
DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY
(Chinon, Loire)

August 2020



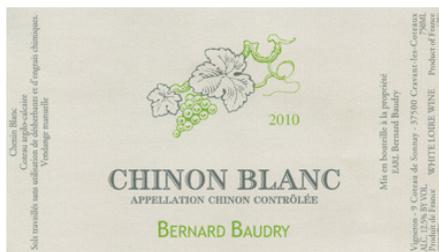
With Matthieu Baudry in his domain's chalk cellar in Cravant-les-Coteaux

I do not know many *vignerons*, who go the extra mile of separating the cellars in making whites and reds. Matthieu Baudry is one of the *vignerons*. Through the centuries of producing wines, the French has learned the sensitivities of producing whites and reds are different. In *Chinon*, the reds and rosés are Cabernet Franc; the whites are Chenin Blanc. Of many differences between reds and whites, it is best to separate the ambient yeasts, which are present everywhere in great cellars, of reds from whites to keep their individual purity during fermentation and *élevage*.

Matthieu Baudry's total production of the whites is negligible - less than five percent of the reds. That does not seem to matter to Matthieu Baudry. Despite the miniscule volume of the whites, despite the inconveniences, and despite the additional costs, Matthieu Baudry does not give in and has dedicated cellars for his whites and reds. In fact, I have to walk and skip a house to go from his red wine cellar to his white wine cellar. The photo above in the icy chalk for Baudry's reds; the photo on page 5 is for his whites.

Chinon is my favourite Loire, and Matthieu's *Chinons* remain my benchmark.

CHINON BLANC 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 669895 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.12 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle



100% Chenin Blanc. Pure. Energetic. Chenin Blanc in a mineral haze. The vines are grown on a slope of *Château de Sonnay*. It is a historical site in *Chinon* and just a stone's throw away from *Domaine Bernard Baudry*. The vines are *selection massale*, of course, like all of the domain vineyards. The slope faces southeast and is limestone with sandy-clay on top. *Élevage* is traditional and is in neutral 600 litre barrels with no-racking until bottling.

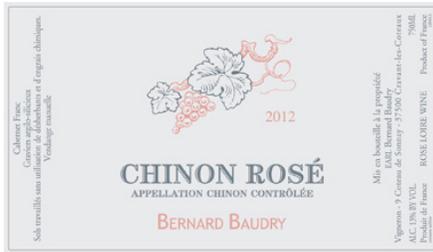
(The labels are not be current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes only)

CHINON BLANC 'LA CROIX BOISSÉE' 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 447045 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 37.57 Wholesale / \$49.00 Retail per bottle



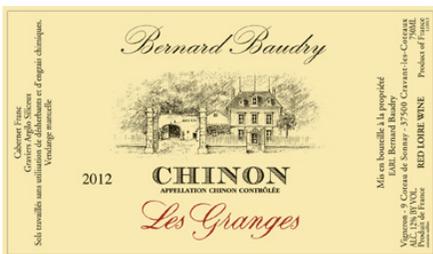
100% Chenin Blanc. Spherical. Richer and deeper than the *Chinon Blanc* above. Made from the Chenin vines planted on the top portion of the *La Croix Boissée*, where it is pure white limestone with very little top soil. The total surface of *La Croix Boissée Blanc* is 0.5 hectare. *Élevage* is in neutral 600 litre *demi-muids*. A pure expression of the site and *Chenin Blanc*. This wine ages well. Drink this white *Chinon* and discover Chenin Blanc. Production is tiny.

CHINON ROSÉ 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 508762 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$21.39 Wholesale / \$27.50 Retail per bottle



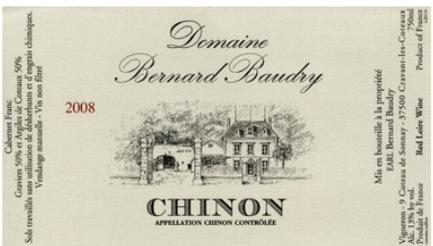
Crisp. Crunchy. Showing the sunshine vintage of 2019 with generous fruit, while maintaining freshness. 100% Cabernet Franc. Hand-harvested grapes are pressed gently with skin and are fermented with ambient yeasts. From the vineyards with clay and very rocky silex. The clay-silex soil brings out the lightness and joyfulness in this rosé. Celebrate summer! It goes well with just about all dishes. Our allocation does not seem to last very long.

CHINON 'LES GRANGES' 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 891143 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.10 Wholesale / \$28.50 Retail per bottle



The 2019 vintage has beautiful raspberry-like fruit with compelling stoney after taste – a delicious combination. The 2019 vintage had a beautiful hot summer and this wine has an extra dimension of a bitter chocolate taste that is utterly more delicious than usual. One of the most food-friendliest wines I know. From the sandy vineyard that hugs the *Vienne* River. The sandy soil brings out the gulp-ability and deliciousness to this wine. Even better slightly chilled. 100% Cabernet Franc.

CHINON 'DOMAINE' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 615047 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.22 Wholesale / \$31.00 Retail per bottle



Minerally. Crunchy fruits of blackberries. Floral. Matthieu Baudry 'Cuvée Domaine' remains my benchmark for *Chinon*, and not just of because of modest price. 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. This parcel gives elegance and structure. The remaining 25% comes from the gravel soil, where it gives freshness and suppleness. A beautiful *Chinon*.

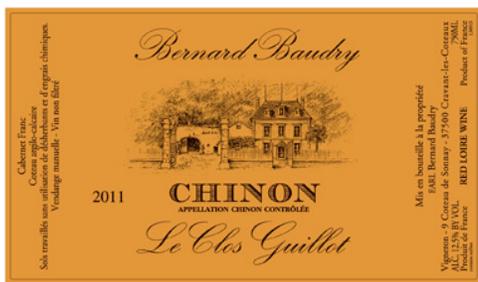
CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 544338 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.25 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle



From 80-year old vines grown on gravelly soil with sand and limestone base, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky nose. Starting with the 2017 vintage, *Les Grézeaux* is fermented in large cement vats that are slightly porous, which had added an extra dimension of suppleness. Inimitable *Chinon* that can only be grown on this vineyard from the *vigneron*, who goes the extra mile. *Chinon* with great crunchy fresh texture

while keeping finesse that so softly speaks French. Ages effortlessly for a decade and much longer.

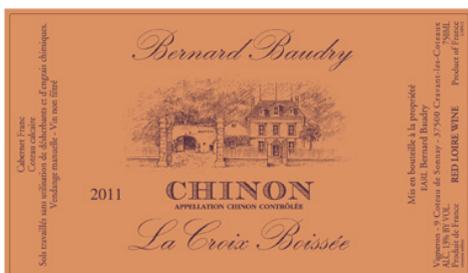
CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 515452 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$33.55 Wholesale / \$44.00 Retail per bottle



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 tannins that remind me of a Burgundy. Everyone has his or her favourite Bernard Baudry *Chinon*. *Le Clos Guillot* is my favourite. A hint of alluring peonies perfume. Freshness with lingering mineral after taste. 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 cold limestone cellar. *Chinon* with great liveliness and elegance. 100% Cabernet Franc.

CHINON 'LA CROIX BOISSÉE' 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 139832 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 42.29 Wholesale / \$55.00 Retail per bottle



A tiny *lieu-dit* of *La Croix Boissée*, where it is completely covered in chalk with very little top soil. Cabernet Franc in a mineral haze. The vineyard is steep. The fine and persistent tannins coat back and sides of mouth, leaving freshness and lingering mineral aftertaste. This is a singular *Chinon*. *Élevage* is very long – 18 months in barrels, followed by another year or more, depending on vintages, in bottles prior to release. If you serve this wine now, decant to show its

beauty. This has a long life ahead.



With Matthieu and his father Bernard Baudry in their dedicated cellar for their white wines

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