

DOMAINE DES BAUMARD

The estate in Rochefort-Sur-Loire has been in the family since 1634, playing a key role in the history and development of Loire Valley wines.

Savennières Clos du Papillon 2016

Loire Valley, France

ESTATE

Located in the town of Rochefort-Sur-Loire in the Anjou, Domaine des Baumard owns 110 acres of the best vineyards in the Anjou, producing some of the finest examples of Chenin Blanc in the world. Jean Baumard and now his son, Florent, are universally regarded as the finest winemakers in the appellation. From their bone-dry and mineral chiseled Savennières to their gloriously sweet Quarts de Chaume, theirs are among the most unique, rewarding, and long-lived white wines in the world.

WINE

Domaine des Baumard owns 10 acres -- approximately 40% -- of the Clos du Papillon, a renowned vineyard in Savennières planted on one of the steepest sections of the hillside. The South/Southeast facing vineyards are planted on unique soils composed of schist, Grézeaux, and sand -- volcanic debris mixed with sandstone and granite, imparting a strong, intensely original minerality to the Chenin Blanc grape. The name Papillon derives from the unusual shape of the vineyard, which resembles the wings of a butterfly.

VINEYARD

Yields: The average yields for the appellation are well below permitted levels, and among the lowest of any dry French white wines; the resulting wines have stunning concentration and perfume. In an average year yields can range from the absurdly low 30 hl/ha to the merely very low 50 hl/ha. The combination of this concentration with the naturally high acidity of the Chenin Blanc grape results in wines capable of lasting and improving for decades.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Chenin Blanc

Fermentation: In stainless steel tanks at low temperatures on their lees; no wood is used in the winemaking or aging process, which Florent believes allows him to achieve a purer expression of site.

Aging: 9 months on the lees in tank before being bottled

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2016 was difficult in the Anjou, with spring frosts reducing the crop, followed by mildew and then periods of extreme heat. Despite the difficulties and the resulting low crop, the quality of the fruit was excellent, and Baumard's 2016 Papillon is a perfect example of the vineyard, with typical minerality, a firm spine, and exotic, smokey aromas.



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Wine & Spirits

"Jean Baumard and Florent, his son, oversee 110 acres of vineyards in Anjou, including these in the clos du Papillon, a south-and-south-east facing hillside overlooking the Loire. This wine layers savory button mushroom notes over a smoky meatiness. Its deep yellow flavors of pineapple energize the wine with freshness, a concentrated Savennières to serve with a selection of cheeses before or after dinner." - C.W., 2/2021