

**NOËLLA MORANTIN**  
(Thésée, Loire)

May 2022



*With Noëlla Morantin. Her vineyards are past the entrance behind us, then to the left and about a kilometer.*

I met Noëlla Morantin a year after she opened her own domain. That was in 2010. Prior to starting her own domain, she worked for the small *Domain Les Bois Lucas*, which is located close to where she is now. Being the only employee of the small domain, she did everything. She pruned the vines, drove the tractor, and vinified the wines. This was fortuitous for Noëlla – although I am beginning to believe all things happen for a reason.

Sometimes, one can't connect the dots in life until it happens. For Noëlla, working for that small domain proved to be her path to owning the great vineyards. When her former employer decided to sell the vineyards, Noëlla was offered to purchase the vineyards. She jumped at the opportunity. Noëlla's vineyards are near *La Tesnière*, where there is an outcropping of limestone. Vines rooted in limestone give inimitable freshness and minerality in wines.

Noëlla is not from a wine family. She is from Normandy, which is the Atlantic coastal area known for butter and ciders. So, being a *vigneronne* is a calling for her. Her heart is in her vineyards and her wines. Her total vineyards are only six hectares.

### **Stella Marie Sauvignon Blanc 2020**

**SKU: 068323 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case  
\$26.24 Wholesale/ \$34.00 Retail per bottle**



Crunchy with a mineral undertow. Flowers. A hint of honey. Exuberant and yet elegant. This Sauvignon Blanc goes down like a praise. Easy yet not so simple. 100% Sauvignon Blanc from the vines grown on clay and flint with limestone underneath, which gives freshness. Sauvignon Blanc that I would love to drink over a lazy dinner in a garden on a summer evening. 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 2019**

**SKU: 168633 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case  
\$32.31 Wholesale/ \$43.00 Retail per bottle**



Elegant. Complex. Inimitable perfume and texture of finely made Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire. Beautiful. Hand-harvested Sauvignon Blanc grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts - like all of Noëlla's wines. *Élevage* in neutral demi-muids (500 litre barrels) for about a year. Relatively long *élevage* really brings refinement and texture. 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 a gentleman 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.

## Tango Atlantico 2018

**SKU: 068332 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case**  
**\$29.43 Wholesale/ \$38.00 Retail per bottle**

Vin de France  
**TANGO  
ATLANTICO**  
Noëlla Morantin



Gently earthy, summer berry-fruits with melting tannins. Decadent in this sunny 2018 vintage. So delicious. *Gourmand*, as French would say. This is a blend of about 60% *Cabernet Franc* and 40% *Côt* (aka *Malbec*). Two Bordeaux varietals that have a long history in this part of Loire. *Élevage* is about eighteen months in demi-muids (500 litre barrels). Then, the barrels are assembled. The assemblage is rested and bottled without filtration. This wine spent additional eighteen months in bottles in Noëlla's icy chalk cellar before being shipped to our shores. Splendid.

## La Boudinerie 2020

**SKU: 223990 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case**  
**\$25.00 Wholesale/ \$33.00 Retail per bottle**



Summer berries. Fresh. A little clove and peppery taste that keeps this wine compelling. Quaffable. Immensely drinkable. *Digestible* as the French would say. Made with 100% Gamay grown on sandy soil with limestone. The sand soil gives this Gamay light structure. Maceration is intentionally kept short to make wine *vin de soif*. This wine spends about nine months in neutral *demi-muids* (500 litre barrels) to settle down. At 12% alcohol, this wine is immensely pleasurable. Best served slightly chilled.

## Mon Cher 2020

**SKU: 608000 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case**  
**\$29.87 Wholesale/ \$39.00 Retail per bottle**



More complex and elegant than the *La Boudinerie* above. Peony-like nose that keeps your nose in the glass. Some spices keep this wine intriguing. *Mon Cher* is all that is so great about a Loire red made from Gamay. The vines are planted on clay with limestone and are about 40 years old. Half of harvest is destemmed while the other half is whole clusters. This wine spends about ten months in neutral *demi-muids* (500 litre barrels) to settle down. Then bottled to rest for a few months prior to release. One of the finest Loire Gamay wines. Best served slightly chilled.

## Mon Cher 2020 (MAGNUMS)

**SKU: 474888 Speculative 1.5 Litre 12 bottles/ case**  
**\$69.42 Wholesale/ \$90.00 Retail per bottle**

Also comes in MAGNUMS for the first time in our market.

## Côt à Côt 2020

**SKU: 864884 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case**  
**\$33.56 Wholesale/ \$44.00 Retail per bottle**



Plush texture and yet with a finely knit structure. A hint of blueberries with spices. Delicious. Hard stop at one glass. 100% Côt (aka Malbec), which has been cultivated in the Loire for centuries. Skins of Côt have deep colour, which shows in the wine. The wine spends about a year in neutral demi muids (500 litre barrels – about the twice the size of a Burgundy barrels) in the icy chalk cellar to settle down prior to bottling. Then, the bottles rest in the cellar for many months to settle down. Our customers often ask me if there a full-body wine on our portfolio. These Bordeaux varietal-based wines of *Côt à Côt* and *Tango Atlantico* (see previous page) are full-body with a sense of

balance.

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