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

July 2024



With Thierry Puzelat with his daughter Zoé of their family domain Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf (photo courtesy of Zoé).

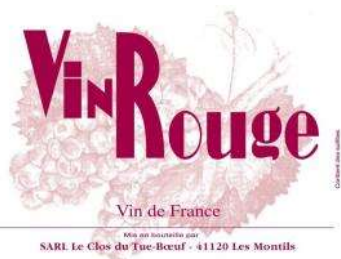
Kept knowledge withers and shared knowledge blossoms. Thierry Puzelat, having apprenticed at *Château Sainte Anne* in *Bandol* with the Dutheil family some thirty years ago, knows the importance of passing his knowledge to others. The apprenticeship at *Château Sainte Anne* was a pivotal moment for Thierry. After the apprenticeship, he returned to his family domain *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf* and overhauled the vineyard and cellar practices. Today, even though there have been many apprentices over the years, Thierry continues to take on apprentices.

Having had fourteen consecutive vintages of importing *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf* wines, I am certain that Thierry Puzelat is a once-in-a-generation *vigneron*. A *vigneron* like Thierry Puzelat don't come around often, even in the wine-cultured France. Don't take my word. Simply ask many great young producers, who have apprenticed with Thierry Puzelat. Loire and the rest of France is dotted with great producers, who have apprenticed with Thierry Puzelat.

Now, Thierry Puzelat has a very important apprentice at his domain. It is his daughter Zoé. For a while, Thierry told me he was not certain if any of his two daughters were interested in carrying on the domain. Then, Thierry took Zoé to the country of Georgia to visit the *vignerons*. Over the ensuing years, Zoé took separate trips to Georgia and stayed for awhile. Being far away from her home and staying with the *vignerones*, such as Ketevan Berishvili and Tamuna Bidzinashvili in Georgia, had a profound impact on Zoé. During my last visit to *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf*, Thierry was so thrilled that Zoé is now genuinely interested in becoming a *vigneronne*. Zoé has been making a cuvée here and there for the last few years. We have a small quantity of the Zoé's wine for this vintage. With Zoé by Thierry's side, the domain has taken on extra dimensions in recent vintages. Their wines are impressively vibrant and full of life.

VIN ROUGE 2023

SKU: 657619 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.93 Wholesale per bottle



This vintage is a compelling blend of Gamay, Côt, and Pineau D'Aunis. That's right. Some Pineau D'Aunis! A *bistro vin*! A *bon vivant* wine. Light. Pretty nose and colour. A hint of haunting spices from Côt and weightless beauty from Pineau D'Aunis bring immense drinkability. Hard to put this wine down after just one glass. Chill this wine and serve it as a light summer red. Best slightly chilled. The retro label pays a homage to bygone era when wines like this were common in local bistros.

VIN BLANC 2023

SKU: 12094 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 25.93 Wholesale per bottle



Zingy! This 2023 vintage is exuberant. A hint of lemon and pineapple with mouth-watering acidity. This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is grown on various soils: clay, sand, silex and limestone. This has all the charm and irresistible deliciousness of the Loire Sauvignon Blanc that I fell in love when I first visited Thierry Puzelat. I can't think of a better example of a Loire from one the greatest producers.

VIN ROSÉ 2023
SKU: 756940 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 25.93 Wholesale per bottle

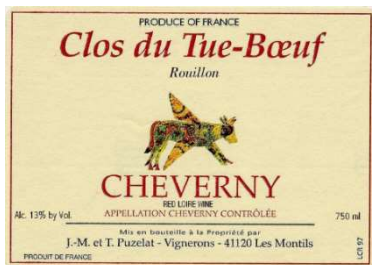


A delicious blend of Gamay, Côt and Pinot Noir. This is the first time Pinot Noir has been blended. All three varietals have a long history in the Loire. A hint of strawberry with cinnamon notes really makes this rosé sing. All varietals are directly pressed and fermented in neutral vats until the following spring. Grab a bottle of this and spend an afternoon at your favourite private place, and watch the world go by.

CHEVERNY 'TANT PEUT QU'ON' 2022
SKU: 279891 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.92 Wholesale per bottle

This is *Cheverny* Rouge made by Zoé Puzelat, who is the younger daughter of Thierry Puzelat. Weightless, composed, and elegant – all the descriptors that I associated with great French wines. A cashmere texture, which is a common trait of a well-made wine aged in amphorae. *Élevage* is about one year prior to bottling. Zoé has spent a considerable time in Georgia, working at a tiny family winery there. So, it is not surprising that she uses Qvevri – the clay amphorae in Georgia for aging wines. This wine is predominately Pinot Noir with a dash of Gamay. Beautiful wine.

CHEVERNY 'ROUILLON' 2022
SKU: 67009 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.83 Wholesale per bottle



You can drink this side by side with the *Cheverny* made by Zoé above. This *Cheverny 'Rouillon'* is floral with a hint of peppery nose. It is an equal blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay. One of the most delicious *Chevernys* that I know. There is something magical about blending Pinot Noir with Gamay. The blend always gives an easy drinking wine while keeping the Pinot complexity. The *élevage* is in neutral barrels for about six months. *Rouillon* means 'rusty' in French and is due to the reddish colour of the vineyard.

QVEVRI 2022
SKU: 163986 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$42.24 Wholesale per bottle



Here is the Thierry's wine influenced by his visits to the country of Georgia. A hint of beautiful peach-pear aroma. The texture is stunning. Purity in a bottle. This is a skin-contact wine made with Sauvignon Blanc in an amphora. De-stemmed grapes are gently placed into a Qvevri (clay amphora from Georgia). Then, the grapes are pressed with feet to release the juice, where it is fermented and aged in the Qvevri. Thierry Puzelat has a couple of Georgian amphorae, which are buried in the domain *chai*. Thierry has spent a considerable time in Georgia, where he was introduced to Qvevri. What little of this Qvevri is made, this wine is sold mostly in Paris. I feel lucky to receive some.

PRES DU BOIS 2022

SKU: 287803 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.96 Wholesale per bottle



meaning Cabernet Franc.

This is a new wine from Thierry Puzelat. 100% Cabernet Franc. As the name of wine implies, the vines are near the woods, where there is diversity surrounding the vineyard. This is the first time Thierry vinified Cabernet. A magical touch from Thierry and his team is self-evident. Beautiful texture with earthy mineral character that I associated with a great Cabernet. Fresh and vibrant. A hint of violets shining through. By the way, the Loire *vignerons* simply say Cabernet,

PINEAU D'AUNIS 2022

SKU: 558148 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$33.69 Wholesale per bottle

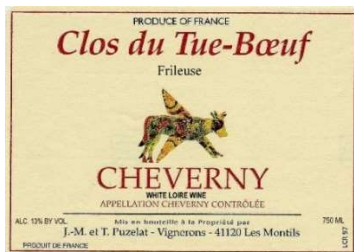


Pineau D'Aunis is a disappearing varietal in the Loire. Widely planted in the Loire in the last century, only a few hectares of *Pineau D'Aunis* now remain. *Pineau D'Aunis* is very difficult to cultivate. Yields swing widely at its own discretion. Not the most commercially reliable varietal. For the artisan *vignerons* in the Loire, *Pineau D'Aunis* means a lot to them. *Pineau D'Aunis* is impossibly pretty.

This wine is restocked. The last shipment of the same vintage sold out rather quickly. A hint of raspberries and flowers with white pepper - that is a hallmark of Pineau D'Aunis. 0% body and 100% soul. Lovely. *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

CHEVERNY 'FRILEUSE' 2022

SKU: 491894 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.48 Wholesale per bottle

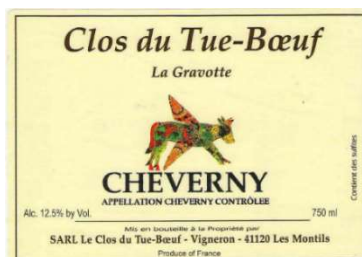


Very vibrant. Fresh. A hint of guava brings out the exotic taste that is so compelling to this cuvée. This white is an unusual and delicious blend of *Sauvignon Blanc*, *Chardonnay*, and *Fie Gris*. *Sauvignon* brings fruits and immediacy; *Chardonnay* adds *gras* and texture; and *Fie Gris* adds acidity and minerality. Each varietal is picked and fermented separately. Then, all varietals are blended and aged in neutral demi-muids (500 litre barrels) and Burgundian barrels (225 litre) for about nine months. Laurent Saillard told me this is the wine that inspired his Lucky You!. Now, you can drink the original and see for yourself why Laurent Saillard was inspired.

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CHEVERNY 'LA GRAVOTTE' (BLANC) 2022

SKU: 333554 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.67 Wholesale per bottle



This wine is lost in a mineral haze. Full of energy. Focused. It is a blend of 70% *Fie Gris* and 30% *Chardonnay*. At the upper end of *La Gravotte* vineyard, the exposed limestones are extreme with very little top soil. So, after years of making the red from this portion of *La Gravotte*, Thierry felt the extreme limestone portion is better suited to whites. He grafted the upper portion of *La Gravotte* vineyard to *Fie*

Gris and *Chardonnay*. *Fie Gris* is an indigenous varietal in the Loire. Perhaps, this vintage Gravotte Blanc and Frileuse (see above) are the greatest whites that I have ever drunk from the domain. Amazing.

TOURAINE 'LE PETIT BUISSON' 2022

SKU: 164010 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.97 Wholesale per bottle



Crunchy. Minerally. Inimitable deliciousness of Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire. Drink *Le Petit Buisson* and get reacquainted with what a great bottle of Sauvignon Blanc tastes like from the Loire. This wine translates where the vines are grown. *Le Petit Buisson* vineyard is a tiny 1.5-hectare parcel, which has flinty clay with limestone bedrock. *Le Petit Buisson* means 'Little Bush', which surrounds the vineyard. Direct pressed juice is fermented with ambient yeasts. *Élevage* in neutral Burgundy barrels for about six months prior to

bottling.

LE BRIN DE CHÈVRE 2022

SKU: 279866 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.80 Wholesale per bottle

Le Brin de Chèvre



Alive. Sappy. Graceful. Minerally. Utterly compelling. It is made from 100% *Menu Pineau*, which is a disappearing white varietal in the Loire. It is a risky varietal to grow because it ripens very late. With the temperatures getting warmer even in the Loire, *Manu Pineau* is making a stride. The vines come from two parcels that were planted in 1937 and 1950 with smatterings of recent plantings in the last twenty years. *Élevage* is in demi-muids (500 Litre) and Burgundy barrels (925 Litre) for about 9 to 10 months prior to bottling. A Loire

wine history in a bottle from one of the greatest *vignerons*.

PINEAU DE LA LOIRE 2022

SKU: 961177 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.97 Wholesale per bottle

Pineau de la Loire



Beautiful *Chenin Blanc* shining through with a hint of hay, minerals, and pear-skin. *Pineau de la Loire* is a historical name for *Chenin Blanc*. Thierry Puzelat makes this wine from purchased grapes from his friends, who farm organically in *Touraine*. The grapes are harvested by hand, then the whole clusters are gently pressed. Fermentation is by ambient yeasts in a large wooden vat – very traditional. Then, the wines are transferred into wooden barrels to age on its lees for about six months prior to bottling without

filtration.

BUISSON POUILLEUX 2022

SKU: 333551 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$36.37 Wholesale per bottle

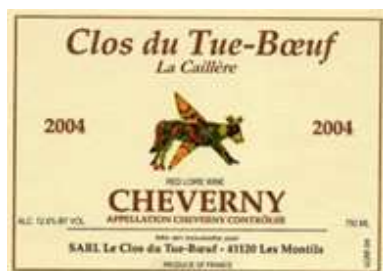


This is the best Sauvignon Blanc from Touraine that I have ever drunk. That is a statement. I know. This wine has it all – concentration, fruit, tension, and balance. *Buisson Pouilleux* is the top *Sauvignon Blanc* cuvée from *Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf*. The wine is 100% *Sauvignon Blanc* from a single parcel of about 1.1 hectare that has clay mixed with limestone and flint. About half of the surface was planted in 1950 and the other half in 1964. Sappy from the old vines. Rich and yet fresh with unmistakable Sauvignon character. Singular

expression of Sauvignon Blanc from *Cheverny*. *Élevage* is neutral demi-muids and Burgundian barrels for about a year prior to bottling. This 2022 vintage is the first time that we received this wine.

CHEVERNY 'LA CAILLÈRE' 2022

SKU: 257055 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.80 Wholesale per bottle



Elegant. Floral. Pretty. A hint of raspberries in this vintage. Elegance and depth from the Pinot Noir. A tiny amount of Pinot Gris grown on *La Caillère* vineyard is blended into this cuvée, which gives elegant texture. An addition of Pinot Gris with Pinot Noir used to more common in Burgundy. *La Caillère* vineyard is about 1.4 hectares with flinty top soil with limestone bedrock. With the Pinot Noir vines now approaching 40 years, this wine is really showing its depth. *Élevage* is about ten months in neutral Burgundy barrels (225 Litre) and

demi-muids (500 Litre) prior to bottling.

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

LA GUERRERIE 2022

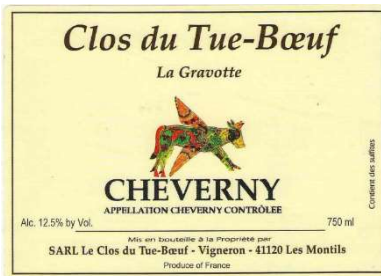
SKU: 609677 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.69 Wholesale per bottle



Exuberant. Seductive nose. Densely packed with fruit that has a hint of blackberries/blueberries. For this vintage, *La Guerrierie* is a blend of 90% Côt (aka Malbec) and 10% Gamay. Power and seriousness of Côt is tempered with the playfulness of Gamay. Côt has dark, nearly purple colour and its stunning colour shows in this wine. *La Guerrierie* is an estate parcel that was co-planted with Côt and Gamay on a very clay soil. The *élevage* is about eight-to-nine months in neutral Burgundy barrels (225 Litre) and demi-muids (500 Litre)

prior to bottling. Côt has been planted for centuries in *Touraine*.

CHEVERNY 'LA GRAVOTTE' (ROUGE) 2022
SKU: 256842 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$39.83 Wholesale per bottle



A blend of 95% Pinot Noir and 5% Gamay. This one is singing. Flowers and a hint of black pepper. A great entry with lovely midpalate. A finish that lingers. There have been many great *La Gravotte* rouges over the years but this one is really superb. The vines are about 40 years old. From the 1.2 hectare parcel that has a lot of stones and flint on top and limestone underneath. *La Gravotte* mean 'little gravely one'. *Élevage* is about ten months in neutral demi-muids (500 Litre barrels).

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