

CLOS DU TUE-BOEUF (Les Montils, LOIRE)



In *La Caillère* vineyard with Thierry Puzelat at his family domain *Clos du Tue Boeuf*

Thierry Puzelat's family domain *Clos du Tue-Boeuf* vineyards are not anything like that I have walked. Despite the reference to the term *clos* in his domain, there is no *clos* as in a traditional stone wall. Instead, there is the natural forest *clos*. You can see the outline of trees that form the *clos* in the photo above. Thierry purchased the forest that surrounds the vineyards to ensure biodiversity and eliminate potential industrial farming from neighbours. There are only about 10 hectares contained in that *clos* with an array of soil and expositions.

The vineyards have been planted since the 15th century by the Puzelat family. The family kept the *clos*, *lieu-dit* '*Le Tue-Boeuf*' through the generations for a good reason. That tiny *clos* contains the flint *Blois* chalk – a limestone ridge that gives magic to his wines. In addition to all of Thierry's honest work, the beauty and elegance of his wines come from that magic limestone ridge.

LE P'TIT BLANC DU TUE-BOEUF 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 817676 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 20.25 Wholesale / \$23.50 Retail per bottle



This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is grown on various soils: clay, sand, silex and limestone. This 2015 is rich and decadent. 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 what the real Sauvignon from Loire is supposed to taste. This is a new vintage.

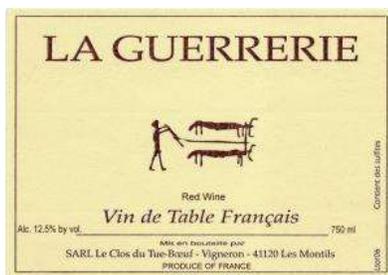
(Note: The labels are not current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes only)

PINEAU DE LA LOIRE 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 961177 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 24.82 Wholesale / \$29.00 Retail per bottle



I can't remember the last time I had a bottle of Pineau de la Loire. This is a new wine from Thierry Puzelat for us this year. Pineau de la Loire as in Chenin Blanc. Abundance of fruit in this wine reflects the 2015 vintage, which had relatively generous sunshine in the Loire. A slight *pétillance* makes this wine lively. This may be the only wine in our portfolio that is tasty as a stand-alone aperitif. Have a glass of this at the bar of your favourite restaurant while waiting for your date to arrive. Only 5 cases arrived on our shores.

LA GUERRERIE 2014
SPECULATIVE SKU: 609677 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$26.52 Wholesale / \$31.00 Retail per bottle



One of the most delicious and compelling Thierry Puzelat reds. Fruit and fragrances just leap out of glass. A blend of Côt (about 70%) and Gamay. Fermented separately and blended. Then aged in neutral barrels. Deep colour evident from Côt. Medium-full body. Floral with spices. Mesmerizing nose. Seriousness of Côt is balanced by light-hearted exuberance of Gamay. Fresh, vibrant with good structure. This wine has a long life ahead.

QVEVRI 'LA GUERRERIE' 2014
SPECULATIVE SKU: 045443 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$36.58 Wholesale / \$43.00 Retail per bottle

Qvevri means amphora in Georgian. Georgia is located near Black Sea and has a long wine history, some say one of the oldest. Thierry Puzelat has been importing Georgian wines into Paris for a number of years now. So, he travels to Georgia every year to meet the producers. His time in Georgia has had significant influence on him. He has purchased amphorae for his family domain Clos du Tue-Boeuf. This is the same blend of *La Guerrierie* as above but aged in Qvevri with long skin contact. The texture, a cashmere feel in the palate, is more complex in this Qvevri than its

French counterpart above. This wine maintains the beautiful fresh fruit qualities that are hallmarks of Thierry Puzelat. It is hard imagine a wine more delicious than this one.

VIN ROUGE 'GAMAY' 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 657619 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$20.25 Wholesale / \$23.50 Retail per bottle

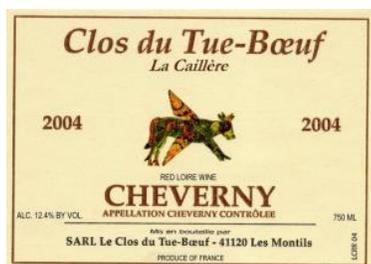
This Vin Rouge 'Gamay' is what I imagine what a *bistro vin* was like before industrial production rampaged throughout France in the name of standardization. Light and immensely drinkable. A touch *pétillance* that keeps this wine fresh and inviting. Hard to put this wine down. Thierry Puzelat always wanted to make an easy-going table wine that begs for a second bottle with plenty of foods to share at dinner table with friends. Here it is! 100% Gamay. Best slightly chilled.

TOURAINE 'LA BUTTE' 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 061028 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.54 Wholesale / \$26.00 Retail per bottle



La Butte means a little hill. There is a little stream that divides the appellation of *Cheverny* and *Touraine*. I always had a soft spot for Gamay grown and vinified with care in the Loire. Deeper than the *Vin Rouge* above. Hand-picked grapes are fermented whole clusters in large open top wooden vat. Then transferred to neutral barrels for about six month. Friendly and yet focused. This wine has that Thierry Puzelat tart cherry after taste, begging for another glass.

CHEVERNY 'LA CAILLÈRE' 2014
SPECULATIVE SKU: 257055 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.39 Wholesale / \$34.00 Retail per bottle



There is a handkerchief-size one hectare at the top of *clos*, where the soil is clay with flint. You can see the outlines of the vineyard *La Caillère* in the photo above. 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. Very light in colour with nearly no body. 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. If you like ripe and juicy new world Pinots, this is NOT it.

PINEAU D'AUNIS 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 558148 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.57 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle

This is a new cuvee from Thierry Puzelat. 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. Pineau D'Aunis gives most striking wine. Light bodied with white peppers and mesmerizing nose. The production is tiny.