

October 2019

DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY
(Chinon, Loire)



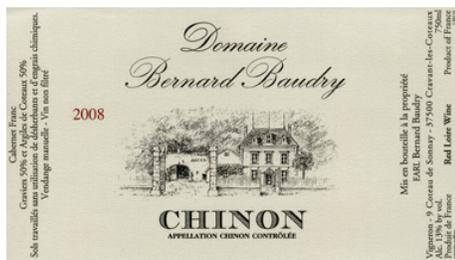
With Matthieu Baudry and his vineyard team lead Helda at the entrance of domain's chalk cellar in Cravant-les-Coteaux

Bernard Baudry wines have changed significantly over the last two vintages. The wines are now more elegant and fragrant. The sharp tannins, which needed some time to come around, of the past wines, are now rippling and fluid. Texture is now finer and prettier. So, when I visited Domaine Bernard Baudry this July, I asked Matthieu what changed. It had been over two years since my last visit to the domain.

“You like the wines better than before?”, Matthieu asked as we drove to see his vineyards. Matthieu continued, *“I am now forty-five and I decided to throw away much of what I learned in my oenology school. I don’t know why it took so long to let go of things I learned in the school. I now want to make the wines that I enjoy drinking. So, I stopped pigeage (punching down) to minimize extraction. Maceration is now much shorter. For example, Les Granges 2018 only saw one week of maceration instead of a textbook three weeks. Sulphur use is reduced significantly. My dad and I taste often. And our decisions are now purely based on our tastings – no more textbook references. I don’t know why it took so long for me...to be me.”*

I left Domaine Bernard Baudry with a lump in my throat.

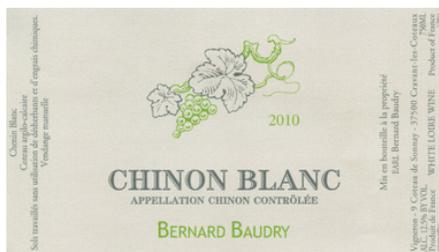
DOMAINE 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 615047 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.20 Wholesale / \$28.00 Retail per bottle



Matthieu Baudry stopped adding the parcel, which contained silex-clay soil, to the cuvée *Domaine*. The parcel always gave harsh tannins. So, starting with the 2014 vintage, *Domaine* has had a new life. If you have tried 2014 and afterwards, you already know what I am talking about. ‘Domaine’ is a blend of vines grown on sandy and clay soil on various *lieux-dits* in the greatest village of *Chinon* in *Cravant-les-Correaux*. The clay lends structure while the sand gives this wine more openness and fruit. *Chinon* of finesse. *Chinon* that is entirely now in Matthieu’s spirit.

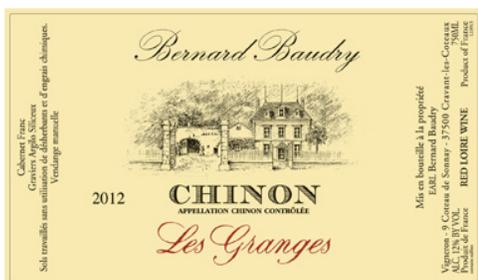
(The labels are not be current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes only)

CHINON BLANC 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 669895 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.10 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle



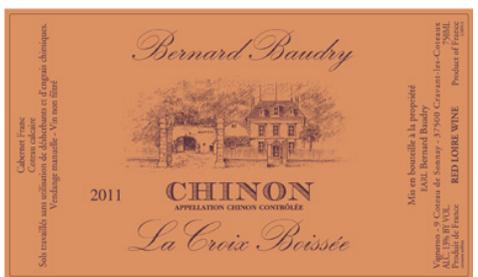
Finally received an allocation for this Chenin Blanc. The vines are grown on a slope of *Château de Sonnay*. It is a historical site in *Chinon* and just a stone’s throw away from *Domaine Bernard Baudry*. The vines are *selection massale*, of course. The slope faces southeast and is limestone with sandy-clay on top. It is a tiny surface of about 1 hectare. The *élevage* is traditional and is in neutral 600 litre barrels with no-racking until bottling. Very delicious Chenin Blanc with a hint of pear skin and minerals.

LES GRANGES 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 891143 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$21.36 Wholesale / \$25.00 Retail per bottle



Voilets and minerals. One of the most food-friendliest wines I know. From the sandy vineyard that hugs the *Vienne* River. At times in spring, when the river runs high, Matthieu Baudry has to prune some of vines from a boat. The sandy soil brings out the gulp-ability and deliciousness to this wine. Even better slightly chilled. 100% Cabernet Franc. This is a new vintage.

LA CROIX BOISSÉE 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 139832 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 42.27 Wholesale / \$50.00 per bottle

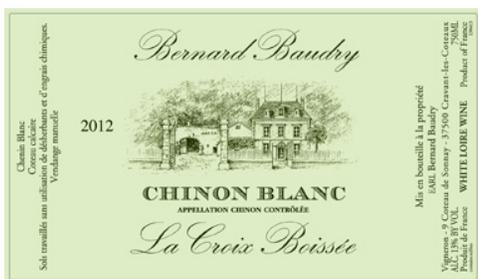


In 2018, the *Chinon* AOC recognized *La Croix Boissés* as the official *cru*. Domaine Bernard Baudry farms 2.2 hectares of it.

Matthieu Baudry believes the terroir of *La Corix Boissés* is like *Premiere Grand Cru Classé Saint Emilion*, where the greatest growths are at the top of limestone hill with Cabernet Franc vines. 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 in bottles prior to release. If you serve this wine now, decant to show its beauty. This has a long life ahead. Our allocation is 5 cases. Drink this and rediscover what a great *Chinon* tastes like and why AOC has declared this vineyard *cru*.

LA CROIX BOISSÉE BLANC 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 447045 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 37.54 Wholesale / \$44.00 per bottle

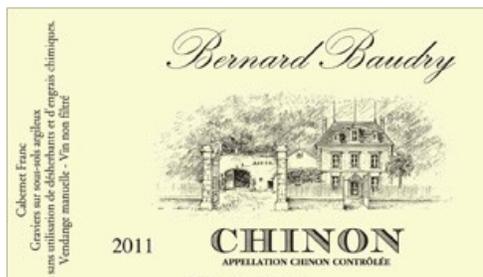


The top portion of the *Le Croix Boissée* is completely exposed *calcaire* – pure white limestone. The site is too severe for the red *cépage* Cabernet Franc. So, Matthieu and his father planted *Chenin Blanc*. *Élevage* is in neutral 600 litre *demi-muids* for about a year prior to bottling. Then, the wine rests in bottles for many months prior to release. Pure expression of the site. It is hard to image a white wine like this can exist in our world. A wine with an absolute and clear

direction. A beautiful expression of *Chenin Blanc*. This is my favourite *Chenin Blanc*.

LES GREZEAUX 2016

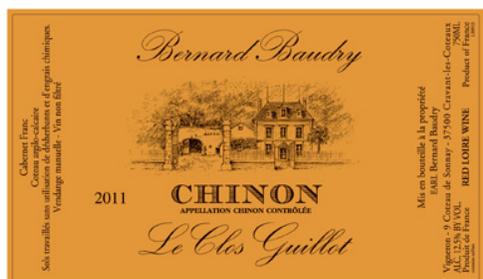
SPECULATIVE SKU: 544338 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.14 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle



From 80-year old vines grown on gravelly soil, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky nose. Inimitable *Chinon* that can only be grown on this vineyard from the *vigneron*, who gives a shit. *Chinon* with great crunchy fresh texture while keeping finesse that so softly speaks French. Delicious.

LE CLOS GUILLOT 2016

SPECULATIVE SKU: 515452 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$33.53 Wholesale / \$39.00 Retail per bottle



From the vines grown on yellow limestone. The majority of limestone in *Chinon* is white, like chalk, but there is a small hill, where the limestone turns yellow. This yellow limestone gives this wine Burgundy-like texture in *Chinon* that is unique. This *lieu-dit* of *Le Clos Guillot* sits on the same hill as the legendary *Clos du Chêne Vert*. A hint of alluring peonies perfume. 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.



The marker for the lieu-dit of La Croix Boissée. The vineyard is just behind this croix (cross) and house.

www.racinevineimports.ca