
DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY
(Chinon, Loire)

November 2024



With Matthieu Baudry the village of Cravant-les-Côteaux in Chinon.

For many of us wine lovers, we have our personal awakening or “awe-wow” wine. For me, it was Bernard Baudry *Chinon Les Granges* 1994. I remember putting away a couple of bottles in the cellar, not knowing much about the wine. When I opened a bottle a few months later at the dinner table, I remember vividly, staring at the bottle in silence. The wine hit me on the gut. The wine was so singular and different than the type of wines that I was drinking then. After years of drinking wines, it felt as though I arrived where I started and knew the wines for the first time.

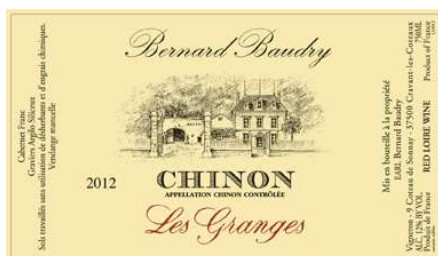
After drinking the bottle, I researched as much as I could about *Chinon* and Domaine Bernard Baudry. Back in the 1990’s, *Chinon* was a footnote in many wine books. Not much has changed since and I hope it stays that way. There was nearly nothing about Bernard Baudry on print or internet in the 1990’s. Then, I bought a book “*Adventures on the Wine Route*” by Kermit Lynch, who was and is a great wine importer in Berkeley. The book had a chapter about *Chinon* and its greatest producer Charles Jouget. The book was humorous, informative but it also left a palpable impression on me.

I am mentioning Charles Jouget because there is a link back to Bernard Baudry as you will understand shortly. Domaine Charles Jouget still exists but Charles sold the winery long ago. Nowadays, back vintages of *Chinon* by the real Charles Jouget are impossible to find and if a real Jouget *Chinon* comes up at an auction, the price is astronomical.

In the 1990’s, becoming a wine importer was not on my mind. When I did become a wine importer in 2010, I reached out first to Matthieu of Domaine Bernard Baudry. During my recent visit to Domaine Bernard Baudry, I asked Matthieu Baudry about Charles Jouget and his imprint on *Chinon*. Casually, Matthieu mentioned, “*You missed Charles Jouget by an hour. He was just here. Monsieur Jouget is a good friend to our family and he visits us regularly. The next time you visit the domain, I will see if I can organize for us to get together to eat and drink.*” Hearing those fleeting words from Matthieu Baudry, I felt as though I arrived where I started and knew *Chinon* for the first time.

CHINON ‘LES GRANGES’ 2022

SKU: 891143 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.60 Wholesale per bottle



A hint of violets – a hallmark of all great *Chinons*. Crunchy. A mineral 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. The sand gives this wine an easy-going, floral, and friendly *Chinon* with soft tannins. With the vines now reaching close to 40 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. So lovely.

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

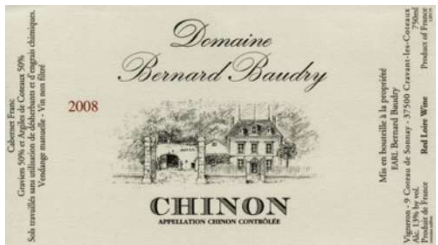
CHINON BLANC 2022
SPECULATIVE SKU: 669895 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.92 Wholesale per bottle



100% Chenin Blanc from *Chinon*. Pure. Energetic. This Chinon Blanc is suspended in a mineral haze. For the 2022 vintage, the Chenin grapes from his top portion of *La Croix Boissée* vineyard is blended into this cuvée. The yield was so tiny in 2022 that the single vineyard Chenin Blanc from *La Croix Boissée* was not produced and blended into this cuvée. The added complexity from the added *La Croix Boissée* vineyard is undeniable.

The normal source of this *Chinon* Blanc is from the 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.

CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2021
SKU: 615047 SPECULATIVE 750m 12 bottles/case
\$27.52 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle



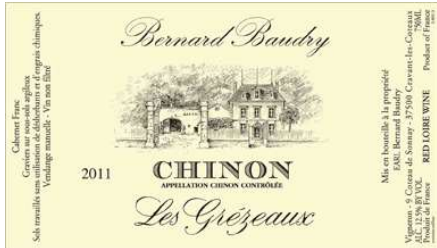
Crunchy. Fresh. Splendid. Delicious. Minerally from the vines rooted in limestone. Bottled two springs after the vintage. Matthieu tells me he does not like to rush this wine, despite its modest price. Matthieu ensures this cuvée spends nearly two years in large wooden vats. Matthieu spends much energy in producing this cuvée as it defines the domain and hence the name. This wine 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' 2021 (MAGNUMS)
SKU: 48825 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$58.55 Wholesale per bottle

Cellar a few bottles for a special occasion. This cuvée ages beautifully. I have tasted back to 1996 vintage at the domain cellar with Matthieu. The aged wines from Bernard Baudry are a revelation.

CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2020
SPECULATIVE SKU: 544338 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.92 Wholesale per bottle

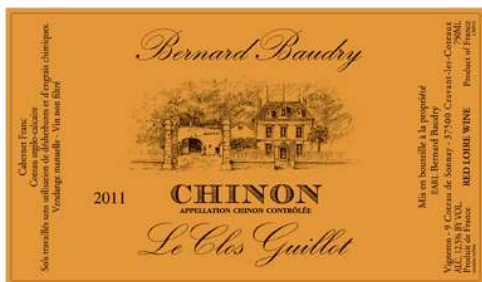


Singular. Composed. Complex. A hint of violets greets your nose. Mineral, stony taste adds compelling complexity. From the 80-year-old vines grown on gravelly soil with sand and limestone base, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky nose. The vineyard looks like a parcel from a stony Châteauneuf-du-Pape. I swear I can taste those stones when I drink *Les Grézeaux*. *Chinon* with great crunchy fresh texture while keeping finesse that so speaks French. I am not aware of many parcels in *Chinon* that are covered with large round stones. What a distinctive *Chinon*.

CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2020 (MAGNUMS)
SKU: 48830 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$68.41 Wholesale per bottle

Hide a few magnums in your cellar for special occasions. This *Chinon* also ages beautifully.

CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2021
SPECULATIVE SKU: 515452 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.77 Wholesale per bottle



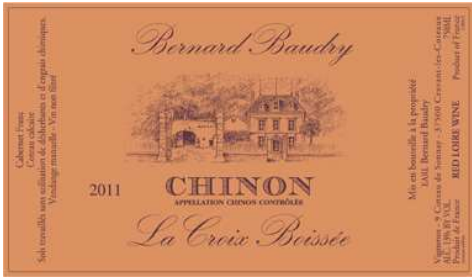
A hint of alluring peonies perfume. Matthieu Baudry feels *Le Clos Guillot* vineyard gives a Burgundian *Chinon*. The texture and tannins are so fine with flowing elegance. From the Cabernet Franc vines grown on yellow limestone. In *Chinon*, there are only a few *lieux-dits* that have this yellow limestone. Matthieu Baudry tells me it is this unique yellow limestone gives this *Chinon* elegance and fine tannins. 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: 48833 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$82.23 Wholesale per bottle

While 750 ml is the 2021 vintage, we received the 2020 vintage magnums. The 2020 vintage is fresh and balanced, while 2021 vintage is supple and fruit-forward.

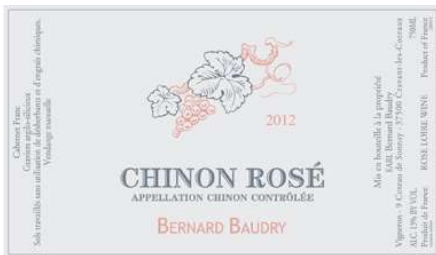
CHINON 'LA CROIX BOISSÉE' 2020
SPECULATIVE SKU: 139832 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 49.45 Wholesale per bottle



A tiny *lieu-dit* of *La Croix Broisée*, where it is completely covered in chalk with very little top soil. The vineyard is steep and exposure is south. This *Chinon* is in a mineral haze with finest tannins that coat back and sides of mouth, leaving freshness and lingering aftertaste.

Ever since a French wine journalist discovered this wine recently, it is getting harder to get an allocation. The journalist stated *La Croix Broisée* reminds him of the top *Premier Grand Cru Classé* of *Saint-Émilion*. From a geological viewpoint, both *La Croix Broisée* and *Premier Grand Cru Classé* of *Saint-Émilion* are on a hill-top with limestone bedrock. Also, some of the greatest *Premier Grand Cru Classé* of *Saint-Émilion* have Cabernet Franc as the majority *cépage*.

CHINON ROSÉ 2022
SKU: 508762 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$26.54 Wholesale per bottle



Last but certainly not the least, a gem of rosé among rosés. Dry. Crisp. Crunchy. A type of rosé that I would like to drink all year round. 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 does not force malolactic fermentation by raising temperature or adding lab yeast. So,

this rosé becomes available when it decides it is ready, which is often after summer. I am always happy to wait to receive this wine anytime of the year. A Sunday roast chicken with a bottle of this rosé is awesome.



A humble tiny marker that announces the lieu-dit of La Croix Boissée.

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