
LE CLOS DU TUE-BOEUF
(Les Montils, LOIRE)

January 2020



With Thierry Puzelat at *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf* vineyard, surrounded by a forest.

There has been a significant replanting at the domain of *Le Clos du Tue Boeuf* in recent years. All replanting is *massale* selection, where the cuttings are taken from the diversified and best vines from their vineyards. *Massale* selection, unlike clonal selection, is time-consuming and challenging. About 20% of *massale* selection dies after replantation and must be replanted a year later. *Massale* selection guarantees the diversity in the vineyards. The forest surrounding the vineyard is intentionally kept for biodiversity. There is thoughtfulness to Thierry Puzelat that I love the most.

With his two daughters in their twenties now more involved at the domain, Thierry Puzelat seems energized as ever during my recent to the domain in July last year. For me, Thierry's wines remain the benchmark for elegance and drinkability that I associated with the Loire wines from Touraine.

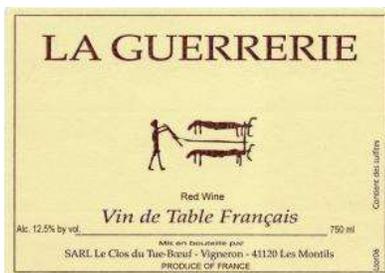
LE P'TIT BLANC DU TUE-BOEUF 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 817676 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 22.19 Wholesale / \$26.00 Retail per bottle



This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is grown on various soils: clay, sand, silex and limestone. This 2018, being a solar vintage, 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. Rates high on drinkability.

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

LA GUERRERIE 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 609677 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.61 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle



One of the most unique and compelling Thierry Puzelat reds. Fruit and fragrance 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.

VIN ROUGE 'GAMAY' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 657619 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.19 Wholesale / \$26.00 Retail per bottle



This cuvee is bottled twice: first in early spring and second in early summer. We always get the second bottling due to the timing of shipping and I personally like it slightly more because the wine has had a little longer *élevage*. This second bottling saw zero sulfur this vintage. Light and immensely drinkable. A touch *pétillance* that keeps this wine fresh and inviting. Hard to put this wine down. Best slightly chilled.

TOURAINNE 'LA BUTTE' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 061028 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.55 Wholesale / \$28.50 Retail per bottle



“There may be one more vintage of *La Butte*”, lamented Thierry during my visit to the domain this past July. My jaw dropped to the barrels. This is my favourite Gamay from the Loire. Thierry has been renting and farming *La Butte* for years but the land owner would like to take the vineyard back. *La Butte* means a little hill. Deeper than the *Vin Rouge* above. Hand-picked grapes are fermented whole clusters in the large open top wooden vat. Then the wine is transferred to neutral barrels for about six months. Friendly and yet focused. Enjoy this wine while we still have some.

CHEVERNY 'LA CAILLÈRE' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 257055 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.13 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle



There is a handkerchief-size just over one hectare at the top of the domain vineyard, where the soil is clay with flint. This south-facing vineyard is on an incline, where the drainage is excellent. *La Caillère* is planted mostly planted to Pinot Noir with a few rows of Pinot Gris. That’s right. There is some Pinot Gris blended into this wine. Funny, I just found out last July during my visit when I asked Thierry what makes *La Carillère* so unique. Ripe and full this vintage.

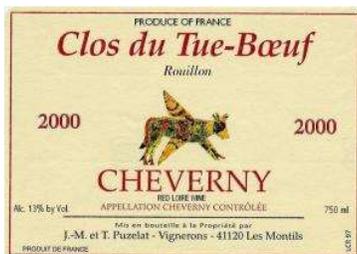
PINEAU D'AUNIS 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 558148 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.82 Wholesale / \$38.00 Retail per bottle



From a tiny parcel that has plantings that range from 5 years to over 100 years. Pineau D’Aunis is a disappearing varietal in the Loire. Widely planted in the Loire in the first half of last century, only a few hectares of Pineau D’Aunis now remain, sadly. 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. Beautiful.

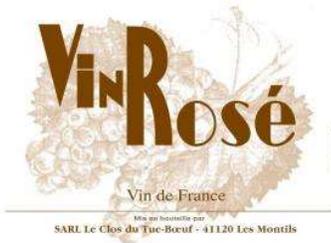
CHEVERNY 'LA ROUILLON' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 067009 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.04 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle



We have not had this cuvee for a few years. An equal blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay. In Burgundy, this blend is known as *Passetoutgrains*; in Loire, it is Cheverny rouge. From a two-hectare *lieu-dit* that is comprised of clay, flint and chalk. The vineyard slopes gently south. Raised in neutral barrels for about six months before being bottled without filtration. Full and decadent this year from the solar vintage.

VIN ROSÉ 2018

SPECULATIVE SKU: 756940 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.32 Wholesale / \$26.00 Retail per bottle



Simple and delicious rosé from the Loire in Touraine. It is mostly Gamay with Côt and/or Grolleau. This 2018 vintage is Gamay with Grolleau. This rosé took a long time to ferment, leaving slightly off-dry taste. If you have had the rosé from Pierre Olivier Bonhomme, this Vin Rosé is somewhat similar.

LE PETIT BUISSON 2018

SPECULATIVE SKU: 164010 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.55 Wholesale / \$28.50 Retail per bottle



From the Sauvignon Blanc vines grown on clay and flint on top over limestone bed. Freshness and nervousness shining through from the limestone. Focus and purity are the hallmark of this wine. *Cru* quality is self-evident. Lovely.

QVEVRI 2018

SPECULATIVE SKU: 163986 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.91 Wholesale / \$47.00 Retail per bottle



This is a skin-contact wine made from Sauvignon Blanc. Thierry Puzelat imports and distributes Georgian wines in Paris. Thierry has been visiting Georgia for years. His visits have inspired him to produce one red and one white using amphora, which is known as QVEVRI in Georgian dialect. There are only two amphoras buried in the ground at the domain. The production is tiny and most of the wines are sold to the wine bars and restaurants in Paris. Every year, I am happy to receive a tiny allocation of this wine. The label is painted by a Thierry's friend.