

June 2020

NOËLLA MORANTIN
(Thésée, Loire)



With Noëlla Morantin

It has been years since the last time we received Noëlla Morantin wines. Through a series of unintended miscommunications, Noëlla and I kept missing each other. Because her wines are sought after and her vineyards are so small, I assumed she had nothing much to export, which is still the case. Missing her wines left a void in me because Noëlla was one of the *vignerones* that we imported starting 2010, when we first opened our import business. Also, it is Noëlla who introduced me to Laurent Saillard, whose wines we import. Laurent Saillard was apprenticing at chez Noëlla at the time. So, every time I drank a bottle of Laurent Saillard, I wondered about Noëlla.

Then, during my trip to France last July, I was having a dinner at a tiny beautiful bistro *Archimède* in the village of *Saint-Aignan-Sur-Cher* in Loire. As if the universe was conspiring in my favour, Noëlla walked in unexpectedly. We chuckled over our past miscommunications and caught-up over many glasses of wine. Then, she invited me to her cellar to taste the next day. And that is how her wines arrived on our shores, again.

Stella Marie Sauvignon Blanc 2018
SKU: 068323 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$24.74 Wholesale/ \$28.50 Retail per bottle



From the vines grown on clay with limestone underneath. When I tasted last July, this wine was a barrel sample and the wine was still fermenting in her icy chalk cellar. Not the type of *vigneronne* who would intervene, Noëlla took her time and allowed the wine to finish in its own terms. Balanced. Pretty. Kind of Sauvignon Blanc that I would love to drink endlessly over a lazy dinner in a garden. Stella Maris means starfish in French. Noëlla grew-up in Normandy and has fond memories seeing starfishes on the beaches.

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

Chez Charles Sauvignon Blanc 2018
SKU: 168633 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$30.58 Wholesale/ \$36.00 Retail per bottle



Hand-harvested Sauvignon Blanc grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts like all of her wines and raised in neutral demi-muids (500 litre barrels) for about a year. It has that illusive engaging marrowy richness without the weight. Grace of old vines shining through. The vines come from the parcel that used to be farmed by Charles Buchet before Noëlla purchased the vineyard. In honour of him, Noëlla named the cuvée after his name. The vines were planted in the 1960's. We received 5 cases.

Tango Atlantico 2017

SKU: 068332 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$29.43 Wholesale/ \$34.00 Retail per bottle

Vin de France
**TANGO
ATLANTICO**
Noëlla Morantin



This is a blend of about 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Malbec. Two Bordeaux varietals that have a long history in this part of Loire. *Élevage* is about fifteen months in demi-muids (500 litre barrels). Then, the barrels are assembled. The assemblage is rested and bottled without filtration. Fresh, gently earthy, sappy berry-fruits with some grip that reminds me of an honest Bordeaux. Beautiful. A type of *Clairnet* that I wish I had in my cellar when I first started appreciating wine.

Les Pichiaux Sauvignon Blanc 2018

SKU: 068329 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$27.06 Wholesale/ \$32.00 Retail per bottle



Exotic fruit taste with good intensity and balance. Sauvignon Blanc vines planted on a single parcel of the cuvée name, where there is presence of silex in clay with limestone bedrock. The vineyard is not too far from *Chez Charles* and the vines are younger than *Chez Charles*. Gently chalky and full of Sauvignon Blanc charm. Hard to put this one down. So delicious. *Les Pichiaux* is also raised in neutral demi-muids for about ten months prior to bottling.

LBL Sauvignon Blanc 2016

SKU: 068335 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$38.88 Wholesale/ \$46.00 Retail per bottle



From the old Sauvignon Blanc vines grown silex-clay soil over limestone hill. The exposure is ideal southeast. The vines were planted in 1943. It is rare to see Sauvignon Blanc vines this age, even in the Loire. Sappy and complex with elegance. This wine sees the second winter in demi-muids, followed by many months in bottles prior to release. LBL mean *Les Bois Lucas*, which was the first domain that Noëlla worked. Noëlla used to farm the same parcel, where she used to vinify the very Sauvignon Blanc. When the owner of *Les Bois Lucas* retired, Noëlla bought the vineyard. This is her top wine.



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