

# THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

“The Loire Valley –  
fresh, vibrant  
wines perfect for  
summer drinking”

THE LOIRE VALLEY IS ONE  
OF THE MOST EXCITING  
AND UNDERRATED WINE  
REGIONS IN FRANCE

SIX TOP QUALITY, FAMILY  
PRODUCERS FROM ACROSS  
THE REGION

SIX WINES WHICH PERFECTLY  
EXPRESS THEIR GRAPE  
VARIETY AND TERROIR

ALL PRODUCERS WORK  
ORGANICALLY OR  
BIODYNAMICALLY

GREAT VALUE AND PERFECT  
FOR SUMMER DRINKING

*Real Wines* 



 DOMAINE  
LUNEAU-PAPIN  
Les Herminiers, 400 viti, culture biologique

 domaine Pellé  
merlot-sauvignon & chardonnay

 DOMAINE  
SAUVEROY

 Y. AMIRAULT

 DOMAINE  
AUX MOINES

DOMAINE  
FABRICE GASNIER



# THE FASCINATING WORLD OF LOIRE WINES TODAY

The Loire wine region is historically cool in climate and lies at the northern limits of the ability to ripen the grapes for which it is most renowned – Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Melon de Bourgogne and the red Cabernet Franc. However, the effects of global warming over the past 20 years have, so far, been very

Last but not least, Loire wines, with their moderate alcohol levels, freshness and minerality are extremely food friendly. They are rarely matured in new oak barrels so that they best reflect the myriad of different terroirs in this region. This style of wine is hugely popular with international sommeliers and wine buffs today.

## ABOUT THE LOIRE VALLEY WINE REGION



neutral in flavour. However, when grown on the hillsides of Muscadet's superior quality "Crus Communaux" by quality-focussed producers, and given extended ageing on its lees after fermentation, it can produce wines of great finesse, subtlety and minerality, with a salty bite of acidity. Domaine Luneau-Papin is one of, if not the top producer in the Muscadet region, and their flagship wine "Excelsior" shows the pinnacle of quality this grape can reach.

The "Middle Loire" borders Muscadet to the east, as you travel upriver from the sea. This is a large wine region,





stretching all the way east to Orléans, and is home to atmospheric, riverside towns dating back to the Middle Ages such as Angers, Saumur, Chinon and Tours. Here, the Chenin Blanc grape reigns supreme, producing white wines in many shapes and guises, from sparkling to bone dry to intensely sweet. Chenin Blanc is perhaps THE most underrated of the world's white wine grapes; when fully ripe it can produce wines with delicious ripe apple, pineapple and honey blossom flavours with excellent minerality and ability to age. Quality varies immensely throughout the region and depends primarily on the producer and terroir, but the grape reaches its apogee in the tiny appellation of Savennières and in the best vineyards of Vouvray.

The Middle Loire is also home to the Loire Valley's best known red wines, made from the Cabernet Franc grape. The reds from the appellation of Saumur Champigny are very trendy in Parisian bistrotts, but the best quality

is to be found around the towns of Chinon, St.Nicolas de Bourgueil and Bourgueil, a little further up river. Here, from good producers such as Yannick Amirault and Fabrice Gasnier, you can find reds with deliciously ripe fruit and floral character, silky smooth tannins and just the right amount of freshness and finesse.

Further east – southeast of Orléans and about 200kms due south of Paris – are the wine villages of Sancerre, Pouilly Fumé and Menetou Salon. This is the "Upper Loire" wine zone, where Sauvignon Blanc is king and the Loire region's best known wines are grown. Here, in France's geographical centre, limestone and clay soils dominate, whilst the very best terroirs have a high component of flinty "silex", which gives an extra minerality and smokiness to the wines. The best producers' wines have purity, precision and minerality and reflect the different soils and terroirs of the area without any influence of oak.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCERS AND WINEMAKING

# DOMAINE LUNEAU-PAPIN, MUSCADET SÈVRE & MAINE GOULAINÉ



This top quality, biodynamically certified domaine comprises 40 hectares of mainly old vine Melon de Bourgogne grapes. Husband and wife team Pierre-Marie and Marie Luneau-Papin are the ninth generation of this winemaking family. Goulaine is the most northerly "cru" of the Muscadet Sevre et Maine appellation, situated on slopes overlooking the Goulaine wetlands about

45kms from the Atlantic Ocean. Their flagship "Excelsior" wine is made as naturally as possible using wild (native) yeasts from the vineyard for fermentation in underground glass lined vats. It then spends a further 20 months' ageing on its lees to add complexity and personality before bottling. Muscadet really does not come better than this!



# DOMAINE SAUVEROY, CLOS DES SABLES, ANJOU BLANC



This charming family domaine of around 28 hectares of vines is situated on a sandy, stony hilltop overlooking the Layon river, about 10kms due south of the River Loire and the Savennières wine appellation. The estate is now certified organic and the wines are made by Quentin Cailleau, third generation of the Cailleau family.

This is true Chenin Blanc territory, and their Clos des Sables vineyard gives the winery's most emblematic example of this grape. Grapes are picked at perfect maturity, then fermented naturally in a mix of different-sized casks and barrels. They spend 14 months on their lees to gain in richness and complexity before bottling.



## ABOUT THE PRODUCERS AND WINEMAKING

### DOMAINE AUX MOINES, SAVENNIÈRES



This small, biodynamic-certified domaine is situated in the famous “Roche Aux Moines” cru of Savennières, right next door to cult domaine Nicolas Joly. The winery is owned, grapes grown and wines made by Madame Tessa Laroche, an impressive, super-energetic lady who one feels knows every vine in her vineyard like the back of her hand! The soils in her walled, 10 hectare Roche Aux Moines vineyard are a mix of volcanic rock and schist, which give a dynamic vibrancy and

minerality to the wines, as well as extremely long ageing potential. The grapes are hand-picked and fermented using wild yeasts for 12 months in a mix of casks and barrels of different sizes, of which a very small percentage are renewed each year. After a further 6 months in tank, they are bottled ready for sale. Volumes produced here are tiny, and even smaller than usual in the frost-affected 2021 vintage.

### DOMAINE HENRI PELLÉ LA CROIX AU GARDE, SANCERRE



Situated in the village of Morogues, in the far eastern part of the Loire valley, the Pellé family are one of the best respected producers of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir wines in the Loire region. Paul-Henry Pellé is the fourth generation of his family to tend these vineyards, which he does with extreme care for the environment and as naturally as possible.

Their Croix Au Garde vineyard in Sancerre comprises four hectares of 35 year old vines planted on pebbly clay and limestone soils. The grapes are carefully hand-picked and sorted, then fermented and matured on their lees in a mix of stainless steel tanks and wooden vats. These are wines of finesse and precision which beautifully reflect their individual terroirs.



### YANNICK AMIRAUT, BOURGUEIL



Situated on the right Bank of the Loire in Bourgueil, one of the best quality Cabernet Franc-producing villages in France, this 20 hectare estate makes some of the most impressive red (and rosé) wines in the Loire Valley. Organically certified since 2009, no sulphur is used in the winemaking process here. Côte 50 is a blend of grapes from their

four vineyards on sandy-clay soils which acts as a perfect introduction to their range. All grapes are hand-picked, sorted twice, then fermented in open top wooden vats. The wines then age for 12 months in a combination of large wooden vats, sandstone “eggs” and amphorae. The result is a fruit-packed, easy-pleasing wine with gentle, smooth tannins.

### DOMAINE FABRICE GASNIER, CHINON



This small, organic and biodynamic certified family domaine is one of the rising stars of Cabernet Franc production in the Loire Valley, situated just outside Chinon in the sleepy village of Cravant les Coteaux. This is one of the best quality areas for growing Cabernet Franc in the region; top producer Philippe Alliet is just down the road. The soils here are a mix of sand and

clay with limestone subsoil. Yields are generally very low – around 30hl/ha – and the grapes are hand-picked. Fermentation takes place in large concrete vats using native yeasts, then the wines are matured for 14 months in oak barrels, 50% of which are new each year. All wines from this producer are excellent value and very easy to enjoy!





## ABOUT THE WINES

# OUR EXQUISITE SELECTION



**Domaine  
Luneau-Papin  
"Excelsior" 2020,  
Muscadet  
Sèvre et Maine  
Goulaine**  
**CHF 36.90/bt**  
(one bottle)

"Excelsior" is the flagship wine of this top quality estate, made from 100% Melon de Bourgogne grapes grown on vines planted in 1936 at the heart of the Goulaine cru. This is pure, restrained and mineral on the nose. On the palate it is elegant and fine, with amazing concentration, intensity and length and juicy, saline acidity. This is a true "terroir wine", a wine which perfectly expresses its schistous soils and its vineyard site overlooking the expansive Loire river and Goulaine marshes. As Tamlyn Currin writes on Jancisrobinson.com, "it tastes of the wide sky above it and of tangerines and tangerine peel and beeswax candles. And it feels utterly, utterly alive." She awarded the 2017 vintage 18.5/20pts

500 cases were produced.

Enjoy with dressed spider crab served with a creamy roe emulsion or smoked blue lobster with beurre blanc sauce.

Drink now – 2040.



**Domaine  
Sauveroy Clos  
Des Sables 2021,  
Anjou Blanc**  
**CHF 19.90/bt**  
(one bottle)

This dry Chenin Blanc has ripe, powerful fruit which smells and tastes rich and exotic – pineapple, peach and apricot – and seems quite full and dense on the palate. Yet the cool 2021 vintage has given a refreshing bite of acidity which prevents it from being overpowering and gives a fresh, salty bite of minerality on the finish. This is an uncomplicated and unpretentious example of the Chenin Blanc grape which gives great pleasure at a very reasonable price.

550 cases were produced.

Drink as an aperitif or with shellfish, lobster, or refined cheeses.

Drink now – 2030.



**Domaine  
Aux Moines  
Savennières  
2021**  
**CHF 49/bt**  
(one bottle)

From 45 year old Chenin Blanc vines grown biodynamically on one of the best terroirs for this grape in the world, this wine shows the heights of finesse and minerality the Chenin Blanc grape can achieve.

It is crystal pure with wonderful freshness and vibrancy, like a Grand Cru Chablis in its tension and almost steely minerality. It has gentle aromas of white flowers and flavours of stone fruits with hints of orange peel. Its maturation in old oak casks has added impressive structure and helped give a very long and complex finish.

1,660 cases were produced.

Enjoy with shrimps, scallops and lobster or a risotto with white truffles.

Drink 2024 – 2031.



## ABOUT THE WINES



**Domaine  
Henri Pellé  
Sancerre "La  
Croix Au Garde"  
2022**

**CHF 24.90/bt**  
(one bottle)

The warm and sunny 2022 vintage has given this racy, pure and precise Sancerre an extra dimension of ripe, almost tropical passion fruit flavours, making this more immediately enjoyable than in cooler years. This is deliciously fresh and mineral and finishes with a bite of saline acidity; no hint of oak flavours, just clarity, precision and delectable fruit flavours.

1,660 cases were produced.

„Superbe de tension et de maturité, avec une pureté en bouche au niveau du fruit, dans un esprit cristallin. Un très grand vin. Les derniers millésimes du cru sont de haut vol.“ – 96/100 pts Bettane+Desseauve

Enjoy with shellfish, oysters or goats cheese.

Drink now – 2026.



**Domaine  
Yannick Amirault  
Côte 50 2022,  
Bourgueil**

**CHF 19.90/bt**  
(one bottle)

Côte 50 is this excellent estate's most consumer-friendly Cabernet Franc. Deep purple in colour, it has a beguiling mix of spice and violet/floral aromas, and beautifully ripe, purple berry fruit flavours. The 2022 vintage was hot and sunny, giving full and generous body and extrovert fruit character. The tannins are smooth and silky but give just enough structure on the finish to allow this to drink well for three to five years.

2,500 cases were produced.

Enjoy with most red meats.

Drink now – 2027.



**Domaine  
Fabrice Gasnier  
Signature Chinon  
Rouge 2020**

**CHF 24.90/bt**  
(one bottle)

Made from very low-yielding, 80 year old vines, this 100% Cabernet Franc has impressive richness and concentration of fruit, combined with elegance and finesse. The warm and sunny 2020 vintage has given lovely floral aromas and ripe, purple fruit flavours together with impressive weight and opulence. This is already drinking very nicely but has the structure to improve in bottle for the next 10 years. 13% alcohol.

500 cases were produced

Enjoy with roasted meats (lamb, beef or game), barbecues or couscous.

Drink 2023 – 2035



THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

# DOMAINE HUET'S "CLOS DU BOURG" VINEYARD, VOUVRAY

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