon peel and honeyed peaches, with bready notes and a precision we've come to expect from Jacky's wines.

#### £20 per bottle

£120 per 6 bottles  
Drink now - 2034

#### 2018 Montlouis-Sur-Loire Rémus

This wine offers fabulous richness on entry, with alluring complexity and a lovely floral length that persist on the palate. Rémus might be Jacky's entry level white but its quality is not to be underestimated. It's simply made in a style that Jacky thinks will drink well from youth, so don't hesitate to pull the cork.

#### £15 per bottle

£90 per 6 bottles  
Drink now - 2029

#### 2018 Montlouis-sur-Loire Les Hauts de Husseau

Some vines in Les Hauts de Husseau are over 100 years old, and this wine's complexity and concentration is outstanding. It has Chenin's typical orchard notes of crisp, tart apple, with some generous honey and apricot tones woven through. This is rich, textured Chenin Blanc with a delicious silkiness.

#### £20 per bottle

£120 per 6 bottles  
Drink now - 2033

#### 2018 Clos de Venise

This vineyard is also within Vouvray, but cannot use the AOC name since it is vinified in Montlouis. But that takes nothing away from the quality. This is powered by ripe fruit and floral intensity, and has a distinctive smoky character. The palate is full of tender nectarine with an impressive minerality.

#### £22.50 per bottle

£135 per 6 bottles  
Drink now - 2032



## SÉBASTIEN BRUNET

### CHANÇAY

Having inherited his vines after the premature death of his father in 2006, Sébastien Brunet now farms his domaine organically, although he hasn't officially certified the property. He purchased an old cave that was used for growing mushrooms, and it's here that he's become one of Vouvray's top producers. Highly regarded by his peers, Sébastien is one of the most talented winemakers in the region. He's able to express the character of the land with clarity and purity, utilising very little intervention in the cellar to craft some of the most delicious wines around.

He likes to bottle his wines a little later, so the 2019 will be released in the coming months. We'll be in touch with details.



## JEAN-FRANÇOIS MÉRIEUX

### MONTRICHARD VAL DE CHER

In the hinterland of Touraine it can be difficult to find truly artisanal winemakers, but when we came across Jean-François Mérieux in the tiny town of Montrichard we were quick to add him to our list, and his wines have continued to impress with every new vintage. He recently moved into a new cellar and tasting room, and quality continues to soar. He's a quiet and collected man, and highly respected by his peers. He makes a wide range of wines, and we've been following a few of our favourite cuvées for a few years now. These are beautifully pure, fruit-filled wines: ones that cry out to be drunk.

#### 2019 L'Arpent des Vaudons Touraine Sauvignon

This is a great vintage for Sauvignon Blanc in the Loire: ripe, balanced, and packed with punchy acidity. In 2019 Jean-François harvested this at night and the result is a pleasingly fresh wine with expressive energy. This is benchmark Sauvignon de Touraine, and a winner at this price.

#### £8 per bottle

£48 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2023

#### 2018 Cent Visages Touraine Côt

This is one of the most unusual and exciting wines we have on the list. It is made from Malbec, a variety that has long been grown in the Loire, known locally as Côt. It has ripe black fruits and violets on the nose, soft tannins and a rich, long finish that is kept in balance by the Loire's typical freshness. This is savoury and spicy, and so much fun.

#### £9.50 per bottle

£57 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2026



# Central Vineyards

**S**ancerre and Pouilly-Fumé are the most famous appellations of the Loire. Their names are pretty well guaranteed to appear on any restaurant wine list, such is their mass appeal. Their popularity and success ride on the back of the supreme quality of a small number of growers in each appellation. We're proud to represent the very cream of the crop in this list, with the top names from across the Sancerre villages and two world-class growers over the river in Pouilly-sur-Loire. These steely, mineral-driven Sauvignon Blancs are worthy of all the hype, and this grape's ability to express *terroir* and vintage means there is huge diversity among them. And what's more, their quality and balance mean they make great old wines, so don't be afraid to cellar these for a few years—you won't regret it. My cellar is full of old Sancerre; it is my favourite thing to drink.

Some excellent value and seriously high quality can be found in the neighbouring appellations of **Reuilly**, **Quincy** and **Menetou-Salon**, whose wines grow in distinction with every vintage. Again, the transparency of *terroir* and vintage expression here is remarkable, particularly given the modest prices the wines demand.

The Pinot Noirs of the Loire have long suffered from an image problem: in many cases, rightly so, with unripe, wishy washy flavours that pale in comparison to their neighbours in Burgundy. But over the past few years, warmer summers and growers' focus on lower yields and quality over quantity mean this opinion needs redressing. The best growers in **Sancerre**, **Menetou-Salon**, and **Reuilly** can now rightly boast of top quality Pinot Noirs. They are juicy, fresh, and quite simply delicious.



## DENIS JAMAIN

### REUILLY

Denis Jamain is the most significant producer of the small appellation of Reuilly, south west of Sancerre. His family domaine was first planted in the 1930s, and now covers 21 hectares, all of which lie within 2km of the domaine in the very heart of the appellation. Denis's dedication to his domaine, and to the appellation in general, is quite clear when you sit down to taste with him. He is working hard to convert the domaine to biodynamic farming, with over half already certified and the rest in conversion. His Pierres Plates is widely considered the best site in Reuilly, and these wines are fantastic expressions of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. 2019 was an early harvest that required quick work, picking in the early mornings to keep the freshness. Denis's many years of experience helped guide him through a tricky harvest, and the results are brilliant.

📷 @denisjamain

### 2019 Reuilly Blanc Les Pierres Plates

This parcel is just behind Denis's house, with lots of limestone in the soil. It has lovely aromatics, with good body-ripe but still very fresh. It is recognisably Sauvignon Blanc, but with the tension and mineral restraint of a *terroir*-driven wine.

£ £9.50 per bottle

🍷 £57 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2023

### 2019 Reuilly Rouge Les Pierres Plates

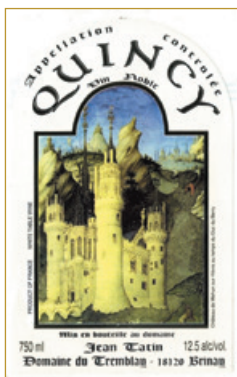
This Pinot Noir bursts with the scent of strawberry bonbons. A six day cold maceration helps draw out fresh and fruity aromas, as well as silky tannins. This is light-bodied and easy drinking: a charming red.

£ £9.50 per bottle

🍷 £57 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2024





## DOMAINES TATIN

### BRINAY

Jean Tatin had planted vines at the family farm (Domaine de Tremblay) to sell to the local co-operative. When the Quincy co-op inconveniently closed, he wasted no time in building a winery so that he and his neighbours could vinify their wines. Neighbouring vigneronns happened to include his own parents and wife, and so the family domaines came together under one roof. The wines they produce are benchmark Quincy, and they are careful to use a light hand in their vinification and *élevage*. Jean's daughter, Maroussia, has been the driving force behind the domaines' new venture into single vineyard wines: the "Terroirs" range. Quincy is not an appellation with a long history of this type of winemaking, but tasting through her range it is clear there is considerable potential here. The wines are fermented with wild yeasts and aged on lees in large old oak barrels. We've picked our favourite single vineyard wine from 2018 to offer alongside their classic 2019 Vieilles Vignes.

#### 2019 Quincy Domaine de Tremblay Vieilles Vignes

This is a blend of four parcels, with a high proportion of fruit from vines older than 50 years. It is smooth and fruity. Its brightness is piqued with a fine line of pithy bitterness. This is a great example of the appellation. So refreshing and quenching.

£ **£11 per bottle**

£66 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2024

#### 2018 Quincy 'Terroirs' Chaumoux

This stood out in the line up of impressive single vineyard wines Maroussia is making. It has a nervous energy, and a wonderfully savoury nose of freshly cut fennel. The palate has a crisp, fresh weight and a flinty length. Delicious, and certainly merits the individual bottling.

£ **£12.50 per bottle**

£75 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2026



## ANTOINE VAN REMOORTERE

### MOROGUES

Young, dynamic winemaker Antoine van Remoortere is only in his late 20s, but already his wines are the hot ticket in Menetou-Salon. And you have to take your hat off: this success has been hard won. Starting out on his own and faced with the disastrous 2016 and 2017 vintages where huge amounts of fruit were lost to frost meant Antoine nearly had to pack up before he'd really got going. But he hung in there, and luck came his way with the 2018 vintage where yields returned to normal levels. He made some superb 2018s that proved very popular, and he has impressed again with his perfectly weighted 2019s. So, the future looks bright for this young domaine. His Pinot Noir, in particular, deserves a special mention.

#### 2019 Menetou-Salon Blanc

This is packed with juicy concentration, with an impressive tension. This is *terroir*-driven Sauvignon Blanc, with the texture and balance to age well, though it's probably too enticing to ignore right now. Impressive length.

£ **£13 per bottle**

£78 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2024

#### 2019 Menetou-Salon Rouge

Around half this Pinot Noir is raised in oak, and half in tank. Antoine is clearly a skilled winemaker: this wine's tannins are ripe and silky. The oak gives just a little lift and structure. This Pinot Noir stands out amongst its peers with genuine concentration of fruit.

£ **£13.50 per bottle**

£81 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2025



## LA TOUR ST MARTIN, DOMAINES MINCHIN

### CROSSES

The vineyards of Menetou-Salon usually play second fiddle to their more illustrious neighbours, Pouilly Fumé and Sancerre. However, if you come and taste with Bertrand Minchin in the commune of Morogues you'll enjoy some brilliantly ageworthy Sauvignon Blancs. In fact, they'd give many of the wines inside those better known appellations a run for their money. The soil here is Kimmeridgian limestone with some pockets of clay. Bertrand has been isolating single vineyard cuvées for a few years now, and we love the distinction between the cool, north-facing Fumet and the richer, riper south-facing Honorine. So, depending on your preference, I urge you to try one of these (or both!), and if you can resist them, save a few bottles for five years. A wonderful surprise will be in store, for very little outlay.

@minchinbertrand

#### 2019 Menetou-Salon Fumet

This north-facing limestone site is cool and late ripening. In a warm year like 2019 its quality soars. There is such a fine acidity and outstanding length. I was really blown away by this, and can't wait to see how the fruit and acidity entwine further with some bottle age. Nervous and tense, this warrants attention.

£ **£13 per bottle**

£78 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2027

#### 2019 Menetou-Salon Honorine

This is a warmer, south-facing site than Fumet. In 2019 there is wonderful weight from the peachy nectarine fruit and a floral lift. Just gorgeous right now, and the weight will carry it so well through a few years in the cellar.

£ **£14.50 per bottle**

£87 per 6 bottles

Drink 2020 - 2027





## VINCENT PINARD

BUÉ

This is one of the smartest addresses in Sancerre, and it is hugely exciting to add them to the Lay & Wheeler list this year. Brothers Clément and Florent Pinard are not only some of the greatest winemakers in the appellation and responsible for much of its current high repute, they are also some of the most popular amongst their peers. They are the top producers in the village of Bué at the southern end of the appellation, and have parcels in all the best sites there and in the neighbouring village of Thauvenay. Their wines are incredibly popular in France and can be found on an inordinate number of top restaurant wine lists. They are the go-to producer for restrained, classical, true *terroir*-led Sancerre blancs, which are always precise and detailed. And they are simply the best in the business when it comes to the reds.

### 2019 Sancerre Les Créots

Les Créots is found in the relatively unknown village of Thauvenay at the south-eastern limit of the appellation. Its quartz-flecked, clay soils are fertile ground for quality-minded producers seeking vineyard expression. For an introduction to the domaine's whites, you couldn't do much better than this. It is floral and delicate on the nose. The palate has an agile freshness. This is a wonderfully restrained style of Sancerre Blanc.

£15 per bottle

£90 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2021 - 2027

### 2017 Sancerre Rouge Charlouise

This comes from a blend of parcels in the village of Bué, thought to be the best source of Pinot Noir in the Sancerre appellation. 50 year old vines and low yields of around 30hl/ha give wonderful concentration. Tasting this, it's no wonder the Pinards are thought to be the greatest producers of red wines in Sancerre. This has deliciously fresh, ripe red fruit at its core, and silky tannins. Fresh but not tart, and not to be underestimated: this is an exceptionally well made Pinot Noir in any context.

£27 per bottle

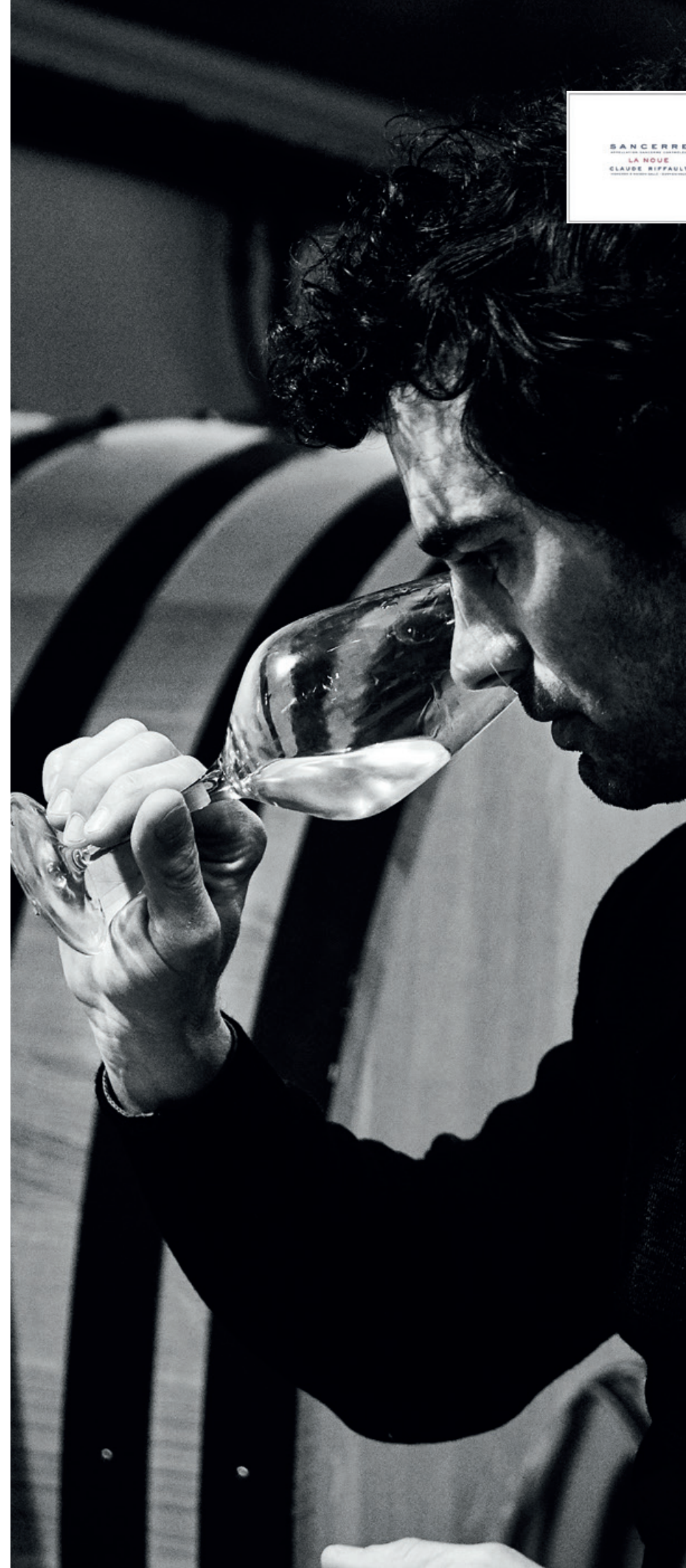
£162 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2027

### 2018 Sancerre Le Château

Le Château is in the heart of Bué just north of Le Grand Chemarin and Chêne Marchand, and on Kimmeridgian marl. This is one of the best sites in the village and has produced a stunning 2018. The wine is tense and powerful, with decided weight and richness. Ageing in oak barrel (none new) gives this Sauvignon Blanc a roundness that works so well with the natural power of the site.

£27 per bottle

£162 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2021 - 2030



## CLAUDE RIFFAULT

SURY-EN-VAUX

No matter how well you think you know a region, there are always new discoveries to be made. Stéphane Riffault, who now runs this family domaine, has a top class winemaking background. He studied in Beaune and trained at Olivier Leflaive in Puligny-Montrachet, and his brother Benoît is winemaker at Etienne Sauzet. So it is little surprise that his wines capture the flinty *terroir* of Sury-en-Vaux in the north-east of the Sancerre appellation with the chiselled precision and intensity of a great white Burgundy. His 2019s are a superb set of wines, and prime candidates for my favourite new discovery of the year.

### 2019 Sancerre Les Denisottes

This parcel of Kimmeridgian marl, known locally as *terres blanches*, gives wines full of flavour and texture. The acidity and alcohol are so perfectly matched in 2019. This is all about power and precision.

£20 per bottle

£120 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2026

### 2019 Sancerre Les Chailloux

*Chailloux* is the local name for flint (known as silex across the river), and this parcel is tucked up in the north-east of the appellation where this soil type predominates. It has a northwest facing aspect and is shaded by a large forest. Flinty sites are often a little warmer, but this one keeps cool, and produces profound acidity. This 2019 is so pure and fresh. After its 12 month *élevage*, it promises to be irresistible.

£21 per bottle

£126 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2027

### 2018 Sancerre Rouge La Noue

Of the many Sancerre rouges we tasted, this stood out as one of the best in the charming, early drinking style. It has lovely concentration of fruit with well managed ripeness. Whole bunch vinification gives it a delicate juiciness. Extremely pretty and nicely weighted. Drink this young and slightly chilled for a superbly refreshing glass of red.

£17 per bottle

£102 per 6 bottles  
Drink 2020 - 2023





## FRANÇOIS COTAT

### CHAVIGNOL

François is unquestionably one of Sancerre's most important producers. His wines are highly sought after, and though they are always of outstanding quality, they are frequently atypical for the appellation. His minimal intervention approach in the cellar means he makes some of the most expressive wines when it comes to *terroir* and vintage. Indeed, the Sauvignon Blanc grape's character is often utterly obscured by the sense of place in his wines. In many ways, he makes wines that define the appellation, whilst also being unlike any that his neighbours produce. He is a shy, kind farmer, with such a humble opinion of himself one wonders if he has any idea how popular his wines are in the fine wine world. His vineyard holdings include the greatest sites across the *terres blanches* hillsides of Chavignol and Amigny. If anyone needs convincing that Sauvignon Blanc can age, just try one of François's wines from the 1980s or 1990s.

**These wines have not yet been released, and will be allocated exclusively to Cellar Circle members, who are invited to register interest on our website.**

#### 2019 Sancerre Caillottes

This comes from parcels around the village of Chavignol, on the chalky limestone soils. It is the most approachable and early drinking of the Cotat range, but even this will improve over many years. It is juicy and long, concentrated but weightless.

£ POA

🍷 POA

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2026

#### 2019 Sancerre Les Culs de Beaujeu

This *terres blanches* site rises up behind the village of Chavignol and although it is only shared amongst a few growers, is one of the most famous sites in Sancerre. This has a supple, silky body. It is full, floral, and pretty glorious.

£ POA

🍷 POA

🍷 Drink 2021 - 2032

#### 2019 Sancerre Les Monts Damnés

This is the defining site of Sancerre, and akin to a grand cru in the appellation. It is the steep slope that runs the length of the Chavignol village and its south-facing aspect and *terres blanches* soils produce the appellation's most powerful and long-lived wines. This 2019 is an absolute stunner, and perfectly captures the power and finesse of this great site. The wine is statuesque in structure, and will age magnificently.

£ POA

🍷 POA

🍷 Drink 2021 - 2035

#### 2019 Sancerre La Grande Côte

Another *terres blanches* site, this is in the small hamlet of Amigny, and is considered by many as the defining wine of the Cotat collection. The 2019 is dry, tight, and direct on entry, but the volume and power so typical of this *terroir* are not far behind. This has a slightly lower acidity than François's other cuvées, but its taut minerality gives it superb freshness.

£ POA

🍷 POA

🍷 Drink 2021 - 2033





New

## PAUL PRIEUR ET FILS

### VERDIGNY

Luc Prieur took over the running of his family estate in Verdigny at the age of 21. After studying in Beaune and training in South Africa he has dedicated his early career to taking this well liked, classic producer of reliable Sancerre to the very top of the appellation, with its name now whispered about among the greats of Sancerre. His single vineyard wines in particular have earned him plaudits. He's one of the hardest working vigneron I know, spending hours, days, and weeks on end in his vineyard doing things properly. In the cellar he uses gentle techniques, and coaxes fine expressions from his distinctive *terroirs*. He is often trying new things out in an effort to make improvements, but decisions are only made after many vintages of evidence. In this way it took him years of isolating juice from the Pieuchaud vineyard before he was finally happy with the balance in 2017. Tasting through his 2018 and 2019 it is clear he is onto a winning formula, and 2017 was no one-off. His Monts Damnés comes from the only part of the great vineyard to lie within the Verdigny commune, just around the hill from Chavignol. It is a very fine expression of the famous *terroir*, and more precise and delicate than some broader, more powerful examples in Chavignol. All this, and he's not yet 30; this winemaker has a very bright future, and is definitely one to watch. It is a great pleasure to introduce his wines with the fantastic 2017 vintage which is taut and lively, and structured for wonderful ageing.

#### 2017 Sancerre Pieuchaud

Pieuchaud is a flinty-soiled lieu dit in the commune of Thauvenay in the south-east of the appellation. Luc decided to isolate this vineyard after noting it always produced fruit with great maturity whilst maintaining high acidity—the secret to single vineyard wines in his opinion. In 2017 it has enticing aromatics of white flowers and a whisper of smoky flint on the nose. The palate has such wonderful energy, and pronounced flintiness. Brilliant.

£ **£16.50 per bottle**

🍷 £99 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028

#### 2017 Sancerre Les Monts Damnés

Sancerre's best known and greatest site, this dramatic hillside of *terres blanches* in Chavignol wraps around the hillside and dips into the commune of Verdigny, where Luc's parcel lies. This 2017 has an amazing perfume of exotic green pineapple, with a weight and persistence on the palate that culminate in a long, racy finish. Outstanding.

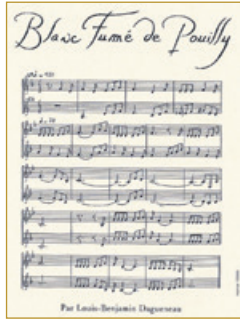
£ **£18 per bottle**

🍷 £108 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2030







# DIDIER DAGUENEAU

## SAINT-ANDELAIN

Didier Dagueneau can take much credit for reinventing Sauvignon Blanc's image. What had been an everyday quaffable white was transformed into a variety capable of producing some of the finest white wines in the world in his hands. His untimely death in 2008 left the wine world in shock. His son, Louis-Benjamin, was thrust into the running of this Pouilly Fumé estate in his twenties, and anyone who is lucky enough to have followed this domaine for decades will tell you he has done a fine job of maintaining the highest quality and distinctive character that Didier had carved out. Today their cult following is as strong as ever. These wines have dazzling tension, precision, and power. This is the tightest, fiercest winemaking out there, and just one bottle in your cellar will become something to treasure.

**These will be allocated exclusively to Cellar Circle members, who are invited to register interest on our website.**

### 2017 Blanc Fumé

This is a blend of equal parts marl, clay, and flinty soils from across the Pouilly Fumé appellation. It's hardly fitting to call this Dagueneau's 'entry level' wine, but it is probably their most accessible. In 2017 they lost 60% of the crop to a devastating spring frost. But despite the reduced yields, this has huge quality, with a ripe, green fruit tension and a chiselled frame.

£ POA



POA

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2030

### 2017 Pur Sang

Meaning thoroughbred, this is indeed a first rate cuvée. There is a delicious reduction in the high tension, dramatic style of Sauvignon Blanc. Nervous and brilliant.

£ POA



POA

🍷 Drink 2022 - 2034

### 2017 Silex

Silex is one of the Dagueneau signature wines, and has brought an obscure name for a type of soil-flint-into the fine wine mainstream. It really suits a vintage like 2017, where there is tremendous power underneath the freshness. Excellent.

£ POA



POA

🍷 Drink 2022 - 2034

### 2017 Sancerre Le Mont Damné

This is the only parcel Didier bought on the other side of the river in Sancerre, and he chose the appellation's greatest site. This is truly magical in 2017, with grand cru concentration and structure running through it. Sublime.

£ POA



POA

🍷 Drink 2022 - 2034





*Pouilly Fumé*

*Jonathan Didier Pabiot*

## JONATHAN PABIOT

POUILLY-SUR-LOIRE

Jonathan Pabiot is making waves in Pouilly-sur-Loire. This appellation is no longer defined by just one name. In recent years the quality Jonathan has produced certainly equals that of the Dagueneau wines, but he has been clever enough to do it in his own distinctive style; one that is restrained, detailed and vibrant, and focuses on the limestone soils of the appellation. He practises the same attention to detail across all his parcels, and it is pretty staggering to taste the diversity of expression within his portfolio. These wines are the true voice of their *terroirs*. You feel, when tasting in his cellar, this is a man who will be at the top of the appellation for many years to come.

### 2019 Pouilly-sur-Loire

This is made from the Chasselas grape, the lesser-known variety of the appellation. It is refined and floral, and what it lacks in Sauvignon Blanc's razor sharp edges it gains in its delicate proportions. Just lovely in 2019.

£ **£16 per bottle**

🍷 £96 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2022

### 2018 Pouilly Fumé Aubaine

This is from a limestone parcel near Tracy-sur-Loire and in 2018 is ripe but full of energy. This wine spends 18 months ageing in concrete tanks before bottling. It has a creamy texture and a deliciously long, fresh finish.

£ **£21 per bottle**

🍷 £126 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028

### 2019 Pouilly Fumé Florilège

From a blend of parcels across the limestone soils of the appellation. The cool nights during the warm 2019 harvest help keep the freshness locked in here. This has a limestone salinity and a brilliant tension. Such a great example of the appellation.

£ **£16 per bottle**

🍷 £96 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2024

### 2018 Pouilly Fumé Eurythmie

This comes from a mixture of marl and flint soils, and is aged in *demi-muids*. In 2018 the plump fruit carries this oak with such panache. This is a great match of vintage with vinification, and is already excellently integrated.

£ **£30 per bottle**

🍷 £180 per 6 bottles

🍷 Drink 2020 - 2028



# Loire

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