

PIERRE OLIVIER BONHOMME
(Les Montils, Loire)

March 2022



With Pierre Olivier Bonhomme

Great *vignerons* are not conformists. As I drive towards the village of *Les Montils* in the *Cheverny*, just before the entrance to the village, there is a nondescript white building that does not conform to the others in the village. There are no signs. If Pierre Olivier did not meet me in the village square to guide me to his new cellar, I probably would not have found it. Pierre Olivier Bonhomme used to have an old tiny cellar in the village but had to move due to the space constraint. From this nondescript building, Pierre Olivier makes one of the most expressive wines in the region.

Pierre Olivier makes delicious *Cheverny* and *Touraine* wine. Yet, he chooses not to seek the appellation approval and simply labels many of his wines without appellations. Pierre Olivier wines stick out like a sore thumb and do not taste like the others. He is tired of arguing with the local appellation authorities, who are represented by large domains. Instead, as a gesture of his silent protest, Pierre Olivier chose to bottle the *cuvée Vercheny* from the vines grown in *Cheverny*. *Vercheny* is inverted word of *Cheverny*. His *Vecheny* does not conform to the other *Chevernys*. Similarly, his Pineau D'Aunis from the vines grown in *Touraine* is simply labelled without the appellation. I am now a believer that great *vignerons* are not conformists.

TOURAINE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2019

SKU: 423020 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.39 Wholesale / \$32.00 Retail per bottle



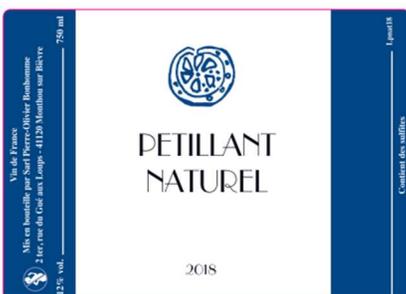
The vineyard is south-facing with exposed silex stones all over the surface with limestone underneath. The exposition of the slope and soil give this wine an exotic tropical taste, which really shows in this sunny 2019 vintage. Rich and decadent in 2019. Hand-picked grapes are gently pressed and fermented in neutral vats with ambient yeasts. Immensely drinkable Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire. This wine always takes some time to settle down and tastes the best after a few months upon arrival – often when the wine is sold out. So for the first time, I

asked Pierre Olivier Bonhomme if I can reserve some for the second shipment, where this wine had an additional year to settle down in his cold cellar. To my palate, this second shipment is even more delicious.

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

PÉTILLANT NATUREL BLANC 2020

SKU: 039639 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$30.95 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle



The bubbles are very gentle, almost whispering quiet. Pierre Olivier feels aggressive bubbles interfere with the taste of wines and prefers gentle bubbles in his Pétillant Naturel (Pét Nat). If you like Pét Nat that explodes with bubbles, this will not please you. This Pét Nat is 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. Honey hay colour from the ripen Chenin grapes. Pierre Olivier Bonhomme believes Chenin Blanc is best picked a bit riper, rather than

just ripe, to give additional flavour. 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.

PÉTILLANT NATUREL ROSÉ 2020

SKU: 609248 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$30.95 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle

This Pétillant Naturel (Pét Nat) also has very gentlest bubbles, almost whispering quiet. Again, if you like Pét Nat that explodes with bubbles, this will not please you. Predominately Chenin Blanc. Some Cabernet Franc grapes are pressed with the skin and added with the Chenin Blanc. The colour is a faintest hue of rosé. Gently bubbly and discreetly off-dry. The blended wine is put into bottles before the fermentation is complete, creating delicious bottles as the fermentation continues in bottles. This Pét Nat was disgorged by hand and topped-up with the same wine. Nobility of Chenin Blanc vines grown on limestone shining through. A hint of pear with a mineral tone. To me, this Pét Nat drinks like a slightly off-dry (demi sec) Vouvray with faint bubbles.

L'ORMEAU DES DEUX CROIX MACERATION 2020

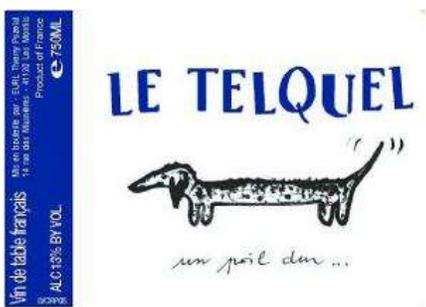
SKU: 039642 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$30.72 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle



Skin-macerated Chenin Blanc. The vines are from the single parcel of *L'Ormeau des Deux Croix*, which is in the *Cheverny* appellation. The vines are on limestone with clay on top. The grapes are macerated for about a month and aged in amphora and vat. The use of amphora gives this wine orange or bronze colour that I associate more often with *Georgian* wines. Slightly cloudy from being non-filtered. A hint of orange peel, almond and pear with some spices that keep this wine compelling. There are some tannins at the finish from the skin maceration and acidity is bright.

LE TELQUEL 2020

SKU: 530568 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$24.39 Wholesale / \$32.00 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. 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.

LE TELQUEL 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 463880 SPECULATIVE 1.5 L 6 bottles/case
\$53.80 Wholesale / \$70.00 Retail per bottle

This is the first time we received some MAGNUMS of Le Telquel. It seem the majority of MAGNUMS for this wine is quietly exported to Japan. I had to ask for some as Pierre Olivier Bonhomme does not list the magnums of Le Telquel when he emails me the available wines. Merci Beaucoup, Pierre Olivier! So, fire-up some charcoal, make some chicken Yakitori or your favourite meat and vegetables, and open a slightly-chilled MAGNUM of Le Telquel. You can, of course, do the same thing with 750 ml bottles but the thrill of grandness will be diminished. In joys of life, often the sum of one plus one is greater than two.

KO 'In Côt We Trust' 2018

SKU: 163204 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$30.72 Wholesale / \$40.00 Retail per bottle



A hint of blueberries with alluring nose of spices and flowers. Deep, almost dark blue colour, which is typical of Malbec. This is made from 100% Côt, also known as Malbec. If you are used to a new world Malbec, this wine will be shocking. *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. The 2018 vintage was sunnier than usual, which gave this wine some extra spices and deliciousness

TOURAINE PINOT NOIR 2020

SKU: 163220 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$46.93 Wholesale / \$61.00 Retail per bottle.



This is the top wine for Pierre Olivier Bonhomme It 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.. One of the finest Pinots from the Loire that I have tasted. Try to keep your hands off for a few months in a cool cellar and drink *Vercheny* (see below) while waiting for this Pinot Noir to settle down.

VERCHENY Rouge 2020

SPECULATIVE SKU: 738997 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.31 Wholesale / \$36.00 Retail per bottle

This has all the charm of a good Pinot Noir – light in colour and body with penetrating aroma. This is 100% Pinot Noir grown in the appellation of *Cheverny* from a sigle parcel called *La Boissière*. That's

right. The same parcel where Pineau D'Aunis (see below) is grown. *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. 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. Best slightly chilled.

ROMORANTIN 2020

SKU: 463891 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.63 Wholesale / \$45.00 Retail per bottle

Romorantin is a white indigenous varietal in the *Touraine* and *Cheverny* region. *Romorantin* used to be planted widely but now only a few *vignerons* grow the varietal. This wine has intense citrus, herbal character. A hint of pear keeps the midpalate lively. Freshness and bright acidity with a mineral undertow are the hallmarks of a great *Romorantin*. It pairs well with fish and cheese dishes, of course, but it is one of few wines that really sings with vegetables. The lively freshness and acidity are good friends with vegetables. For many of our Loire producers, including Thierry Puzelat and Noella Morantin, *Romorantin* is considered to be a signature varietal of the Loire. In fact, Noella Morantin is planting some. This is the first time this wine made to our shores.

MESLIER 2020

SKU: 463888 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.29 Wholesale / \$38.00 Retail per bottle

Meslier is also a white indigenous varietal in the *Touraine* and *Cheverny* region. Again, only a few *vignerons* grow the varietal. The origin of *Meslier* is lost in the mist of time but the theory has it that the varietal is a cross between Gouais Blanc and Chenin Blanc. A hint of honey, pear, almond and citrus fruits. There is also a stony taste that keep this wine compelling. In the palate, it is intense and full, even viscous, with a long lingering aftertaste and great acidity. There is a lot going on with this wine. Delicious. This is the first time we received *Meslier*.

TOURAINES 'LA TESNIÈRE' PINEAU D'AUNIS 2020

SKU: 417501 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.62 Wholesale / \$45.00 Retail per bottle



Exquisite. Delicate. A hint of white pepper lends complexity. It is made from 100% Pineau d'Aunis. 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. Best slightly chilled.

TOURAINES 'LA BOISSIÈRE' PINEAU D'AUNIS 2020

SPECULATIVE SKU: 463883 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.62 Wholesale / \$45.00 Retail per bottle

This is the first time we received this Pineau D'Aunis. Floral. Pretty. As with the Tesnière above, the colour of this wine is just a shade darker than a rosé, which is the colour of thin-skinned Pineau D'Aunis. The hallmark of white pepper is present. This wine comes from the single parcel known as *La Boissiere*, which has sandy clay on top with limestone underneath. The limestone brings freshness; clay adds structure; and sand brings out floral nose. Not a bad combination in any wine. Loire history in a bottle. Best slightly chilled.

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