
CATHERINE & PIERRE BRETON
(Bourgueil, Chinon, Vouvray - Loire)

July 2020



With Pierre Breton in the freshly ploughed Les Perrières vineyard in Bourgueil

Along and above the unassuming dirt path that delineates the flatter vineyards from the hills of *Bourgueil*, there lies a tiny sloping *lieux-dit* of *Les Perrières*. Only in *Les Perrières*, the soil consists of a shallow surface composed of sandstone with limestone underneath. *Les Perrières* is a geological mystery. You can see the sandstone in the photo above. Although there are vineyards in *Bourgueil* that have limestone with clay or gravel with clay, *Les Perrières* is the only *lieux-dit* that has this unique sandstone, which is poor in nutrients. The vines have to struggle. “Yields are naturally low and the berries are small in *Les Perrières*”, says Pierre Breton as we walk among the vines.

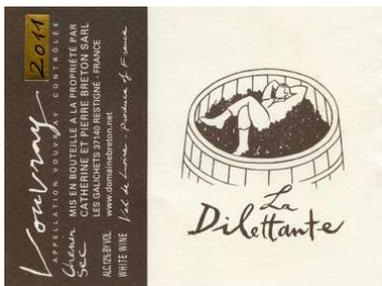
Catherine & Pierre Breton has only one hectare of *Les Perrières* and it is the top wine for the Bretons. Benedictine monks delineated *Les Perrières* centuries ago. The vineyard was always highly prized and the rich used to own it. So, *Les Perrières* was confiscated during the French Revolution and auctioned off. Tasting the various vintages of *Les Perrières* with Pierre & Catherine Breton at their cellar, the quality of *Les Perrières* is self-evident.

VOUVRAY ‘LA DILETTANTE’ METHODE TRADITIONELLE BRUT NV
SPECULATIVE SKU: 161075 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.00 Wholesale/ \$37.00 Retail per bottle



100% *Chenin Blanc*. This sparkler, along with the still Vouvrays below, is Catherine Breton’s baby, homage to her parents and her roots in Vouvray. Vouvrays *pétillant* using the traditional *Champagnoise* method. An equal blend of two vintages. The wine is aged about 30 months in its lees before disgorged. Complexity that only comes from the extended lees aging. Lively. Pure. It has that very zesty personality that I associate with fine Vouvrays *pétillant*. This traditionally made Vouvrays *pétillant* ages very well and great complexity.

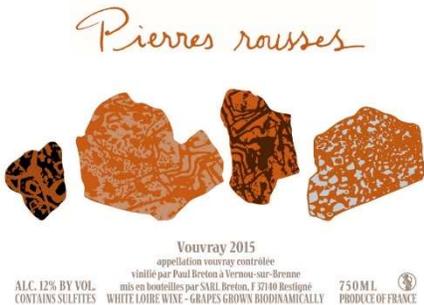
VOUVRAY ‘LA DILETTANTE’ SEC 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 035006 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.43 Wholesale/ \$34.00 Retail per bottle



Dry still *Vouvrays*. 100% *Chenin Blanc*. Alive with mineral tension and grace. Elegant. Harmonious. Forty-year old vines grown on limestone from one of the most striking appellations. Catherine & Pierre’s son Paul has been looking after the Vouvrays vineyards even with greater care. The grapes are hand-harvested and gently pressed. *Élevage* is in neutral tanks. Delicious with all shell fish dishes – moules & frite, seared scallops or a whole roasted brill sole. Endless combination of fish dishes with this *Chenin Blanc*.

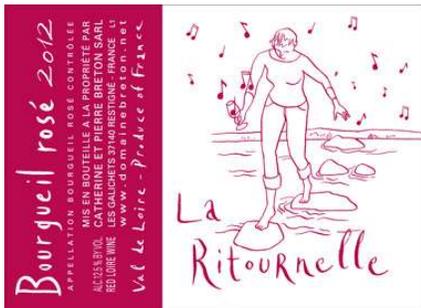
(Note: Labels are not current vintages and are for illustration purposes only)

VOUVRAY 'PIERRES ROUSSES' SEC 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 124779 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.02 Wholesale/ \$37.00 Retail per bottle



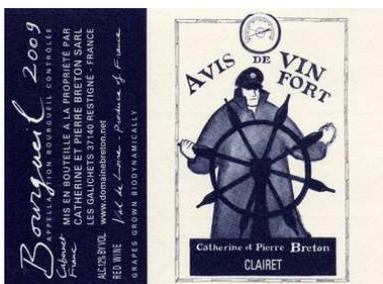
100% Chenin Blanc from a single vineyard. This is from a small distinctive parcel in *Vouvray* that has particularly red rocks on the surface with limestone underneath, which impart a singular flinty stony taste. *Pierres Rousses* means red stones in French. Inimitable nose and taste of a great Chenin. It is self-evident. Very *cru* in its character – nervous, supremely elegant with laser focus. Compelling Chenin Blanc. Raised in neutral 600 litre barrels for about a year, followed by additional time in bottles prior to release. A beautiful Vouvray.

BOURGUEIL 'LA RITOURNELLE' ROSÉ 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 633826 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.40 Wholesale/ \$29.50 Retail per bottle



Made with 100% Cabernet Franc, this rosé is dry, crisp and minerally. This rosé reminds of the soft summer luminescent blue skies of Loire. This rosé makes me want to sit at a terrace and sip this wine all evening. This rosé is made from the vines grown on gravelly soil. Pressed juice with skins is fermented in neutral vats until the wine settles.

BOURGUEIL 'AVIS DE VIN FORT' 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 161182 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.40 Wholesale/ \$29.00 Retail per bottle



So fun to drink. Pretty. Individualistic. Full of personality. This wine sees only about 3 to 4 days of maceration, depending on the vintage. By comparison, a typical red wine sees about 3 weeks of maceration. Shimmering light colour, just a shade darker than a rosé. A wine you can see your fingers through your glass. *Avis de Vin Fort* is 100% Cabernet Franc from gravelly soil from 60 old vines. Light with the complexity of minerality. Relaxed yet refined. It is best if left in the ice bucket for a few minutes. At our home, I treat *Avis de Vin Fort* like a rosé and drink it chilled.

BOURGUEIL 'TRINCH!' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 161190 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.64 Wholesale/ \$29.00 Retail per bottle

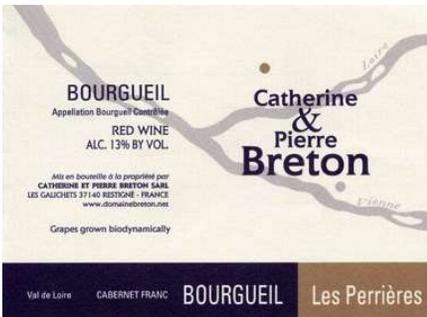


Crunchy. A hint of violets and minerals. From the Cabernet Franc vines grown on gravelly soil surrounding Catherine and Pierre's farm. Inimitable *Bourgueil*. Pure. Pleasurable. The macerated skins from the 'Avis de Vin Fort' is added to Trinch!, which lends body and colour. Best slightly chilled. Trinch! means Cheers! This 2018 vintage is something special – even more delicious than usual due to a few more hours of sunshine in 2018. 100% Cabernet Franc.

BOURGUEIL 'TRINCH!' 2018 (MAGNUMS)
SPECULATIVE SKU: 413948 1500ml 6 bottles/case
\$55.55 Wholesale/ \$65.00 Retail per bottle

This beauty also comes in MAGNUMS. Bretons consider the MAGNUMS to be normal size and the 750 ml to be half-size. I am on the side with the Bretons.

BOURGUEIL 'LES PERRIERES' 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 406116 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$47.95 Wholesale/ \$57.00 Retail per bottle



100% Cabernet Franc. Elegant. Power without weight. Balanced with fine tannins. Captivating nose and singular taste. *Les Perrieres* is the most prized parcel in *Bourgueil* on a south-facing hill composed on sandstone on a bed of pure limestone. From the tiny one-hectare site. The maceration is traditional in open wood vats. The fermentation and *élevage* follows in 600 litre *demi-muids*. The wine is bottled unfiltered after two full years in neutral *demi-muids*. Followed by equally long bottle aging prior to release. A wine for occasions.

BOURGUEIL 'CLOS SÉNÉCHAL' 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 161208 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.05 Wholesale/ \$46.00 Retail per bottle



Catherine & Pierre Breton have 1.5 hectare of this *lieux-dit* of *Clos Sénéchal*. One of the most compelling expressions of *Bourgueil*. Spherical. Statuesque. Pumping out the familiar lead-pencil shavings like no other wine that I know. Macerated in a traditional open wooden vat and aged in *foudres* (big oak casks) for about 18 months. The wine is aged in bottles for an additional year prior to release. The ancients knew this vineyard gave *grand vin*. This tiny walled vineyard sits on pure limestone with clay on top. The vineyard is on a gentle slope, facing south.

BOURGUEIL 'LA DILETTANTE' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 165916 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.43 Wholesale/ \$34.00 Retail per bottle



This is another Catherine's baby. This wine is fermented with whole clusters. Hands-off and gentle extraction to capture the essence of Cabernet Franc grown in gravelly soils of *Bourgueil*. Elegant. Pretty. Minerally undertow. This wine is aged in cement "egg-shaped" vats, where the shape of the vat gently and naturally keeps the wine moving during *élevage*. This truly is a thirst-quenching wine.

BOURGUEIL 'NUITS D'IVRESSE' 2017
SEPCULATIVE SKU: 349845 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.02 Wholesale/ \$37.00 Retail per bottle



Nuits d'Ivresse, meaning 'Drunken Nights'. From the 60+ old vine in the parcel with clay on top and limestone underneath. The surface is about 3 hectares. Vinification is traditional. The wine is raised in neutral barrels for about a year. Lively. Engaging. Pretty. Delicious. Hard not to drink this wine fast. 100% Cabernet Franc.

BOURGUEIL 'NUITS D'IVRESSE' 2017 (AMGNUMS)
SEPCULATIVE SKU: 454116 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$68.68 Wholesale/ \$80.00 Retail per bottle

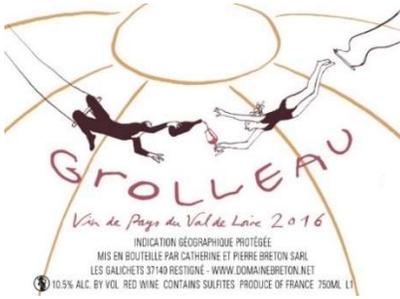
Also comes in MAGNUMS.

CHINON 'BEAUMONT' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 767731 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.43 Wholesale/ \$34.00 Retail per bottle



Pure. Supremely elegant. Violets and minerals harmoniously weaved by fine-grained tannins. This wine is showing the class of this treasured vineyard in *Chinon*. This wine comes from the south-facing mid-slope *lieu-dit* of *Beaumont* that hugs the Vienne River, where it is clay on top and limestone underneath. Filled with energy. The vinification is traditional in wooden vats and *élevage* is in neutral barrels for about a year. 100% Cabernet Franc.

GROLLEAU 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 124782 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.40 Wholesale/ \$29.50 Retail per bottle



This is 100% *Grolleau*. *Grolleau* is a thin-skin varietal that gives a light, thirsty-quenching wine in its youth, recalling wild strawberries. Alcohol is always about 10 to 11%, making this *Grolleau* so ravishing to drink. Prior to the 1930's when the AOC was declared in *Bourgueil* and *Chinon*, the local *vignerons* and bistro patrons were downing bottles of *Grolleau* while waiting for the regal but high-maintenance Cabernet Franc of *Bourgueil* and *Chinon* to calm down. The AOC *Bourgueils* and *Chinons* fetched higher prices. So, just about all of *Grolleau* vineyards were

uprooted. Nowadays, *Grolleau* vines are hard to find. Perfect for summer, of course, but I love *Grolleau* all year around when I am thirsty for light and easy wines.

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