
PIERRE OLIVIER BONHOMME
(Les Montils, Loire)

January 2021



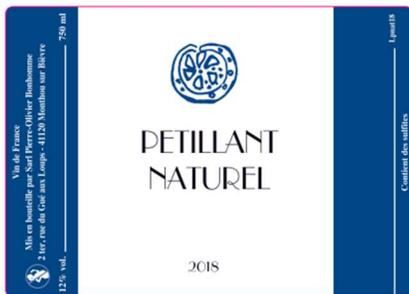
With Pierre Olivier Bonhomme in the village of Les Montils in the Loire

Pierre Olivier Bonhomme dropped out of his high school. In the countryside of Loire, sitting at a desk on hours end and doing mindless homework were uninspiring to him. Pierre Olivier was lost in his youth, but he made a commitment to find work that has heart and meaning. He worked a few harvests at Thierry Puzelat's domain of Le Clos du Tue Boeuf. Thierry, noticing Pierre Olivier's commitment, hired him as a permanent assistant at the domain. That is how Pierre Olivier started his own domain. Pierre Olivier was born and grew-up near the village of *Les Montils*, where his domain is located.

Pierre Olivier quietly goes about growing vines and making wines. I think he would rather have his wines speak for themselves than himself. He is shy but his wines are expressive. When Pierre Olivier is not busy working the vineyards, he and his wife are busy raising a young child.

For the first time, we received some Pet Nat made from Chenin Blanc, as well as Vercheny Rosé made from 100% Pinot Noir, as well as, an unusual blend of Menu Pineau and Chenin Blanc. With spring just around the corner, I can't think of better wines to have some in my own cellar.

PETILLANT NATUREL 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 039639 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.47 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle



This is a new wine in our market. Pétillant Naturel (Pet Nat) made from 100% Chenin Blanc. Partially fermented wine is bottled and capped, where fermentation continues and naturally produces bubbles. Disgorged about 12 months later and topped-up with the same sparkling wine. Breeding of Chenin Blanc shining through with a compelling and unique taste. Delicious bubbly to sip all seasons, especially in spring, if I can keep my hands off until then.

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

TOURAINE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 423020 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$23.06 Wholesale / \$30.00 Retail per bottle



The vineyard is south-facing with exposed silex stones all over the surface with limestone underneath. The exposition of the slope and soil give this wine an exotic tropical taste, which really shows in this 2019 vintage. Rich and decadent in 2019. Hand-picked grapes are gently pressed and fermented in neutral vats with ambient yeasts. Immensely drinkable Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire.

LE TELQUEL 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 530568 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$23.06 Wholesale / \$30.00 Retail per bottle



This wine is an unusual blend of Gamay and Côt (aka Malbec), and sometimes with a dash of Pineau D'Aunis. The blend changes with each vintage. This is always so delicious. The 2019 vintage has had plenty of sun and has extra fruit and spices. A wine that symbolizes *vins de soif*. Each varietal is fermented separately, then blended and raised in neutral barrels for about six months to settle down. Unfiltered. Totally unpretentious and seriously delicious. Best slightly chilled. TELQUEL is a play on words. TECKEL means dachshund hound in French.

'LA TESNIERE' BLANC 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 011282 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$30.86 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle

This is a new wine in our market. It is a blend of about 70% Menu Pineau and 30% Chenin Blanc. Co-fermented after a direct press, the wine is raised in neutral barrels for about a year. The vines are about 60 years old and comes from a single parcel in *La Tesnière* called *La Roche*. Menu Pineau produces minerally wine while maintaining striking acidity. Menu Pineau used to be widely planted in Touraine but now only a few dedicated vigneronns keep the vines – usually for themselves to drink.

TOURAINE KO 'In Côt We Trust' 2016
SPECULATIVE SKU: 163204 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.25 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle



Fresh and floral. A new vintage. This is made from 100% Côt, also known as Malbec. *Élevage* is about 18 months in neutral 500 litre demi-muids, followed by some bottle-aging. The Côt vines come from the *lieu-dit* of *Les Automnes*. Côt has been cultivated for centuries in Touraine. Very fresh and lively with low alcohol. This is completely opposite of the new world Malbec.

TOURAINE PINOT NOIR 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 163220 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$45.80 Wholesale / \$59.00 Retail per bottle.



This is a new vintage. This is 100% Pinot Noir. Supremely elegant and pretty. Striking. This wine has all the graces of fine Pinot Noir. Fifty-year old vines come from the tiny single parcel called *La Ceverie*. The vineyard consists of clay and limestone. There is something magical about Pinot Noir grown on a great vineyard of clay and limestone. The resulting Pinot is inimitably fresh and floral. Pierre Olivier makes 4 to 5 barrels each vintage. This is the top wine for Pierre Olivier Bonhomme. One of the finest Pinots from the

Loire that I have tasted.

SAVIGNON BLANC TOURAINE 'THÉSÉE' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 217839 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.21 Wholesale / \$38.00 Retail per bottle

This is a new vintage. Thésée is a village across the *Cher* River from the village of Pouillé, where Laurent Saillard and Noella Morantin have their vineyards. Thésée has particularly white limestone. It looks like pure chalk. You can see the old cellars that are carved directly into the exposed limestone. Sauvignon Blanc vines grown on limestone has a particular taste, often requiring long elevage to show its best. This Sauvignon spends about ten months in neutral 500 litre demi-muids, followed by another year or so in bottles prior to release. Sauvignon with personality and grace.

SAVIGNON BLANC TOURAINE 'POB' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 130743 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.25 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle

From the single parcel called *Ronne*, which has flint, clay on a bed of limestone, similar to Pouilly-Fumé. The vines are about 40 years old. Very delicious. Sauvignon Blanc of distiveness and easeness from the Loire that I appreciate the most. Hand-picked grapes, like all of Pierre Olivier's wines, are fermented with natural yeasts. *Élevage* is in neutral 500 litre demi-muids for about ten months. Pierre Olivier makes just a few barrels each vintage.

TOURAINNE 'LA TESNIÈRE' PINEAU D'AUNIS 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 417501 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.04 Wholesale / \$41.00 Retail per bottle



It is made from 100% Pineau d'Aunis. Exquisite. Delicate. Only a shade darker than a rosé, which is the natural colour that Pineau d'Aunis gives. Hard to believe this light red has so much focus. Pineau D'Aunis is a varietal that has been grown in the Loire for centuries but is fast disappearing. The varietal is extremely difficult to cultivate. This Pineau d'Aunis comes from a clay soil with pure limestone base from the *La Tesnière* vineyard near where *Laurent Saillard* is located. The production is tiny.

VERCHENY Rouge 2019
SPECULATIVE SKU: 738997 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$25.90 Wholesale / \$34.00 Retail per bottle

This has all the charm of a good Pinot Noir – light in colour and body but penetrating aroma. This is 100% Pinot Noir grown in the appellation of Cheverny from a single parcel called *La Boissière*. Cheverny red must be a blend, according to the appellation rules. Pierre Olivier, however, feels this Pinot Noir parcel gives uniqueness and did not want to blend with another varietal. Blending a good parcel of Pinot Noir is like putting Maria Callas with a choir. The star voice gets lost. If you look at the letters in the word Vercheny, there is Cheverny. *Élevage* is in neutral barrels for about eight months. One of the great values of Pinot Noir – least that I know.

VERCHENY Rosé 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 074909 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.35 Wholesale / \$29.00 Retail per bottle

This is a new rosé in our market. Made with 100% Pinot Noir. I can't think of the last time I drank a rosé made with pure Pinot at this price. Hand-harvested grapes are left in its skins for a short time before being gently pressed. *Elevage* is in neutral vats. The 2018, paradoxically rich in sugar and acidity, took a long time to complete fermentation. Pierre Olivier did not interfere and allowed this rosé to take its course. A bottle like this makes me look forward to warmer and sunny days ahead and makes me fall in love with the Loire, again.



www.racinewineimports.ca