

CLOS DU TUE-BOEUF (Les Montils, LOIRE)



In *La Guerrerie* vineyard with Jean-Marie Puzelat at the family domain *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf*

Above photo is with Jean-Marie Puzelat of the family domain Clos du Tue-Boeuf, after the frost swept through their vineyards in April 2017. The frost descended after the vines have flowered, resulting in the vines to drop their developing fruit. Jean-Marie and his brother Thierry Puzelat lost about 90% of grapes in 2017 due to the frost. The life of *vignerons* is not for the faint-hearted. Heart break does not stop there. The Puzelat brothers will have to care for the vines just the same throughout the year, right to the harvest, knowing that there is very little to harvest come autumn.

But being born into and growing-up in the family of *vigneron*, seeing their parents endure the beauty and ravage of nature, the brothers of Jean-Marie and Thierry Puzelat have seen tough times before. A similar series of frosts happened in the eighties. The 2016 also had frost but not as badly. What little fruit the Puzelat brother had in 2016 and especially in 2017, the wines are beautiful. We received some 2015 and 2016 wines.

LA GUERRERIE 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 609677 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.57 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle



Button-down seriousness of Côt (i.e. Malbec) is tempered by butt-naked exuberance of Gamay. One of the most unique, delicious and compelling Puzelat reds. Fruit and fragrance just leap out of glass. A blend of Côt (about 70%) and Gamay. Fermented separately and blended. Then aged in neutral barrels, both in 225 and 600 litre. Floral nose singing with spices. So pretty. Fresh. Lively. Once started, hard to put this one down over a dinner table.

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

LE P'TIT BLANC DU TUE-BOEUF 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 817676 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 21.59 Wholesale / \$25.00 Retail per bottle



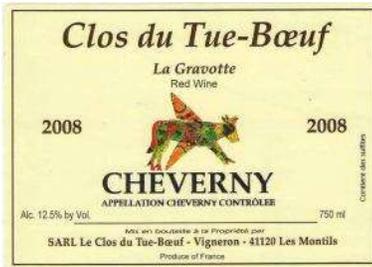
This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is grown on various soils: clay, sand, silex and limestone. This 2016 is pretty and delicious. Very floral nose with a ripe exotic tropical fruit taste. Naturally occurring malolactic fermentation is followed through, giving this wine textural roundness atypical of new world Sauvignon Blanc. This is a new vintage.

TOURAINNE 'LA BUTTE' 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 061028 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.27 Wholesale / \$28.00 Retail per bottle



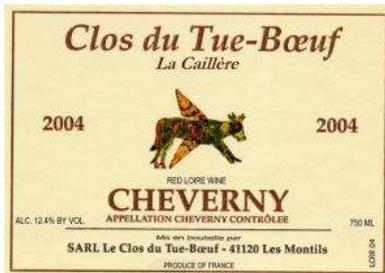
100% Gamay. *La Butte* means a little hill. There is a little stream that divides the appellation of *Cheverny* and *Touraine*. The vineyard for this wine comes from the Touraine side and a stone's throw from Cheverny. Hand-picked grapes are fermented whole clusters in large open top wooden vat. Then transferred to neutral barrels for about six month to chill. Totally gulp-able. One of the delicious expressions of Gamay grown in the Loire.

CHEVERNY 'LA GRAVOTTE' 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 256842 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.40 Wholesale / \$34.00 Retail per bottle



Pinot Noir. This wine is raised in neutral large-size 600 litre barrels for about a year. From a handkerchief-size vineyard of just over one hectare. Pinot Noir of extraordinary elegance. Youthful. A wild ride of dill, roses, summer red fruits with mineral undertone. Best slightly chilled. Decant if you want to enjoy now. This Pinot has a long life ahead.

CHEVERNY 'LA CAILLÈRE' 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 257055 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.40 Wholesale / \$34.00 Retail per bottle



There is also a handkerchief-size one hectare at the top of *clos*, where the soil is clay with flint. This south-facing vineyard is on an incline, where the drainage is extreme. *La Caillère* is entirely planted to Pinot Noir. For me, it is one of most singular Pinots. This wine takes me on a wild ride of rose peddles mixed with hints of dill and leafy undertones anchored by mineral complexity. Best slightly chilled.

PINEAU D'AUNIS 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 558148 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.08 Wholesale / \$38.00 Retail per bottle



Light body. Oh heck, almost no body. Perfume of white pepper wrapped in bed of roses. Pineau D'Aunis is a disappearing varietal in the Loire. Widely planted in the Loire in the last century, only a few hectares of Pineau D'Aunis now remain. Pineau D'Aunis is very difficult to cultivate. Yields swing widely at its own discretion. Not the most commercially reliable varietal. For the artisan *vignerons* though, Pineau D'Aunis tugs at their heart. The production is tiny.