
DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY
(Chinon, Loire)

April 2023



With Matthieu Baudry and his father Monsieur Bernard Baudry

When I visit Domaine Bernard Baudry, I often request to Matthieu Baudry if his father Monsieur Bernard Baudry could be with us as well. You see, Monsieur Baudry, who is now in his seventies, started the domain. He was raising his young family and working as a lab technician in the village when he bought a handkerchief-size vineyard in *Chinon*. He worked during the evenings and weekends to attend the vineyard. That is how the domain began in 1972.

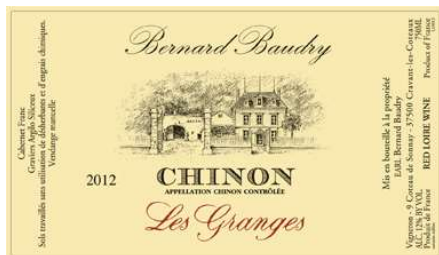
I asked Monsieur Baudry, during one of my visits to the domain, why he started organic farming in the 1970's. Organic farming was less common back then. Monsieur Baudry chuckled: "*I had no money to buy the chemicals.*" Through the years, Monsieur Baudry observed that the vines were healthy with the old-fashioned organic farming and the wines tasted fine. So, the organic farming remained and that is how the farming is now.

Through the years, Monsieur Baudry has added the various parcels in *Cravant-les-Coteaux* in *Chinon*, where Cabernet Franc has found its finest expressions. His son Matthieu took over the domain in 2002. Matthieu and his father have continued to make improvements over the years. For me, their breakthrough came in 2017 when Matthieu decided to have more hands-off approach in the cellar. With shorter macerations, longer *élevage*, and overall gentler approach, their wines have flowered. The wines now have purity, finesse and elegance.

During my last visit to the domain, I asked Matthieu if his father was joining us. Matthieu responded: "*He will be joining us in a few minutes. He is busy attending his latest retirement project - his vegetable garden*". When I asked how his father farms his vegetable garden, Matthieu responded: "*My father farms the old-fashioned way.*"

CHINON 'LES GRANGES' 2021

SKU: 891143 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.06 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle

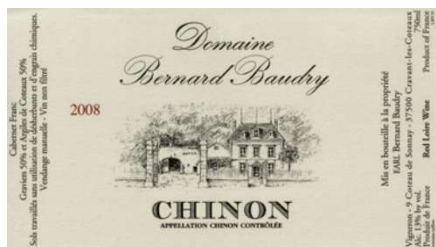


So *Chinonesque*. Is that a word? You will know what I mean as soon as you stick your nose in a glass of this wine. A hint of violets. Stony taste that adds complexity to this *Chinon*. Beautiful. An inimitable taste of Cabernet Franc grown in the Loire in the hands of a great *vigeron*. *Les Granges* vineyard is very close to the *Vienne* River, where there is presence of sand. The sand gives this wine an easy-going, floral, and pretty *Chinon*. With the vines now reaching 35 years, *Les Granges* has been gaining complexity in recent years. It is hard to believe this is the domain "base" wine. Even better slightly chilled. 100% Cabernet Franc.

(The labels are not be current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes only)

CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2020

SKU: 615047 SPECULATIVE 750m 12 bottles/case
\$26.67 Wholesale / \$35.00 Retail per bottle



Fresh. Splendid. Crunchy fruits of blackberries. Minerally from the vines rooted in limestone. Bottled two springs after the vintage. Matthieu tells me he spends much energy in producing this cuvée as it defines the domain and hence the name. Matthieu Baudry 'Cuvée Domaine' remains my benchmark for *Chinon*, and not just because of the modest price but also for its beauty. It is a blend of various parcels. About 75% comes

from the majestic parcel of *Saint-Louans*, where the site is comprised of limestone with very thin clay on top. The *lieu-dit* of *Saint-Louans* is special, known for lasting power and elegance. The remaining 25% comes from the gravel soil, where it gives suppleness. One of the finest *Le Domaine* that I have ever drunk. This is the second shipment of this vintage.

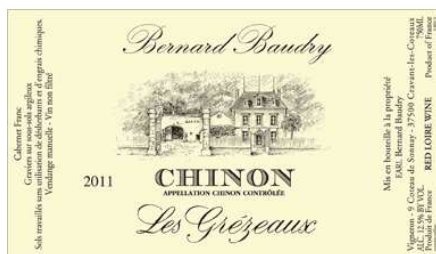
CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 048825 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$55.11 Wholesale / \$71.00 Retail per bottle

Everyone has a different value point but I must say the value of this wine is simply amazing. This price is never likely to be seen again.

CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2020

SKU: 544338 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$31.03 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle



Deep. Elegant. This *Chinon* has great presence. From the 80 year-old vines grown on gravelly soil with sand and limestone base, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky nose. Minerally. Full of blackberries and violets. *Chinon* with great crunchy fresh texture while keeping finesse that so speaks French.

CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2019 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 048830 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$65.00 Wholesale / \$84.00 Retail per bottle

Last case of this 2019 vintage before the 2020. The 2019 has the power and spices while the 2020 has the prettiness and elegance.

CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2020
SPECULATIVE SKU: 515452 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$37.17 Wholesale / \$48.00 Retail per bottle



A hint of alluring peonies perfume. Beautifully balanced. Minerals wrapped in black fruits. From the Cabernet Franc vines grown on yellow limestone. In *Chinon*, there are only a few *lieux-dits* that have this yellow limestone because such yellow stone is bounded by a fixed elevation and location. This yellow limestone gives this *Chinon* elegance and fine tannins. Matthieu tells me *Le Clos Guillot* vineyard gives Burgundy-like *Chinon*. Not surprising since there is only a narrow dirt path separating *Le Clos Guillot* with *Chêne Vert*, which is considered to be one the finest parcel in *Chinon*. Fermented in the traditional *triconic* wooden vats and aged in neutral barrels for about sixteen months, followed by another year in bottles in the icy limestone cellar. 100% Cabernet Franc.

CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2020 (MAGNUMS)
SPECULATIVE SKU: 048833 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$77.40 Wholesale / \$100.00 Retail per bottle

Also comes in MAGNUMS.

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