
MAI & KENJI HODGSON
(Anjou, France)

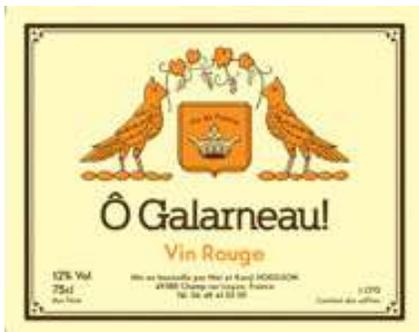
October 2018



With Mai & Kenji Hodgson at the Ô Galarneau Vineyard

Mai and Kenji Hodgson are our local wine heroes who made it in France. Their incredible wine journey has been told in the previous newsletters and the story is available on website under Producers. It has been ten years now since they settled in Anjou in the Loire Valley. They now have a new baby and live a busy life of being parents and *vignerons*. In 2017, the national French wine magazine *La Revue du Vin France* ranked the Mai and Kenji wine to be #2 best among all the wines presented in Saumur – not an easy feat in the French wine industry and press. The bad news is the wines are now more difficult to get.

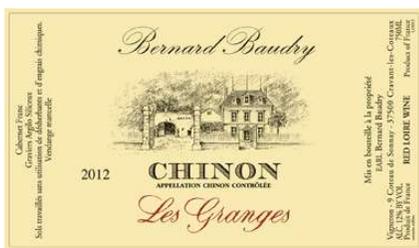
MAI & KENJI HODGSON ‘Ô GALARNEAU’ 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 599761 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$ 27.45 Wholesale/ \$ 32.00 Retail per bottle



Mai and Kenji have had two consecutive years of frosts in 2016 and 2017. Tiny amounts of wines were made but those wines will not be on our shores for awhile. Meanwhile, enjoy this lovely red from Anjou in the Loire Valley. It is 100% Cabernet France from old vines (+70 years) and this cuvée is from their best parcels. The grapes are harvested by hand and a portion is de-stemmed by hand. Fermentation is in open top tanks. Maceration lasts about three weeks. You can see the very vines from the photo above. Unfiltered.

Speaking of Loire reds, here are the new vintages of two of Bernard Baudry Chinons:

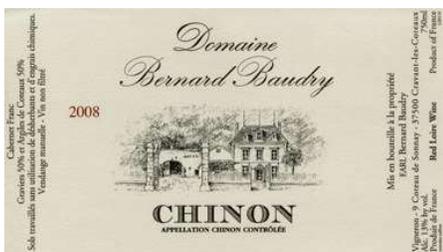
BERNARD BAUDRY CHINON ‘LES GRANGES’ 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 891143 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$21.34 Wholesale / \$25.00 Retail per bottle



A new vintage. Fresh. Bright. Voilets and minerals. Inimitable Cabernet Franc from one of the most treasured appellations in the Loire - Chinon. From the sandy vineyard that hugs the *Vienne* River. The sandy soil brings out the gulp-ability and deliciousness to this wine. Hard-harvested grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in neutral vats for about a year. Even better slightly chilled. 100% Cabernet Franc.

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

BERNARD BAUDRY CHINON ‘DOMAINE’ 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 615047 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$23.46 Wholesale / \$27.00 Retail per bottle



Domaine bottling is usually best after some time in cellar but this is delicious from the release. It was even tasting great in the vats at the domain. Perfumed with mineral undertone. Regal. Crunchy. Fresh. About half of parcels are on sandy soil with the other half on clay soil. Matthieu Baudy has the harvest team pick the grapes by hand, like all their vines, separately on each parcel. Each parcel is fermented separately and then blended.

The blended wine is raised in neutral *triconic* vats (big oak vertical barrels) for about a year, followed by additional bottling aging prior to release. The 2015 vintage had generous amount of sunshine and Bernard Baudry captured the beauty of vintage without a trace of over ripeness. If you have tasted Baudry's *Les Grezeaux* 2015, *Le Clos Guillot* 2015 and *La Croix Boissée* 2015, which are also available, you already know.

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