
PIERRE OLIVIER BONHOMME
(Les Montils, Loire)

May 2020



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

I vividly recall the very first time I tasted Pierre Olivier’s wines. I remember him popping various wines for me to taste in his humble cellar. Other than announcing the names of the wines, he did not speak a single word during the tasting, unless I asked questions. The wines were so alive and so compelling. When Pierre Olivier opened the final tasting bottle of *In Côt We Trust*, I momentarily blacked out after taking a sip. The taste was so new to me. Trying my best to remain composed, I asked him if he had some wines available for export. “*All sold*”, responded Pierre Olivier. Then, what felt like an infinite pause, he softly said, “... *but I can save some for you for the next vintage*”. And that was how Pierre Olivier Bonhomme wines first arrived on our shores ten years ago.

Pierre Olivier Bonhomme is a *vigneron* of a few words. When I ask him questions, it is often no more than a single sentence. I think he prefers to let his wines speak. This is our tenth year of presenting Pierre Olivier’s wines to our shores. Thanks to our customers, we did not skip a single vintage in those ten years.

LE TELQUEL 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 530568 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.10 Wholesale / \$25.50 Retail per bottle



Many of our customers affectionately call this “you know, the wiener dog wine”. It is a unusual blend of Gamay and Côt (aka Malbec), and sometime with a dash of Pineau D’Aunis. This is always so delicious. And the 2018, being a solar vintage, has extra spices and fruit. 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.

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

TOURAINE KO ‘In Côt We Trust’ 2015
SPECULATIVE SKU: 163204 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.25 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle



Mesmerizing nose with spices. All wines from Pierre Olivier are compelling to me but this cuvée has that extra dimension. Perhaps because the vines are old – see the photo on the last page. I can’t think of another Côt tasting like this. Côt is also known as Malbec in the other parts of world. Fermented traditionally with stems in an open-top. Raised in neutral barrels for about a year and then cellared in bottles for many additional months to settle down. This wine was my first wine wake-up call and still hits me emotionally every time I drink a bottle.

TOURAINES SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 423020 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$22.10 Wholesale / \$25.50 Retail per bottle



The vineyard is south-facing with exposed silex stones all over the surface with limestone underneath, like *Pouilly-Fumé*. The exposition of the slope and soil give this wine an exotic tropical taste, which really shows in this 2018 vintage. Hand-picked grapes are gently pressed and fermented in neutral vats with ambient yeasts. The vats are moved outside overnight in early spring when the night temperature dips cold to settle the sediments. Then, the wine is bottled. One of most delicious Sauvignon Blancs that I know.

TOURAINES PINOT NOIR 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 163220 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$45.80 Wholesale / \$53.00 Retail per bottle.



This wine comes from the village of *St Aignan-Sur-Cher*. The entire surface of the vineyard is 20 ares (about 0.5 acre), which consists of clay and limestone. Pierre Olivier makes 4 to 5 barrels each vintage. Translucent colour. Rippling fluidity, weaving nose and tasty like no other Pinot Noir that I know. A shade darker than a rosé, this Pinot weaves its spell-binding fragrance and texture. A Pinot in the hands of a confident vigneron.

SAUVIGNON BLANC TOURAINE 'POB' 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 130743 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$28.25 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle

From the tiny parcel that has clay on top with limestone bedrock. The vineyard has been planted by Pierre Olivier Bonhomme's grandmother. Very delicious. Nervous. Lively. Fresh. Hand-picked grapes, like all of Pierre Olivier's wines, are fermented with natural yeast. *Élevage* is in neutral 500 litre demi-muids about ten months. Pierre Olivier makes 5 to 6 barrels each vintage. Beautiful.

SAUVIGNON BLANC TOURAINE 'THÉSÉE' 2017
SPECULATIVE SKU: 217839 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.89 Wholesale / \$33.00 Retail per bottle

This is a new wine for our shores. Thésée is a village across the Cher River from the village of Pouillé, where Laurent Saillard has his vineyard. 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 *élevage* 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.

TOURAINNE 'LA TESNIÈRE' PINEAU D'AUNIS 2018
SPECULATIVE SKU: 417501 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$31.79 Wholesale / \$37.00 Retail per bottle



It is made from 100% Pineau d'Aunis. Feminine. 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 with yields changing drastically from one year to the next – not the most commercial friendly grape. 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.



Pierre Olivier Bonhomme's old Côt vines, which goes into In Côt We Trust