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**DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY**  
(Chinon, Loire)

August 2022



*With Matthieu Baudry at the entrance to the icy chalk cellar.*

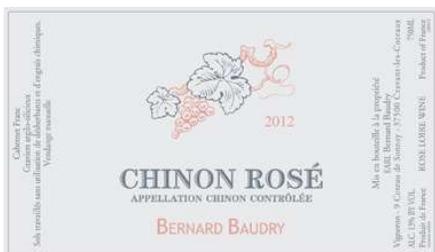
“There it is!”, Matthieu Baudry smiles and says as we talk along the field that has mounds of cow manure mixed with hay. And that is how my last visit to Domaine Bernard Baudry started as Matthieu and I headed out to the field in his van after our initial greetings. Overseeing the mounds of manure is not the most glamorous side of being a *vigneron* but it is certainly one of the most important details for maintaining health of vineyards. “Each mound of manure is at a different stage of aging. We have to age for two years before putting the manure mix in the vineyards as a natural fertilizer”, Matthieu explains. It is hard to imagine but the mounds of cow manure mixture smelled earthy and pleasant. Well, if you are a gardener, you will understand.

I wish Matthieu would say more about his wines and vineyards when I visit the domain. He certainly lives and breathes his vineyards and wines. But he is a quiet type and does not say much during my visits. I only get nuggets of information when I ask. Matthieu took me the field of manure only because I asked. I think Matthieu prefers that I ask rather than he provide all the answers.

As my visit to the domain comes to close in the cellar, I ask Matthieu about how replants his vines. Every year, some vines die due to old age or a tractor accident during ploughing. “We have a small nursery that is dedicated to *sélection massale*,” Matthieu responds. *Sélection Massale*, as opposed to cloning, is a time-consuming and traditional method of propagating vines by cutting the best vines from the vineyards to maintain the diversity of vines. Many *vignerons* that we work with are convinced that *Sélection Massale* adds complexity to their wine. As we both look at our watches, it is late in the day and a field visit to the nursery will have to wait until the next visit.

## CHINON ROSÉ 2021

**SKU: 508762    SPECULATIVE    750ml    12 bottles/case**  
**\$24.48 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle**

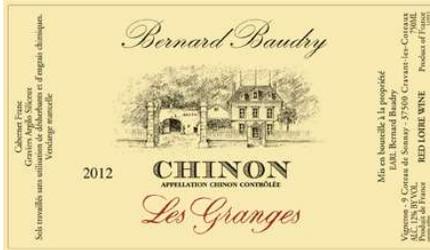


The normal cooler vintage in the Loire brought out the brightness of this rosé. Dry. Crisp. Crunchy. A type of rosé that I would like to drink in a garden on a sunny summer day with friends over a long dinner. So, French. 100% Cabernet Franc. Hand-harvested grapes are pressed gently with skin and are 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. Matthieu Baudry wrote me to say that he feels lucky to have lost almost no grapes in 2021 due to the devastating frost.

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

## CHINON 'LES GRANGES' 2021

SKU: 891143 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case  
\$24.48 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle

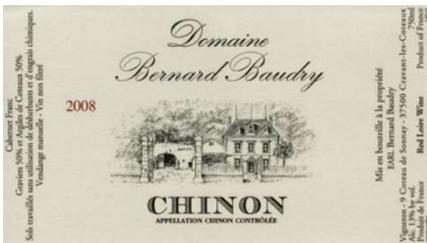


A hint of violets. Stony taste that adds complexity to this *Chinon*. Beautiful. An inimitable taste of Cabernet Franc grown in the Loire in the hands and heart of a great *vigeron*. *Les Granges* vineyard is very close to the *Vienne* River, where there is presence of sand that results in an excellent drainage – a sign of great vineyards. The sand gives this wine an easy-going, floral,

and friendly *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.

## CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2020

SKU: 615047 SPECULATIVE 750m 12 bottles/case  
\$25.73 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle



Crunchy fruits of blackberries. Fresh. Splendid. Balanced weather of 2020 brought perfect proportions to this wine. Delicious. Minerally from the vines rooted in limestone and adds complexity to this wine. 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

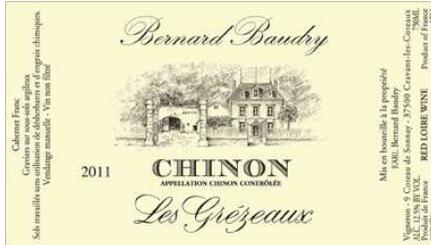
just because of the modest price but also for its beauty. It is a blend of various parcels. About 75% comes from the majestic parcel of *Saint-Louans*, where the site is comprised of limestone with very thin clay on top. The *lieu-dit* of *Saint-Louans* is special, known for lasting power and elegance. The remaining 25% comes from the gravel soil, where it gives suppleness. Beautiful.

## CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 048825 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case  
\$55.04 Wholesale / \$71.00 Retail per bottle

This *cuvée* ages beautifully. I have tasted back to 1996 vintage at the domain cellar with Matthieu. Cellar a few bottles for a special occasion. Everyone has a different value point but I must say the value of this wine is simply amazing.

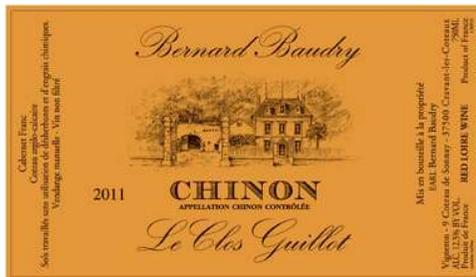
**CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2019 (MAGNUMS)**  
**SKU: 048830 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case**  
**\$62.97 Wholesale / \$81.00 Retail per bottle**



While the 750 ml bottles of this Grezeaux are sold out before this newsletter is released, the magnums are available. From the 80 year-old vines grown on gravelly soil with sand and limestone base, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky taste that is unique to this terroir. The sunny vintage of 2019 has more fruit forward than usual. Delicious. Full of blackberries and violets.

*Chinon* with great texture while keeping finesse that so speaks French. Ages effortlessly for a decade and much longer.

**CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2019**  
**SPECULATIVE SKU: 515452 750ml 12 bottles/case**  
**\$35.83 Wholesale / \$46.00 Retail per bottle**



Minerals wrapped in black fruits. More generous than usual from the sunny 2019 vintage, which makes this wine early drinking and pleasurable than usual. 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. A hint of alluring peonies perfume. This vintage gave pure and immense dark fruits 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 limestone cellar. 100% Cabernet Franc.

**CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2018 (MAGNUMS)**  
**SPECULATIVE SKU: 048833 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case**  
**\$73.38 Wholesale / \$95.00 Retail per bottle**

While the above 750 ml bottles are 2019, this MAGNUMS are 2018. From the vintage Matthieu Baudry describes it as “*magnificent!*” during my visit to the domain in July 2019. The barrel sample was stunning. Now in bottles, this *Le Clos Guillot* is special. This is the first time Matthieu Baudry has bottled this *cuvée* in MAGNUMS and for a good reason. The 2018 is stunning.



*The gravelly soil of Les Grézeaux.*

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