THE SOURCE
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DEFYING THE SUN
2022 Northern European Whites Wines

NEW ARRIVALS
2021 & 2023 Pedro Méndez Granite Albariños
2022 Manuel Moldes Schist Albariños
2022 Augalevada Ribeiro Flor Wines
2022 Jean Collet Chablis
2022 Wechsler Riesling

Serralunga d'Alba, November 2023

Behind every wine is a person and a philosophy.

Craftsmanship, passion, and ethics are our highest priorities with artistry and philosophy coming second. We work tirelessly to find producers who share these values, and after fifteen years of hands-on experience in winemaking and viticulture, and many more years in high-end restaurants, we've developed strong convictions about what defines good wine, good relationships, and good business. Needless to say, our expectations of the producers we choose to represent are high.

Since we began importing in 2010, we've visited the vineyards and cellars of each producer each year to better understand their wines and practices. Despite our generally optimistic outlook on life, we remain vigilant when selecting wines, always on the lookout for potential red flags that might go unnoticed by those with less experience in viticulture and winemaking.

We are particular about how we choose to live. Above all, we strive to ensure that what we put in our bodies is as natural and nutritious as possible. This extends to the wine we drink, which must be made with minimal additives to preserve both the terroir and the health of the wine. We've seen firsthand what gets dosed into commercial wines, and we don't want those things in our bodies or anyone else's.

While most of our producers are certified organic or biodynamic by the European Union, certification is not a requirement for us. Dogma can sometimes hinder intuition, and we believe that the best wines are crafted by exceptional intuition. What matters is that the vintners are rigorous and mindful in their practices, willing to compromise their philosophies only in the most extreme situations. Indeed, many of our finest producers aren't certified, yet stepping into their vineyards reveals a vitality that rivals, if not surpasses, that of other certified vineyards.

We invite you to join us on our journey, not only to discover honest and soulful wines, but also the stories of the makers people who bleed, sweat, and toil to create wines that bring more beauty to our daily lives.

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CONTACTS

Noah Chilton - National Sales Manager
noah@thesourceimports.com - 201.247.4857

Ted Vance - Owner, Importer
ted@thesourceimports.com - 323.610.9091

Donny Sullivan - Owner, General Manager
donny@thesourceimports.com - 971.219.6071

Victoria Diggs - Office Manager
victoria@thesourceimports.com - 805.368.0707

Tracy Todo - Order Desk
orders@thesourceimports.com - 805.660.3508

DEFYING THE SUN

2022 EUROPEAN WHITE WINES

BY TED VANCE

So, what do you get when you cross a warm winter, a warm spring, and a hot summer with numerous heat waves recording the hottest year in Europe on record? Indeed, not only the sweaty Catalan gasp of *Insuportable!*, but also great white wines. Yeah, that happened–some good news.

I posed the question across six countries where makers were selling their 2022s. As I suspected, most of them credited the 2021 season for providing the vines with greater resistance to 2022's solar beatdown. And after a series of hot summers, Mother Nature struck back in 2021, shut out the sun, and replenished the well. But the pump was primed, and 2022 delivered—not only on quantity but also with quality.

I love exfoliating, tenderizing, vibrating and borderline abusive acidity and I expected many 2022 European white wines to be a little flat, which is typical in hot years. Instead, there's thrust and energy alongside a sun-kissed fruit profile and many aren't just good, they're *excellent*. For a lot of growers, the crop was bigger, which helped reduce the high concentration most common in balmy vintages and also made up for the losses of 2021.

As I write this, I'm sipping on Vincent Bergeron's 2022 'Matin, Midi, et Soir' Chenin Blanc from Montlouis-sur-Loire, which will hopefully arrive at the end of April *without* a 200% tax. Each new pour picks up momentum and tension, increments of cooler and cooler freshness. While tasting his 2022s out of barrel, I couldn't read them well—maybe I was too in my head about what I expected from the hot season. But across our Northern European white wine territory, from Austria to Galicia, makers were met with success—with few exceptions. Because of their deeply embedded location inside Europe's continental climate influence, our Austrian and German growers were the true test. Of all grapes, dry Riesling is most prone to fall flat when the vines are overheated. They remain complex, at least by definition, but their libido goes … well, a little limp.

The 2022 Rieslings of Wechsler, Malat, Tegernseerhof, Veyder-Malberg, and Muthenthaler? Energy-filled, with surprising torque. So are the Austrians' Grüner Veltliners. Our two Chablis growers, Christophe and Collet pulled it off. Few anywhere are salty shredders like the Val do Salnés 2022 Albariños, which many growers there consider their best vintage in years. So far, I'm enjoying these confident longboarding 2022s, soul surfing in the diffused rays of a low winter sun.

There are some great reds, too. In continental areas, the balance is still intact, but the fruit is juicier and the wines stouter. But growers who've recently moved from power toward a gentler approach played well in 2022. It's a vintage with the potential to create bruisers, but so far with our growers, it's loads of purity and the unmistakable echo of their terroirs.

Dave Fletcher, our Barbaresco grower (available in select markets), described the 2022 fruit as the most immaculate of his career. It's not that they're necessarily perfect in profile but the clusters in hand were without imperfection. And, like the top-quality 2022 Val do Salnés Albariños, the reds of Galicia hit their highest notes. They are ideal examples to represent this region's potential for reds. The fruit and charm are more on display than the typically pronounced angles, squares, and jolts of metal and mineral from their rock-and-roll terroirs.

NEW ARRIVALS

PEDRO MÉNDEZ

RÍAS BAIXAS, ESPAÑA

The two new arrivals from Pedro Méndez are unofficial non-D.O. wines made entirely from Albariño in the Rías Baixas Val do Salnés area of Meaño, the original viticultural center of Val do Salnés. The **2023 PEDRO MÉNDEZ 'VIÑO BRANCO DO VAL'** eponymous label is a fabulous follow up to the double-take inducing '22 that took everyone by force, and charm. 2023 is tighter in some respects, but more to a minerally point. (But don't forget that if you've recently had the 2022, this 2023 with a year less in bottle will be more piercing until it settles in more.) It's harvested from a broad collection of small parcels in Meaño, from young to ancient vines, giving it a wide range of complexities.

Liquid gold and platinum Albariño is bottled up in the **2021 TRESVELLAS 'VIÑO BRANCO DE VIÑEDOS HISTORICOS.'** Continuing its winning streak after the '19 and '20 versions from these ancient vines that look more like trees, each of these 100-year-old-plus vines (some estimated at around 200 years old) were able to maintain their root systems free of the aphid due to their silty and finely sandy soil. Tresvellas (Three Old Ladies) has great concentration, depth, and restraint with classic high-toned lemony notes to full preserves: sweet, salty, acidic, zest oil and the right amount of bitter pith. The color is between straw and gold leaf, and it tastes expensive. This is one of Rías Baixas' most triumphant bottlings, and one not to be missed.

NEW ARRIVALS

2022 MANUEL MOLDES

RÍAS BAIXAS, ESPAÑA

The **2022 ALBARIÑOS** arriving from Manuel Moldes are **A CAPELA DE AIOS**, rendered from 70-80-year-old vines on severely decomposed ancient, Pangean-era schist with a rich topsoil, **PEAI**, another Albariño on schist but harder bedrock than A Capela de Aios and similar topsoil, and **AS DUNAS** from schist-derived beach sand. Each is raised in old 500-600 L French oak, and they're quite different. As Dunas finds a unique set of aromatic characteristics unlike any other Albariños in the region (except those of Rodrigo Mendez and Raul Pérez, who bottle two different wines, one under Forjas del Salnés and Rodrigo Mendez's eponymous label) and remarkably powerful for a wine from beach sand. Peai, pronounced P.I., like Magnum P.I., may be the most structured of the bunch, a powerhouse puncher with a dense nucleus and an intensely salty mineral orbit. A Capela de Aios was heavier and richer; a gilded but deeply complex and slightly baroque wine. But in 2021, there was a change, a finer line drawn in its sandy-loam schist soil. The 2021 lit the way, but the 2022 walked the path up to this vineyard's zenith, like a star at the peak of its nuclear fusion—harmony is now in perfect equilibrium.

Also arriving from Moldes is his **2023 ALBARIÑO 'AFELIO.'** 2023 was another successful year with a slower growing season. Afelio is Chicho's wine grown almost entirely on granite soils. It's highly mineral but more fluid compared to his three *parcela* wines on schist. Most of this wine comes from further north of the schist outcrop just north of Sanxenxo. He's now incorporating new large oak foudres and old barrels for the élevage.

2022 was a great year for Galician reds, too. There's nothing more that Rías Baixas needs than a consistent season with some sun, warm daytime temperatures and the ocean-cold nights to ripen their reds to a bearable pitch. A 50-50 blend of Caíño Tinto and Espadeiro from old vines (some pre-phylloxera), the **2022 ACIOS MOURO'S** summer and fall red fruit profile is as bright as usual but softer and more generously juicy to balance its light balsamic notes and high acidity—a natural characteristic not only spurred by the cooler climate, but the extremely high acid of these two varieties. Acios Mouros has become a cult favorite for those who know it, but it should be left for the professionals and adventurers. For those in search of a relaxing moment and a glass of red, this isn't your *copa de vino*.

NEW ARRIVALS

AUGALEVADA

GALICIA, ESPAÑA

Former professional Spanish futboller turned virtual modern-day Cistercian cellar monk, Iago Garrido recentered his athletic discipline to natural viticulture and precision cellar work.

Iago's **2021 'OLLOS DE ROQUE'** is blend of the gently structured Treixadura balanced with the extremely high acid, minerally-dense varieties, Lado and Agudelo (Chenin Blanc). This flor-influenced, old oak and amphora wine is Iago's flagship. His other white from Ribeiro, **2022 'OLLOS BRANCO,'** is a blend of 15-50-year-old Treixadura, Albariño and Godello. This is the right introduction to Iago's Neil Gaiman-like wine universe where everything is fascinating and far from typical. All his wines up to this release are under the influence of flor, and this striking wine is filled with moments of almost unbearable tension, liberation and euphoria.

Out of Ribeiro and into Monterrei, one of Galicia's D.O.s furthest to the southeast and perhaps its warmest, is Iago's **2022 'AREAS DE REI.'** It's sourced from 80-year-old vines on granite at altitudes exceeding 450m. Dona Branca can almost always produce innocuous, perfumy white wine with low acidity, but put her in the hands of a wild man with a brain that works overtime outside the box, and something altogether different arrives. It's hard to describe such wines, but let's say it's mildly floral, spare in fruit but white fruited, salty for days, earthy, spicy and utterly savory.

The most electrically charged in his high-voltage range is yet another Albariño in our collection of five growers who make the stuff. **2022 VAL DO SALNÉS ALBARIÑO "PARCELA EIRAVEDRA"** comes from 60-year-old Albariño vines just three kilometers from the ocean. This is Luke's green lightsaber in liquid form, a bottle of aurora borealis; it's mean to some and absolute glory to others. It's a beauty, and one of the great representations of salty, minerally and high-strung Albariños.

Iago's fresh and vibrant reds are clean yet character-filled, more analog than the usual digital waveform Galician reds, with thin frames but a solid smack of affection. The **2022 'OLLOS' TINTO** and **2022 'OLLOS DE MAIA'** have found a new level. Ollos Tinto is a blend from young and old vines of Caiño Longo, Brancellao, Espadeiro and Sousón on granite and gneiss, and Ollos de Maia is a blend of 15-year-old, biodynamically farmed vines of 45% Caiño Longo, 45% Brancellao, and 10% Caíño da Terra on granite. Both are made with around 30% whole bunches, aged in ancient 500-600 L barrels and under the influence of flor. Everything is in place with these two: fruit, freshness, authenticity, and the coming together of the seventeen years of the Camino de Iago.

NEW ARRIVALS

2022 WECHSLER RIESLINGS

RHEINHESSEN, DEUTSCHLAND

We've waited a long time for the arrival of Katharina Wechsler's 2022s to arrive, including her Westhofen Riesling Grand Cru

The warmest of Katharina's three important Riesling crus, **BENN** is planted on limestone bedrock and limestone and loess topsoil not too far away from the bottom sections of Morstein. Benn produces a substantial Riesling that expresses impressive moments, especially with more time in the glass. When the others shine so brightly in their specific ways, Benn has been upfront but is somehow still a slower burn.

KIRCHSPIEL is a great vineyard and screams its *grand cru* status as soon as it's opened, especially among the open-knit 2022s. It's almost always readier out of the gates—often in the range of other growers, too—and for many reasons. Shaped like an amphitheater with a southeastern exposure, its bedrock and topsoil are composed of clay marls, limestone and loess. It's a warmer site than Morstein because of its lower altitude (between 140m-180m; Morstein is 180-210m) along with the curvature of the hillside that allows it to maintain greater warmth inside this small but sheltering topographical feature from cold westerly winds. Katharina's three parcels result in wines with a broader range of complexity and greater balance.

Rheinhessen's juggernaut limestone-based **MORSTEIN** vineyard is—even with vines only replanted in 2012—the undisputed big boy in Katharina's dry Riesling range. Katharina's Morstein vines are massale selections from the Mosel and have smaller, looser clusters with naturally low yields, even from the young vines. A mere pup by the standard of vine age, her Morstein is formidable. And while it's not usually as flashy out of the gates as Kirchspiel (perhaps due to Morstein's open exposure to cold winds, higher altitude and soil structure that favors more limestone rather than loess), it picks up serious power and expansive complexities that know no end. Its low to medium topsoil of *terra fusca* (black earth) is a soil matrix of heavy brown clay and limestone fragments.

Other 2022 wines arriving from Katharina start with her mid-tier dry Riesling, **KALK** (formerly labeled Westhofen Trocken), a wine entirely composed of the younger vines of Kirchspiel, making it a fabulous deal! And the greatest deal in the bunch, the **RIESLING TROCKEN** is about to arrive, which also benefits from a large percentage of Kirchspiel fruit. And finally, in the range of dry white wines, her **SCHEUREBE TROCKEN**, made in a classic way, and the **SCHEUREBE FEHLFARBE**, an orange wine. Lastly, but often first in any summer line up, the **KIRCHSPIEL KABINETT** is wealth of riches from Wechsler at unbelievably fair prices for such a talented terroir.

NEW ARRIVALS

2022 JEAN COLLET

CHABLIS, FRANCE

As usual, we have the star-studded lineup of premier crus, starting with **MONTMAINS**, a selection of fruit from the original Montmains lieu-dit that sits closest to the village, on the rockiest soils the Collet's have for this designation. As one would expect from this topsoil-spare site, this is one of the most minerally wines in their range and Romain exemplifies its character with a steel élevage. Part of the Montmains hill is subdivided into two more well-known lieux-dits, **LES FORÊTS** and **BUTTEAUX**. Here we find more topsoil in both sites compared to the Montmains rows closer to the village. Les Forêts' young vines usually prove to be the most exotic of their range and is aged in egg-shaped concrete vats, while Butteaux with its old vines and heavier topsoil with massive rocks in it is one of the stoutest, is aged in 2-7-year-old 228-liter French oak, and in a blind tasting it could easily be confused for a grand cru wine on weight and power alone.

The long hill of **VAILLONS** and its many lieux-dits parallels Montmains just to the north, separated by Chablis village vineyards (which Collet now bottles as Chablis 'Vallée de Valvan') on the same Kimmeridgian marls as the premier crus but face more toward the north. It's notably minerally with a little extra body due to its 40% clay in the topsoil. It's aged equally in 20-year-old 85-hl and 228-liter French oak.

The Collets are advantaged with a fabulous collection of vineyards from both sides of the river, though most of their premier cru land is on the left bank. While the left bank wines *could be* characterized as more mineral dominant than the right bank, there are indeed exceptions. I've often said that **MONT DE MILIEU** is one of those wines that, though it is on the right bank, is very left bank in style compared to the grand crus and many of the other right bank premier crus. Like all Collet's right bank wines, it's aged in variations of 2-7-year-old 228-liter French oak. There is no greater call in the Chablis premier cru world than **MONTÉE DE TONNERRE**. Yes, it's like a grand cru in some ways, mostly in how regal it is, but it is its own terroir as well. Positioned between Mont de Milieu and the grand cru slope, just a ravine away from Blanchots and Les Clos, it finds the balance with a gentler slope in many parts than the grand cru hillside which has many different aspects and greater variability between the crus.

Their grand cru **VALMUR** is situated at the top of the cru on its south side, facing northwest, which was less ideal for a grand cru decades ago but perfect for today's shifting climate. Stout and minerally, it's consistently one of the greatest overall wines in our entire portfolio. **LES CLOS** is its equal but perhaps more extroverted and even slightly more balanced, gilded with Chablis' royal trim and the sun's gold. The topsoil toward the bottom of the hill is deeper and richer, bringing an added advantage against the hydric stress of warmer years, though disadvantaged in fending off frost.

FRANCE

BÉNÉDICTE HUGUET, FROM SADON HUGUET
PHOTO CREDIT: MATHIEU HUGUET

PASCAL MAZET

MONTAGNE DE REIMS - CHAMPAGNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/pascal-mazet/

Catherine and Pascal Mazet established their domaine in 1981 and in 2009 began organically farming their two and a half hectares of premier cru in the Montagne de Reims communes Chigny-les-Roses and Ludes, and the grand cru, Ambonnay. Their son Olivier joined in 2019 and incorporated agroforestry to further improve nature's interaction with their mildly steep hills of chalk, clay and sand. Natural fermentations and sur lie aging take place in old oak barrels over fifteen months. Bottle maturation on lees lasts for a minimum of five years and the dosage is specific for each wine.

NV	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut (2012 Base Wine), *Nature*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut (2015 Base Wine), *Nature*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut (2014 Base Wine), *Unique*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut (2014 Base Wine), *Originel*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut (2015 Base Wine), *Originel*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2014	**Champagne, Premier Cru,** Brut, *Millesime*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ELISE DECHANNES

CÔTES DE BARS - CHAMPAGNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/elise-dechannes/

Elise Dechannes runs a petite domaine under biodynamic culture in Les Riceys, two hamlets (Ricey-Bas and Ricey-Haut) that share a small appellation in the south of Champagne known for its rosé, Rosé des Riceys, just an hour drive northeast of Chablis. The character of the Pinot Noir in this region is exceptional and unique. Through her range (almost entirely composed of Pinot Noir based Champagnes and one still wine rosé) the through line of deep but elegant sappiness in the palate and ethereal, wildly complex aromas seem to truly come from this particular place. All of her Champagnes have no dosage. Her Rosé des Riceys is a well-worth-it, juicy and tremendously complex and delicious rosé with real stuffing; it alone brings greater meaning to rosé. Champagne Essentielle is made entirely from Pinot Noir from Les Riceys and her Champagne Chardonnay Brut Nature is a great view into her more distinguished wines.

2018	**Champagne,** Chardonnay	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**
2018	**Champagne,** *Liberté*	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**
2019	**Champagne,** *Absolue Terre*	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**
2019	**Champagne,** *Absolue Grés*	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**
2020	**Champagne,** *Essentielle*	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**

ERIC COLLINET

CÔTES DE BARS - CHAMPAGNE

www.champagnebio-ericcollinet.com/

Eric Collinet moved to Bragelogne-Beauvoir in 1987 from Limousin, a cow town famous for a breed of cattle with the same name. Twenty minutes by car from the center of Les Riceys, one of Champagne's southernmost regions on the Côte des Bar, famous for its Pinot Noir bubbles and unique appellation still rosé, Rosé des Riceys, he has 2.25 hectares of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and land for truffles. Agroforestry, organic (certified), and biodynamic practices underpin "all of my actions: the respect of the seasons, nature and its rhythm; to listen to nature quietly and with patience to look at it and accompany it."

2014	**Champagne,** Extra Brut, *Temporis* (Disg 11.21)	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ALEXANDRE DÉRAMÉ (MORANDIÈRE)

MUSCADET - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/alexandre-derame/

After six years of enology school in Nantes, the humble Alexandre Déramé took over his family estate winery. Although his total production is medium-sized, his yields are among the lowest in Muscadet; his Vieille Vignes bottle quantities are minuscule. Organic conversion began in 2023 with the objective of having the entirety certified within five years. Morandière is a tiny commune in gently rolling hills in Mouzillon, one of the most highly regarded wine villages in Muscadet. Mouzillon is distinctive for its soils high in concentration of gabbro (a metallic-flecked, pale green and black, hard igneous rock developed through slow cooling of basaltic magma) with loamy soil of orange-colored silex and quartz-like rocks. This unique rock imparts the wines with tremendous power and tension.

2023	**Muscadet Sévre et Maine**, *La Morandière,* Sur Lie	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
202	**Pinot Noir, Rose,** *La Morandière*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

FORTERESSE DE BERRYE

SAUMUR - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/forteresse-de-berrye/

Forteresse de Berrye's expressive and terroir-focused wines are crafted in a simple and direct way. Its new owners, Gilles, an agronomist and agricultural engineer (among the many métiers of his diverse professional life), and his wife, Sandra, have eliminated the use of all chemical applications in 2019 and began organic culture in 2021; they expect certification by 2024. They began to replace the missing pieds (vine stocks) with high-quality oriented biotypes and planted six hectares of trees on the 26-hectare property (12.5ha of vines) to improve the overall biodiversity of the landscape in support of the forest-capped hill. For them, agroforestry is crucial for repairing the land, though luckily for them (and us), the property's many parcels were well-tended and not destroyed by excessive use of synthetic products prior to their arrival. Gilles says that the land was in quite good shape overall due to the few annual treatments in this low precipitation and low humidity area of Saumur, perhaps one of the driest areas of the Loire Valley overall due to the rain shadow of the Armorican Massif to the west. Many of the old Chenin Blanc bottles left behind in the deeply quarried tuffeau limestone caves by its former owner drink well, with only the quality of the cork being the determining factor.

2022	**Crémant de Loire,** Extra Brut	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Saumur, Blanc,** *Coeur pour Coeur*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Saumur, Blanc,** *Les Bourgères*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Saumur, Rouge,** *Corps pour Corps*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Saumur, Rouge,** *Clos de Berrie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

LES INFILTRÉS

SAUMUR - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/les-infiltres/

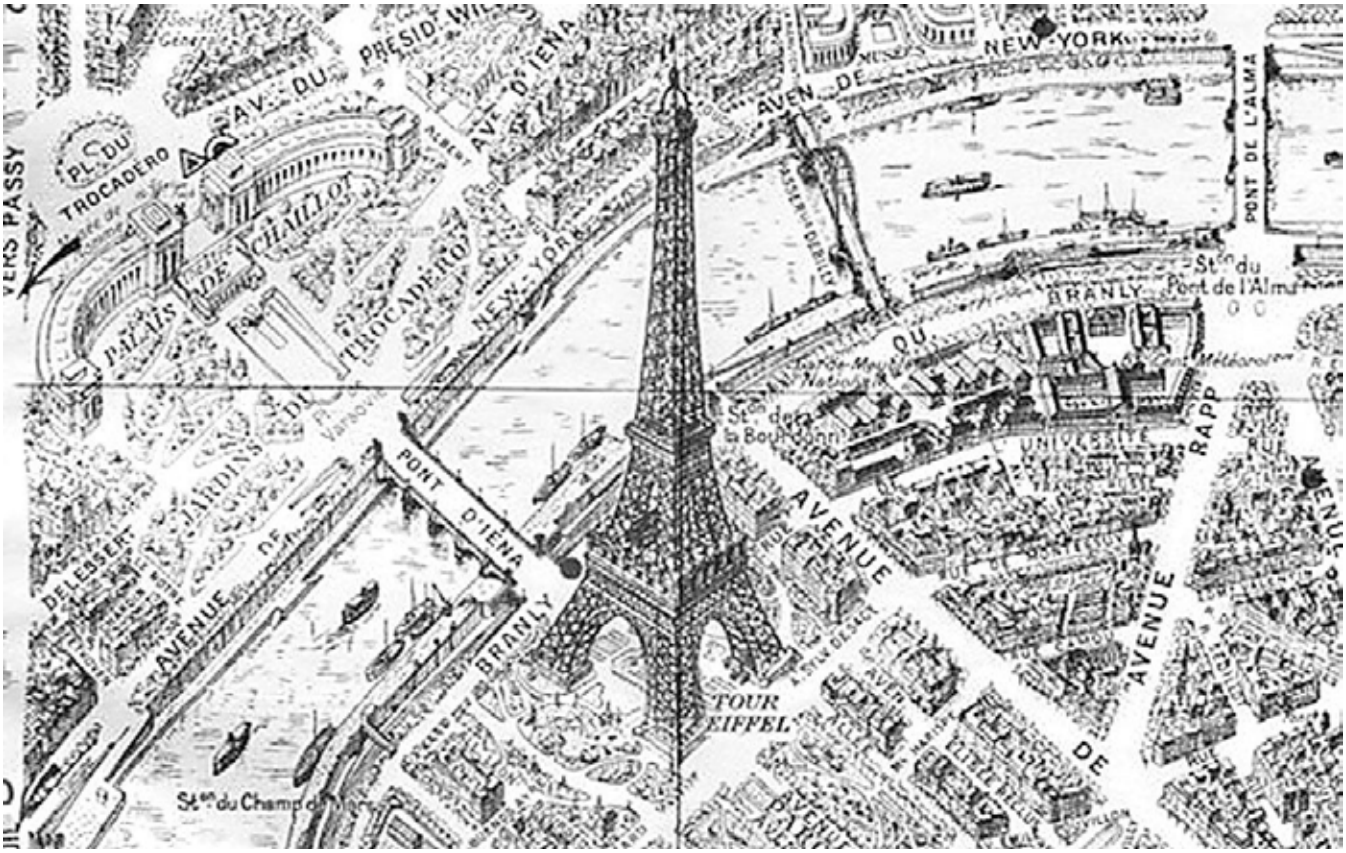
Based in Saumur Puy-Notre-Dame, a new focal point for colder climate Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc, the enthusiastic and charming Frédéric Hauss enters the wine world as a former cinematographer who worked extensively behind the camera for the big screen and TV. In his early forties, and in the middle of the Covid pandemic, he decided to redirect into this equally artistic life that provides a greater connection to nature. Some are quick to understand fundamentals (perhaps those who already mastered them in another craft are advantaged), and it's clear that Fréd also understands artistic composition, and already how to craft a wine to capture emotion, discreetly.

NV	**Vin de France Blanc,** *Raging Bulles* (Sparkling Chenin Blanc)	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chardonnay,** *Itinéraire Bis*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Saumur Blanc,** *Une Histoire Vraie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Saumur Puy-Notre-Dame Rouge,** *Une Histoire Vraie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

GEOLOGY QUICKIE: LOIRE'S PARISIAN PAST

Would you believe it if someone told you that France's Loire River used to run through Paris? It's true—well, kinda…

Before the Alps were the towering mountains they are today—that is before the African tectonic plate started to bulldoze into Europe—most of the rivers in northern France flowed off the Massif Central to the north and into a shallow sea that occupied parts of western Europe, a broader version of what we know today as the English Channel. The Loire's fluvial basin used to flow north into that of the Seine before the region's watercourses were reshaped into that beautiful watercourse that defines Paris!



If not for the Loire's change of direction, those awesome towns in its namesake prefecture like Anger, Saumur, Tours and Orléans might be nothing more than tiny little rural villages without tuffeau limestone castles, beautiful bridges, those great bike trails along the river and some of the world's greatest vineyards. As the Alps continued their ascent, France tilted a little toward the west. Yes, you read correctly: the entire country tilted upward from the east and completely changed the direction of the Loire which then began to flood into what is the middle Loire today, where all those stately wine villages lie. Eventually, the Loire found its way out through some ancient east/west fault lines in France's ancient Armorican Massif and carved its way through the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Anjou and Muscadet wine regions on its way to the Atlantic.

Researched and written by Ted Vance and Ivan Rodriguez, PhD Geology

FABRICE ESNAULT - DOMAINE LA GIRAUDIÈRE

SAUMUR - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.giraudiere-breze.fr

Third-generation winegrower Fabrice Esnault has more than 20 hectares in Saumur-Champigny's municipalities of Montsoreau and Turquant, and Saumur's most famous commune, Brézé. Devoid of all herbicides and pesticides and sustainably farmed, the vines average 35 years old, the oldest being about 75. The focus is on Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc, though he also grows Chardonnay, Grolleau Gris, and Grolleau Noir. Brézé vineyards are tuffeau limestone, clay and sand, and Saumur-Champigny has deeper clay top soils on tuffeau bedrock. Selected local yeasts are employed when needed, and the whites are fermented and aged in fiberglass and old oak barrels without malolactic fermentation, filtered before bottling, and sometimes fined. Saumur-Champignys ferment for three weeks in fiberglass with gentle extractions at low temps (~20°C), followed by eight months in old barrels with light filtration or fining, if needed.

2022	**Saumur Blanc**	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Saumur Blanc,** *L'Ardillon de Breze*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2018	**Saumur Champigny,** *Les Meuniers*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Saumur Champigny,** *Les Meuniers*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

CAROLE KOHLER - JARDINS DE FLEURY

ANJOU - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/carole-kohler-jardins-de-fleury

On the historic 15th-century Fleury estate, the humble and spirited Carole Kohler crafts organic, and biodynamic, no-sulfite-added Chenin Blanc on schists of the Massif Armoricain and Cabernet Franc on Jurassic Tourcian limestone of the Paris Basin. A former chemist turned vigneronne, she and her husband, architect and hobby historian Brice Kohler, revived it properties historic connection to viticulture in Thouars, on the southern frontier of Anjou, where vineyards had nearly vanished after shifting appellation laws with the creation of the European Union. A self-contained world, Fleury is a haven of ancient forests where biodiversity thrives, untainted by neighboring agriculture. Carole's light-handed approach yields wines that channel the voice of the land, rewriting the history of this once-forgotten terroir. And with wines like these, it's only a matter of time before others follow.

2022	**Chenin Blanc,** *La Source*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Cabernet Franc,** *Jardins*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

VINCENT BERGERON

MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/product-category/france/loire-valley/vincent-bergeron

On the rolling hills and floodplains of the Loire River's Montlouis-sur-Loire, the humble and gentle Vincent crafts his finely tuned certified organic Chenin Blanc (still and sparkling) and Pinot Noir wines from 3.4ha of vineyards grown on limestone bedrock, perruches (fossils, lithified clay, flint/silex), sandstone, clay, and limestone rock topsoil. These "natural" wines are spontaneously fermented and aged in French oak barrels (some in fiberglass) most without any addition of sulfites. With his concession to nature and commitment to honor the season, sans maquillage, sin compromise, he sets his wines on a direct course, showcasing each season's gifts and challenges, allowing his wines to freely express the mark of their birth year. Warm vintages (like 2020) taste of a season's richer fruits and softer palate while still being delicate and complex. Cold years (like 2021) are brighter, fresher, more tense and rapier-sharp with a gentle and welcome stab.

2021	**Vin de France,** *Certains l'aiment Sec* (Sparkling Chenin)	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Vin de France,** *Certains l'aiment Sec* (Sparkling Chenin)	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Vin de France,** *Matin Midi et Soir* (Chenin Blanc)	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Vin de France,** *Matin Midi et Soir* (Chenin Blanc)	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Vin de France,** *Maison Marchandelle* (Chenin Blanc)	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Vin de France,** *Un Rouge Chez Les Blancs* (Pinot Noir)	**750**	**12**	**Available**

NICOLAS RENARD

MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/nicolas-renard

Now in his sixties, Nicolas Renard is one of the natural wine movement's quiet godfathers. All his vineyards are tended in an organic and natural way, and his wines are slow fermentations that often take more than half a decade to finish. Sulfites, finings, and filtrations are not used with any of his wines. Nicolas and his wines are famous in the Japanese underground natural wine market and his production levels are no more than a few hundred cases per year.

2017	**Sauvignon Blanc,** *Jeanne*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

THOMAS FRISSANT

MOSNES - VALLÉE DE LA LOIRE

https://thomasfrissant.com

After refining his craft in celebrated vineyards and cellars of Burgundy, the Northern Rhône, and Bandol, and completing harvests in New Zealand and Australia, twenty-seven-year-old Thomas Frissant returned in 2019 to his family's fourteen hectares in the Touraine Amboise appellation. Perched just twenty-five kilometers east of Tours, one kilometer south of the Loire River above the floodplain commune of Mosnes, he immediately embraced organic viticulture by converting his clay and silex plots, planted between the 1940s and 1990s with Sauvignon, Chenin, Chardonnay, Gamay, Grolleau, and Côt, achieving certification by 2022. Thomas now crafts wines with precision unpretentious yet impeccably made. Anchored in these quiet yet storied terroirs of the Loire, his range offers clear and honest expressions of this historic enclave.

2023	**Touraine, Sauvignon,** *"Le Chapeau Comte"*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Vin de France, Chardonnay,** *'Tout En Canon'*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Touraine, Gamay,** *'Tout En Canon'*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

JEAN COLLET

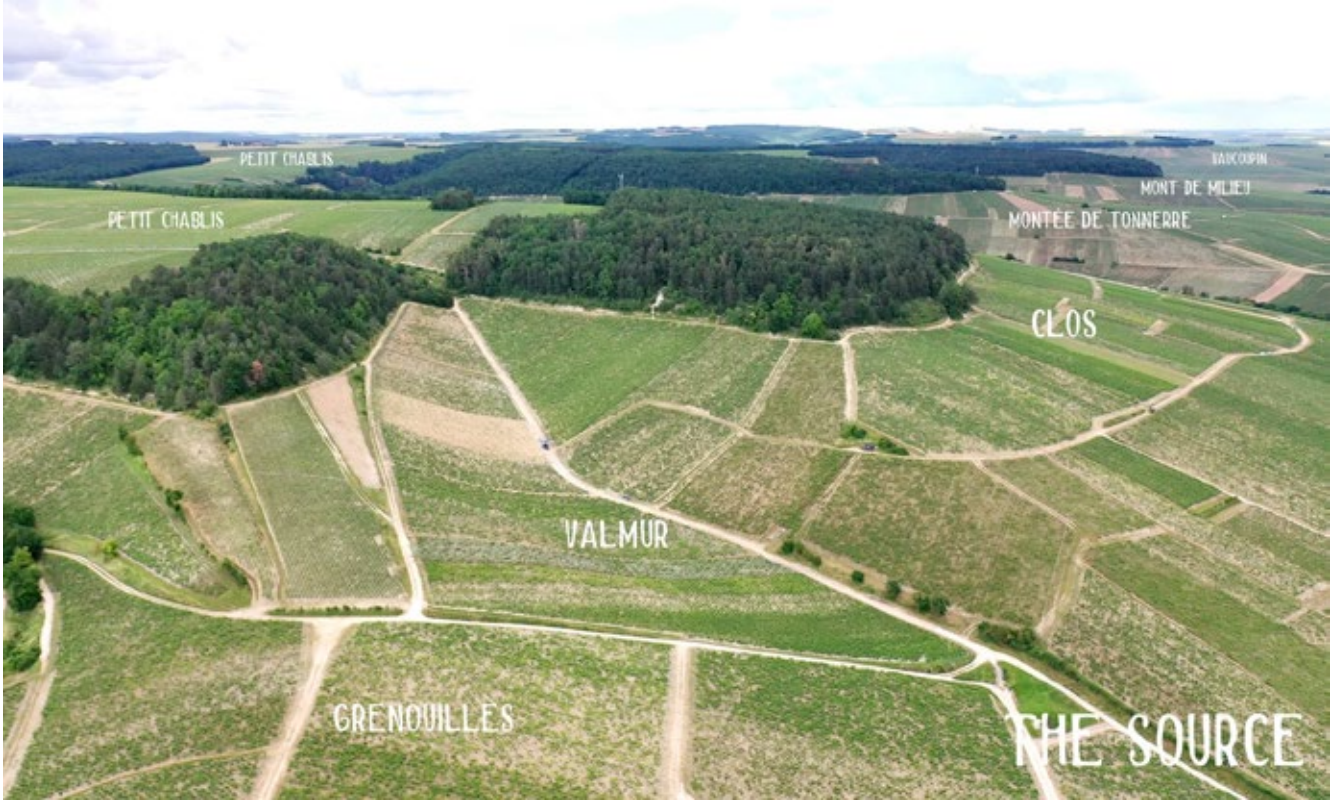
CHABLIS - BOURGOGNE

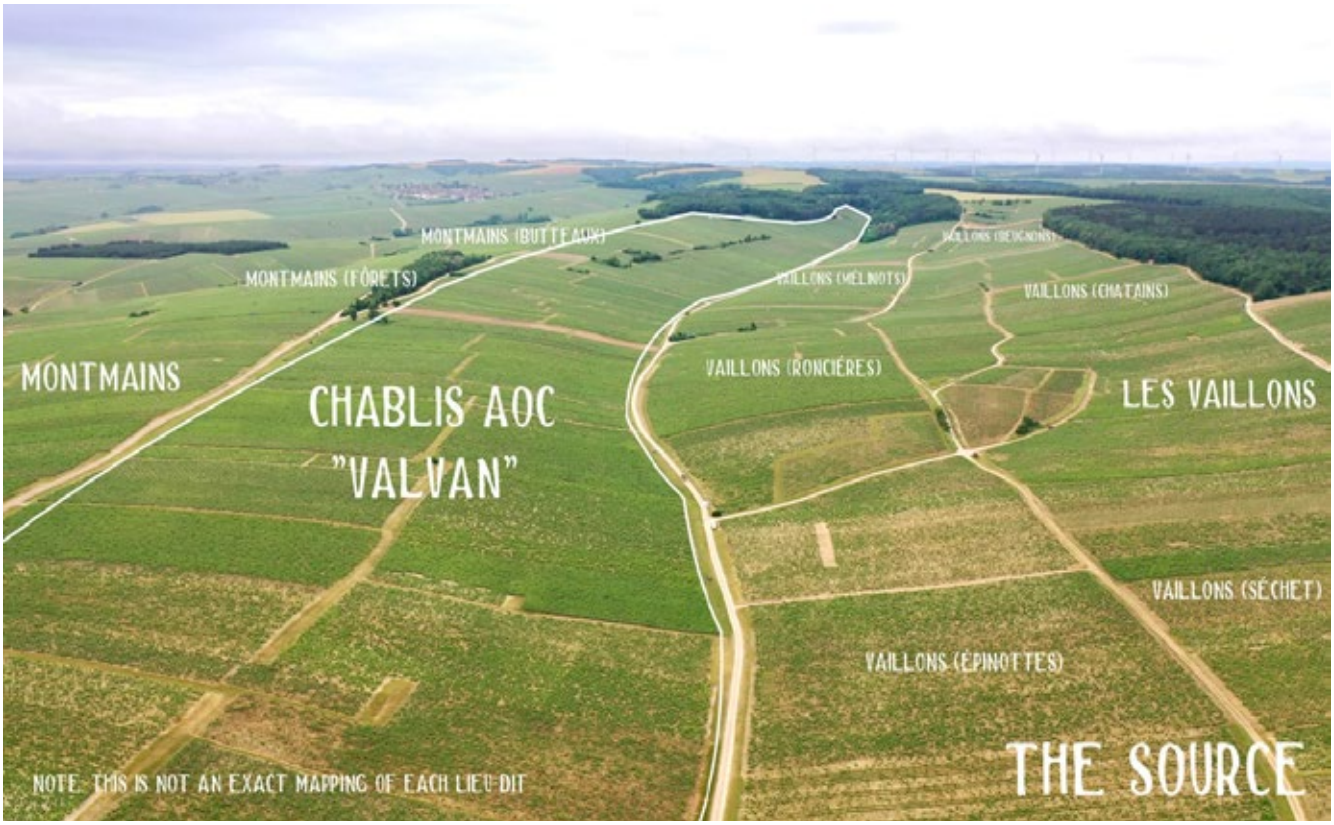
www.thesourceimports.com/producers/jean-collet/

At age twenty-one, Romain Collet took over the entire estate and began to make decisions in the cellar. His father, Gilles, was forced into early retirement due to nerve damage in his leg and back. Immediately upon taking the reins, Romain began to experiment with organic and biodynamic farming as well as using natural yeasts. His relentless desire for improvement powers the future of Collet, which continues to inch closer with each vintage toward the elite of Chablis. The Collet style finds themselves right in the middle of two schools of thought regarding Chablis. One advocates for stainless steel tank aging out of the belief that the purity of terroir is best expressed unadulterated by oak, and the other is based around the needs of oak to soften its taut acidic structure and to sculpt wines that are grown in deeper clay soils. The Collets compromise by using older wood barrels in their higher end wines grown on richer soils and stainless steel with their most mineral and precise wines.

2022	**Sauvignon,** *Saint-Bris*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Chablis**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cr***u Mont de Milieu* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cru** *Montée de Tonnerre* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cru** *Montmains* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis,, 1er Cru** *Butteaux* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cru** *Forêts* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cru** *Vaillons* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, Grand Cru** *Valmur* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, Grand Cru** *Les Clos* - **Samples**	**750**	**12**	**Available**

DRONE VIEW: CHABLIS





CHRISTOPHE ET FILS

CHABLIS - BOURGOGNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/domaine-christophe-et-fils/

Sebastien Christophe is the man of mystery in Chablis. He comes from nearly nowhere and has quietly been climbing the ladder of Chablis stars. His winery is out of town and next to Petit Chablis vineyards that are upslope from the Grand Crus and a few of the famous premier crus he works with. Chablis can be a wine that expresses its terroir more clearly than any other region in the world. The winemaking choices certainly influence the impression of the wine but they never really lose that unmistakable Chablisienne character imprinted by its special limestone soils, the Chardonnay grape and tense acidity that is encouraged by a cool continental climate.

2023	**Petit Chablis**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Chablis**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, 1er Cru** *Fourchaume*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Chablis, Grand Cru** *Les Preuses*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

RODOLPHE DEMOUGEOT

CÔTE DE BEAUNE - BOURGOGNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/rodolphe-demougeot/

After starting in 1992, Rodolphe has amassed 8 hectares of vines in the Côte de Beaune and has upped the ante on everything he does. There are no chemical treatments for herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers and he follows the rhythm of the lunar cycle when moving his wines and making picking decisions. He plows his vineyards by horse and tractor to aerate the soils and to take out grasses and weeds. He doesn't carry the superstar terroirs in his range of wines, but the energy put toward getting the best out of his humble holdings is impressive and they deliver well above what is expected, even from the two important villages his wines come from: Pommard and Meursault.

2022	**Savigny lès Beaune, Rouge,** *1er Cru Les Peuillets*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Savigny lès Beaune, Rouge,** *Les Bourgeots*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Beaune, Rouge,** *les Beaux Fougets*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Pommard**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Pommard,** *Vignots*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

CARTAUX BOUGAUD

CÔTES DU JURA - JURA

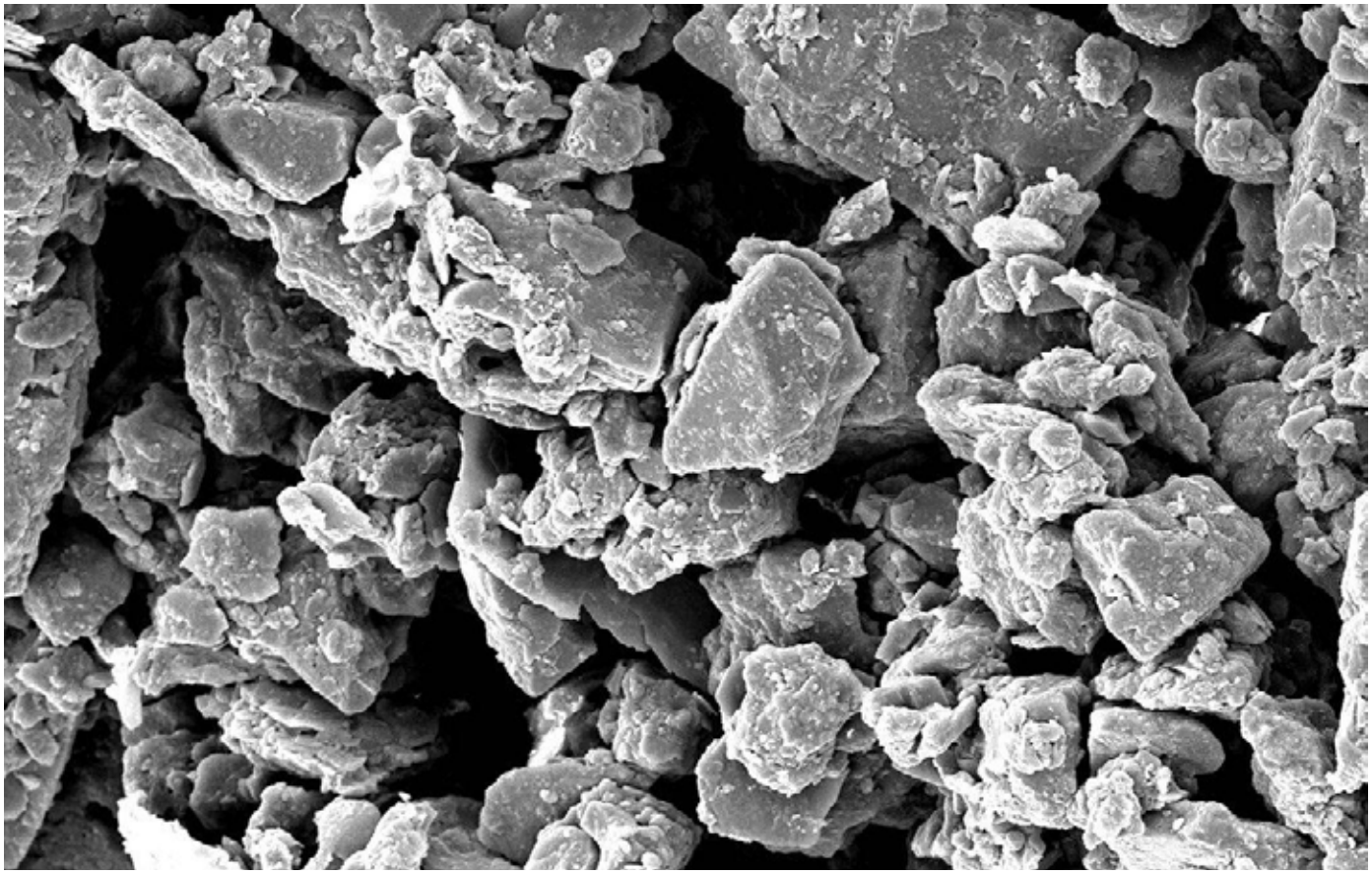
www.vinscartaux.fr

With their first harvest in 1973 on a small plot in L'Étoile, Anne-Marie Bougaud and Guy Cartaux acquired the Château de Quintigny in 1983, expanding their vineyards and fully committing to winegrowing. Their children, Nathalie and Sébastien Cartaux, took over in 1993, and today Sébastien continues to run the 20-hectare estate, which became organic certified in 2023. The estate produces Chardonnay and Savagnin from AOC L'Étoile, as well as reds (Poulsard, Trousseau, and Pinot Noir) from the Côtes du Jura. The wines are crafted in numerous cellars, including the ancient Château de Quintigny, using both traditional "ouillage" methods (with and without air space in the barrel) and the region's unique oxidative aging process, essential for producing the renowned Vin Jaune. Their objective with reds is to preserve the naturally fresh and bright fruit-led aromatics over rusticity, while their whites a core of acidity and structure led by the aromas, flavors and textures from the ancient noble practice of sous voile aging.

NV	**Crémant du Jura Brut, Blanc**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**L'Étoile,** Chardonnay	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**L'Étoile,** Chardonnay, *La Côte des Vents*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Côtes du Jura,** Pinot Noir	**750**	**12**	**Available**

GEOLOGY QUICKIE: WHAT'S LOESS GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Sing it, Tina! What *is* loess? That off-white, fine-grain soil known as loess finds its way into many wine regions around the Alps. In Western Europe, it's largely a result of Alpine glaciers grinding rocks into a fine-grained crystalline powder, often rich in calcium carbonate. It's light and the wind easily kicks it up and blows it hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles across the earth. Once it lands and is deposited, its silt-sized grains link together resulting in a highly porous yet well-structured soil that retains moisture while allowing for excellent drainage and root penetration. These often form sturdy bluffs and hills that, as they are susceptible to erosion, are easily shaped to build terracing slopes for viticulture, and for all you wannabe troglodytes, good for some cave digging.



Some famous European wine regions are filled with the stuff. It's all over in Austria's Wachau, Kremstal, Kamptal, Wagram and Traisental; France's Northern Rhône appellations where it dominates the central and eastern side of Hermitage, as well as parts of Crozes-Hermitage mostly toward the east of this expansive appellation, though a little bit in the north sliver along the former riverbanks where it sits on top of the Pangean-era granite.

Loess seems to increase a wine's immediate appeal. It also has a strong track record for wines that age well. At the risk of generalizing, wines grown from loess are often richer and rounder, softer and more agreeable, with an exuberant aromatic lift.

STÉPHANE ROUSSET

CROZES HERMITAGE - VALLÉE DU RHÔNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/domaine-rousset/

Stephane Rousset's underground status as one of the best producers in the Northern Rhône Valley is about to end. It wasn't too long ago, in what we like to call the age of extraction, that producers making elegant wines were lost in the shuffle. One of the most diverse appellations in France's Northern Rhône Valley, Crozes-Hermitage is also its biggest. Rousset's vineyards lie in its most northern communes of Erôme, Gervans, and Crozes-Hermitage (the village the appellation takes its name from). The soil types here differ greatly from the rest of the appellation. Here you find vines on steep granite terraces of the river's left bank, above the Rhône and tucked back behind the behemoth hill of Hermitage. Across the river, in Tournon, Rousset's two parcels of St. Joseph are on pure granitic soils. In our humble opinion, in this appellation few, if any, vignerons produce wines above this in class and elegance.

2022	**Crozes-Hermitage, Blanc,** Vielles Vignes	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Crozes-Hermitage, Rouge,** *Les Méjeans*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Crozes-Hermitage, Rouge,** *Les Méjeans*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Crozes-Hermitage, Rouge,** *Les Méjeans*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Crozes-Hermitage, Rouge,** *Les Picaudières*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Crozes-Hermitage, Rouge,** *Les Picaudières*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Saint-Joseph, Rouge,** *Côte des Rivoires*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

LA ROUBINE

GIGONDAS - VALLÉE DU RHÔNE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/la-roubine/

A former Parisian fireman, Eric Ughetto took over the family's vineyards in the early 1990s. A small estate with only 15 hectares, it is operated almost entirely by he and his wife, Sophie. They do the vineyard work together, but have clear lines elsewhere: Eric makes the wine and Sophie runs the commercial aspects. Simon, their young son, is already being groomed to start the process of taking the reigns from his pioneering parents. It's no surprise here, just like in any serious estate, that Eric and Sophie stress the importance of their vineyards over all else. The domaine is consciously run without pesticides, chemical fertilizers or herbicides. Since their beginning they have utilized organic methods and are now certified. The wines are a perfect balance of rusticity with precision winemaking.

2022	**Sablet**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vacqueyras**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Gigondas**	**750**	**12**	**Available**

SÉBASTIEN MAZURET - DOMAINE DES COLLINES

IGP COLLINES RHODANIENNES - VALLÉE DU RHÔNE

www./thesourceimports.com/producers/domaine-la-collines/

A native of Cornas and from a family of winemakers, Sébastien Mazeret brings tradition and international experience to Le Domaine des Collines. After seven years working with the owner, Christine, they officially partnered in 2022 in preparation for full ownership for her 2025 retirement. With a sharp focus on organic farming and ingenious mechanical engineering, Sébastien manages 5 hectares of Syrah, 2 hectares of Merlot, and 0.5 hectares of Chardonnay, alongside fruit and forage crops. His winemaking philosophy leans toward minimal intervention, favoring indigenous yeasts and using only miniscule amounts of sulfites post-malolactic fermentation.

2022	**Syrah**	**750**	**12**	**Available**

LE VENT DES JOURS

CAHORS - OCCITANIE

https://thesourceimports.com/producers/le-vent-des-jours/

After twenty-five years as a sommelier, wine wholesaler and wine bar owner in Paris, the 48-year-old Cahors native, Laurent Marre, found himself in a hospital bed. Unexpected life-threatening conditions and four months confined to a hospital bed changed his priorities, and Laurent and his wife, Nathalie, left the city to return to Laurent's familial homeland. Today they farm eight biodynamic hectares of vines on their 30-hectare, forest-surrounded, single plot on one of Cahors' highest altitude, limestone sites. The range starts with an intensely mineral and fresh amphora-raised Gros Manseng (C'Juste), followed by a series of impeccably balanced, emotional, and minerally-fresh Malbecs raised in concrete, amphora, and large old French oak barrels and foudres.

2021	**Cahors,** *Un Jour ou L'Autre*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Cahors,** *Les Calades*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Cahors,** *Les Moutons*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

SADON HUGUET

SAINT-EMILION - BORDEAUX

https://sadonhuguet.com/

After two decades of enological consultation at top Bordeaux châteaux that led most to organic and biodynamic practices, the natural wine consulting enologists, Bénédicte Laborde (Huguet) and Mathieu Huguet, started their no-sulfur-added, natural wine project in 2019. Based in Bordeaux with vineyards in Saint-Emilion, they work their two plots leased from one of their biodynamically certified clients. Soon there will also be offerings from the Pyrenean appellation, Irouleguy.

2019	**Expresson Calcaire,** *"14" Rouge*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Expresson Calcaire,** *"14" Rouge*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ITALIA

VOLCANIC SANDS
ETNA BARRUS VINEYARDS

FLIEDERHOF

ST. MAGDALENA - SÜDTIROL/ALTO ADIGE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/fliederhof/

Martin Ramoser is a true budding young superstar in the wine world, and with the help of his parents, Stefan and Astrid, he's writing a new chapter in the family's wine history. Located in Italy's Südtirol, only a half hour drive from the Austrian border, on the gorgeous and historical hill of Santa Magdalena that overlooks the city center of Bolzano, they cultivate their Schiava and Lagrein vineyards under organic and biodynamic principles. Their mere three hectares of vineyards are all planted on hillsides of porphyry, an igneous volcanic rock with a mix of large and small grain sizes, which makes for sandy, gravelly soils as it decomposes, and results in wines with higher aromas and chewy textures. Martin's style is one of pleasure led by upfront aromatic red fruits and red/orange flowers with sharper lines, deep but gentle mineral textures and a soft touch on extraction.

2019	**St. Magdalener**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**St. Magdalener**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**St. Magdalener,** *Marie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**St. Magdalener,** *Marie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**St. Magdalener,** *Gran Marie*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Lagrein**	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ANDREA PICCHIONI

BUTTAFUOCO DELL'OLTREPÒ PAVESE - LOMBARDIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/andrea-picchioni/

The most compelling wines are the most honest. They aren't the great pretenders, all but neutered of their history to create a global-style brand, nor a wine customized to satisfy the natural wine purists who put ideology above all, to the detriment of the product. No matter the current moda, the most authentic and interesting wines sing dialect and teach historical context, and invite our creative minds into their mystery their bedrock and soil, their genetic heritage, the seasons and vintages, the surrounding woods, the life inside the vineyards and the dirt, and the echo of their nature-conscious ancestors. Their wines guide us into the fantasyland of their madness, and their genius. These are the wines of Andrea Picchioni. In the Oltrepò Pavese's DOC "Buttafuoco dell'Oltrepò Pavese," on the original Buttafuoco hill, Andrea crafts a unique and unapologetically full-flavored range of organic sparkling and still red wines from a mixture of Barbera, Croatina, Ughetta di Canneto (also known as Vespolina), and Uva Rara.

2021	**Oltrepo Pavese, Bonarda Delle'Oltrepo Pavese** (Sparkling Red)	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Oltrepo Pavese,** Buttafuoco, *Solinghino*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

OLIVIERO PASTORIS

CALUSO - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/massimo-pastoris/

Maybe I'm only more maniacal than my father, but I understood from him that nature is something that you can't completely control. We must work well in every moment of the season, but the most important job is made from the soil, and we can only make mistakes against the harmony of nature." After years of Latin and Mechanical Engineering studies Eugenio Pastoris returned to his family's organic and regeneratively farmed vineyards. On the eastern end of the Erbaluce di Caluso appellation in Viverone, bordering Alto Piemonte, Pastoris focuses on Nebbiolo and Erbaluce in steel and concrete.

2022	**Erbaluce di Caluso,** *La Norezza*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Nebbiolo, Canavese,** *La Cucca*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

FABIO ZAMBOLIN

COSTE DELLA SESIA - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/fabio-zambolin/

A true northern Piemonte garagiste, Fabio Zambolin inherited his grandparent's tiny vineyard parcels and converted their garage into a winery. He began his project in 2010 with a parcel that he works organically and that sits within the DOC appellation, Lessona. However, the cantina is ten meters outside of the DOC zone (right next to the vineyards) and an archaic law makes it so that he must label his wines Costa della Sesia, a generic term for regional Northern Piedmont wines. As one could imagine, with such a small quantity of grapes to make his wines the level of detail in his organically farmed vineyard and cellar are maintained to an extraordinary level. Famous Italian wine writers of the late 1800s and early 1900s considered Lessona wines the greatest reds in all of Italy, and in the right hands it can represent one of the most pure expressions of Nebbiolo. Fabio's Vallelonga is made purely of Nebbiolo, and Feldo, a blend of 50% Nebbiolo with equal parts of Croatina and Vespolina the difference.

2020	**Coste della Sesia,** Rosso, *Feldo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Coste della Sesia,** Rosso, *Feldo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Coste della Sesia,** Nebbiolo, *Vallelonga*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Coste della Sesia,** Nebbiolo, *Vallelonga*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

Planted in 2018, Mauro Marengo's Terlo vines are in the upper section of this very steep MGA of the Barolo commune are completely exposed to the east overlooking the town of Barolo. Much of Terlo is blended into the Langhe Nebbiolo. The Ravera MGA has great diversity due to its 130 hectares of vines and its many exposures between 300-480m. While it's a very large MGA with many expositions and a massive altitude range, Marengo's Ravera is on the far north end and is adjacent to Terlo. Planted between 1997 (the year Daniele Marengo was born) and 2003, the upper section of Ravera is selected for the Langhe Nebbiolo, while the lower section for the Ravera Barolo. The reason for this distinction between the parcels used for the Langhe Nebbiolo and the Barolo isn't specifically the altitude, it's likely the slight geological shift between the upper and lower portions of their Ravera plots.

The Langhe's terroir revolutionary, Alessandro Masnaghetti, states that Terlo and Ravera share the same basic geological formation of "laminated Sant'Agata Fossili marls, except in the higher areas where there are also sandy Sant'Agata Fossili Marls and Diano Sandstones." The most important takeaway from Masnaghetti is that the sandier zones are higher while the greater density of marls are a little lower on the slope. The vines on the more marly soils make more formidable wines than those on sand, though those sandier sites bring so much beautiful aroma! Other digestible terms in Masnaghetti's sentence: laminated, marls, and sandstone. "Laminated" implies a sequence of sedimentary rock layers (see the picture to the right), and in this case they are small-scale sequences that Masnaghetti says "consist of strata of variable thickness which range from a few fractions of an inch (millimeters) to something less than a foot." Marls are a soft rock formation and are classified as such if they contain 35-65% (calcium and/or magnesium) carbonate and 35-65% clay. Sandstones seem self-explanatory, but what holds the sand grains together (which are almost always siliceous sand grains) may play a role in a wine's expression. For example, some of the binding/cementing material between grains could be of siliceous or calcium carbonate origin. Read more on our website.

SETTE

MONFERRATO - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/sette/

Asti is Piemonte's new wine laboratory, and experimentation is extensive at Sette where they're looking to expose new dimensions of their local indigenous varieties. The comedic and talented duo of the experienced wine trade pro, Gino Della Porta, and well-known enologist, Gianluca Colombo, founded Sette in 2017 with the purchase of a 5.8-hectare hill in Bricco di Nizza, in Monferrato. Immediately, a full conversion to organic farming began, followed by biodynamic starting in 2020 the latter, a vineyard culture still considered somewhat radical in these parts. The wines are crafted and full of vibrant energy with only a soft polish, with the focus, the slightly turbid and lightly colored, juicy fruity, minerally Grignolino and their two serious but friendly Barberas. Sette's game-changing progressive approach and delicious wines (with total eye candy labels) should ripple through this historic backcountry and bring greater courage to the younger generations to break out of the constraints of the past and move full throttle into the future.

2018	**Nizza DOCG,** Barbera	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Nizza DOCG,** Barbera	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Nizza DOCG,** Barbera	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2018	**Nizza DOCG,** Particella B5	**750**	**12**	**Available**

LUIGI SPERTINO

MONFERRATO - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/luigi-spertino

Mauro Spertino is one of the most artistic and technical craftspeople in our entire portfolio. The diversity and skill demonstrated throughout his range forecast the inevitability that he will find his place among other wine alchemists in Italy whose unmistakable imprints are evident at first smell Quintarelli, Bea and Soldera are names that come to mind. His reds range from bright and sensual, able to flutter and seduce (Grignolino), to more elixir-like and dark (Barbera wines), which mesmerize with a deep well of discovery in each smell and taste. Mauro toys with Cortese, a white grape from which he slowly extracts an orange hue, crystalline clarity and mind-bending complexity. His vermouth, Belle Epoque, carries a ballerina-like balance of power and grace. All that he touches from his Asti vineyards he makes into something dazzling and one of a kind.

2018	**Blanc de Noirs,** Metodo Classico	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Blanc de Noirs,** Metodo Classico	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Barbera d'Asti,** Superiore, *La Bigia*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Vermouth di Torino,** *Belle Epoque*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

MAURO MARENGO

BAROLO - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/mauro-marengo

Once the Marengo family's technical direction was given to Daniele at age twenty-two, his personal taste and style of wines led him to pursue freshness over power and ripeness, and to highlight their Novello-based high-altitude vineyards. They turned their attention to soil health and the incorporation of organic farming. The cellar work was gentler, and new techniques were employed. They harvest earlier, consider whole cluster and submerged cap fermentations when traditional methods need a boost. They gently extract and press, manipulate less and age in concrete and medium-sized botte. They also bottle early to keep the wines fresh, clean, and not overworked or exhausted before bottling. Led by their three MGA sites, Ravera, Terlo, and La Volta, Nebbiolo is the focus, but Daniele's Barbera, Dolcetto and Nas-cëtta also inspire.

2022	**Langhe Nas-Cëtta**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Langhe Nebbiolo**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Langhe Nebbiolo**	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2023	**Dolcetto d'Alba**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2018	**Barolo,** *Angela*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Barolo,** *Angela*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Barolo,** *Ravera*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

AZIENDA AGRICOLA BRANDINI

BAROLO - PIEMONTE

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/agricola-brandini

The organically farmed Agricola Brandini is run by two young and idealistic sisters, Serena and Giovanna in full directional control with the support of their father, Piero Bagnasco. Certified organic since 2011, they have also introduced biodynamics and permaculture to their 25 estate-owned hectares in the high-altitude zones of La Morra, Roero and Alta Langha. Their estate Barolo vineyards (four La Morra parcels and R56) are located on the backside (northwest) of La Morra and are characterized by calcareous sandstones that render Barolos of great elegance. They also rent 10 hectares of vines for the crus, Cerretta and Annunziata, and organically farmed and certified, high altitude sites south of Monforte d'Alba for their Alba wines of Dolcetto, Barbera, and Nebbiolo. Vinification for their raw yet refined, pale colored, understated and elegant Nebbiolo are deeper in terroir imprint and structure than those prior to the sisters' takeover in 2015. Brandini's cellar work is progressive (including shorter maceration times, stem inclusion and infusion extraction methods), and it accentuates finesse above all for these botti-aged Barolos that drink well young and also age nicely, building on their youthful assets.

2023	**Langhe Arneis,** *Le Margherite*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Dolcetto d'Alba,** *Filari Lunghi*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Barbera d'Alba**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Langhe Nebbiolo,** *Filari Corti*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Barolo,** *La Morra*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Barolo,** *La Morra*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2017	**Barolo,** *Annunziata*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2016	**Barolo,** *Cerretta*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

MANETERRA

COLLI DI LUNI - LIGURIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/maneterra

Located in Liguria's Colli di Luni region, Maneterra was founded by Claudio Felisso, a native of the area. After training at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie in Montpellier and gaining vineyard and winery experience in Toscana, Romagna, Piemonte, France, and Chile, he returned to create his own project on the hills of Castelnuovo, Fosdinovo, and Fravizzola in the Val di Magra, a warm valley shielded from the sea and the Gulf of Spezia by Monte Caprione. In this northwest-to-southeast-facing valley, Claudio focuses on cultivating Vermentino using only copper, sulfur, and organic fertilizers and treatments. In the cellar, his hand is deft; his Vermentino kissed by the salty freshness of the sea, the citrusy zest of soft Mediterranean winds, and captures the essence of Liguria's land and its charming, generous people.

2022	**Colli di Luni,** Vermentino	**750**	**12**	**Available**

SORGENTE

PROSECCO - FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/sorgente

Sorgente Prosecco comes from a small vineyard plot of only six hectares of Glera vines; there are no other grapes added to the Prosecco and all of them are estate owned. Located in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the vineyards sit only a few hundred meters from the natural spring (called sorgente in Italian) at the nascita of the Livenza River. The proximity to the Alps (which begins no more than ten miles to the north) and the Adriatic (twenty miles away) brings an ideal temperature characterized by large diurnal swings from day to nighttime which is crucial for the development of complex phenolics, fresh acidity and elevated aromatics all necessary for a proper Prosecco to remain true to form (bright, fresh, minerally) and function (pleasure over intellect). The vineyard soils are endowed with limestone and clay, both a mixture of the former salty marshland that existed here millions of years ago along with alluvial soils largely composed of limestone. From a pedigree standpoint, there is good reason that one would discover the mineral nuances of this "simple" Prosecco due to its soil composition and climatic balance. There are no herbicides and pesticides used in the vineyards, only vineyard treatments of copper and sulfur. After a rigorous selection process, they sell off more than 60% of their Prosecco base wine to negociants through their leaving a mere 40% off their six estate hectares for these two wines.

NV	**Prosecco,** Brut	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Prosecco,** Extra Dry	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Prosecco Rosé,** Extra Brut, *La Fonte*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Spumante Rosé,** Pinot Noir, *Issimo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Pinot Grigio,** *Tuo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

Giacomo Baraldo and a “vineyard fermentation” in his Caccialupi cru

GIACOMO BARALDO

TOSCANA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/giacomo-baraldo

There is no better environment for an artistic, free-thinking, well-trained and technically astute enologist and vignaiolo than the countryside where Giacomo Baraldo started his Tuscan wine adventure in his hometown of San Casciano dei Bagni, the small, gorgeous and historic Tuscan village famous for its thermal baths along with some recently discovered ancient artifacts that are rewriting history. Influenced by his past, supported by his family, yet beholden to nothing and no one, he thinks freely and acts on intuition guided by his near decade of widely varied experiences in wineries from Bordeaux and Burgundy, to Patagonia and New Zealand (where he also has a small ongoing wine project). In his early thirties, he settled back home in San Casciano dei Bagni to craft wine on unknown, high-altitude terroirs. His wines are thoughtful, exploratory, generous-but-measured and diverse, from Chardonnay planted on a rocky limestone slope below cliffs using massale selections from the Côte d'Or gathered from friendly vignerons he met in his years working and training in Burgundy. His Grechetto orange wine was reborn in the field from vines below the main square of San Casciano dei Bagni, and his Sangiovese single-site wines must be highlighted, as they are his true muse, the inspiration that guides his work to unlock the potential of Monte Cetona, a solitary limestone mountain with a complex geology halfway between Rome and Florence in the Provincia di Siena. This rugged and strong but intellectually refined statue of a man challenges the belief that Europe's great terroirs are all already documented. Monte Cetona has no known vinous history, though when you taste Giacomo's wines, you can't help but wonder, as he does, how this hill was missed.

2021	**Toscana Bianco,** *Risveglio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Toscana Bianco,** *Risveglio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Bianco,** *il Pergola di Silvestro*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Toscana Bianco,** *il Pergola di Silvestro*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Vino Bianco,** *l'Affacciatoio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vino Bianco,** *l'Affacciatoio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Rosso,** *il Bossolotto*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *il Bossolo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *il Bossolo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *il Pozzone*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *il Pozzone*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *Caccialupi*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Sangiovese, Cru,** *Caccialupi*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Toscana Rosso,** *Tulio "0.0k"*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

MADONNA DELLE GRAZIE

VULTURE - BASILICATA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/cantina-madonna-delle-grazie

The Latoracca family team of three (two sons, Paolo and Michele, both with enology degrees and father, Giuseppe, who spends all day in the vineyards) has come out swinging since bottling their first wines in 2003. The combination of two idealistic millennial enologists (Michele has a second degree in Agronomy as well, which he teaches in school) coupled with their father's deep vineyard wisdom creates the launching pad for truly astonishing juice. These wines convey clarity, craftsmanship, authenticity, and energy unheard of at such reasonable cost. It's as if they discovered some secret the rest of the world hasn't learned yet. If you like reds with a tight grain, lithe body, and high-toned aromas, these are for you.

2018	**Aglianico del Vulture Rosso,** *Liscone*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

BARRUS

ETNA - SICILIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/etna-barrus

The dream project of four men, Etna Barrus has 2.7 vineyard hectares planted in 2005 below one of Mount Etna's extinct cones, Monte Gorna. At 600m altitude with a SE exposure and an open view of Ionian Sea, their organic massale selections (in conversion since 2021) of Nerello Mascalese (90%) and Nerello Cappuccio (10%) grow on sandy volcanic soils rich in organic substances. Their vinification includes natural fermentation and maceration of destemmed grapes for around one week are pressed and they finish fermentation in steel. Purple Barrus is aged exclusively in steel while Orange Barrus, their "selezione" is raised for 12-18 months in old French oak barrels of 225-500l.

2020	**Etna Rosso,** *Barrus*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Etna Rosso,** *Selezione*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

AZIENDA AGRICOLA SOFIA

ETNA - SICILIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/azienda-agricola-sofia

After more than a decade in the cellar of Vini Franchetti's Passopisciaro, Carmelo Sofia and his sister, Valentina, began to bottle wine from the organic-certified vineyards owned by their father, Giocchino. Harvested from the north side of Etna in the Contradas Passopisciaro and Torreguarino, their entry-level red, "Giocchino," is a light-colored, fresh, and fun Nerello Mascalese grown on volcanic soil from Passopisciaro and 10-15% on the siliceous clay soils from Torreguarino. The other imported Etna Rosso, grown exclusively in Passopisciaro, "Piano dei Daini," is a more substantial Nerello Mascalese with deep volcanic textures and lifted aromas.

2022	**Etna Rosso,** *La Vigna di Gioacchino*	**750**	**12**	**Fall Arrival**
2022	**Etna Rosso,** *Contrade Piano dei Daini*	**750**	**12**	**Fall Arrival**

PORTUGAL

QUINTA DA CAROLINA
DOURO
ESTATE VINEYARDS IN THE FOREGROUND

CONSTANTINO RAMOS

MONÇÃO E MELGAÇO & VALE DO LIMA, VINHO VERDE

www.thesourceimports.com/product/2019-zafirah-vinho-verde-tinto

Constantino Ramos is the most interesting young wine producer in Monção e Melgaço, Portugal's most prestigious and famous subzone of the Vinho Verde. During his tenure as the head winemaker for the famous Monção e Melgaço producer, Anselmo Mendes, Constantino's personal wine project started with a challenge from his cousin who had a few small vineyard plots in Monção that were higher in altitude than the typical vineyards in the area. Afluente, his Alvarinho is often one of the first vineyards picked in the entire appellation, leading to wines of high amplitude and vibrant acidity, and his red, Zafirah (a Muslim name that means graciousness), is made of a mix of the high-spirited red grapes, Brancelho, Cainho Longo, Espadeiro, Vinhão and Borraçal (Caíño Tinto).

2022	**Vinho Verde Alvarinho,** *Afluente*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vinho Verde Tinto,** *JUCA*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vinho Verde Tinto,** *Zafirah*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Vinho Verde Tinto,** *Zafirah*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ARRIBAS WINE COMPANY

PLANALTO MIRANDÊS - TRÁS-OS-MONTES

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/arribas-wine-company

In the early summer of 2017, Ricardo Alves and Frederico Machado were on the Portuguese back roads in the Parque Natural das Arribas do Douro searching for their future wine project. They settled on Bemposta, with its wealth of ancient, indigenous and largely forgotten grapevines chaotically perched on the extreme slopes on the Douro river gorge. They've set out to rediscover and revitalize an ancient wine culture whose local home winegrowers have just barely kept the faint bloodline of their vinous history from extinction. Their high tension, aromatic, low alcohol wines are blends composed of dozens of different varieties made with minimalistic cellar practices.

2023	**Vinho Branco,** *Saroto*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Vinho Palhete,** *Saroto*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vinho Tinto,** *Saroto*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Vinho Tinto,** *Saroto*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Vinho Tinto,** *Raiola*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Vinho Tinto,** *Quilómetro*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

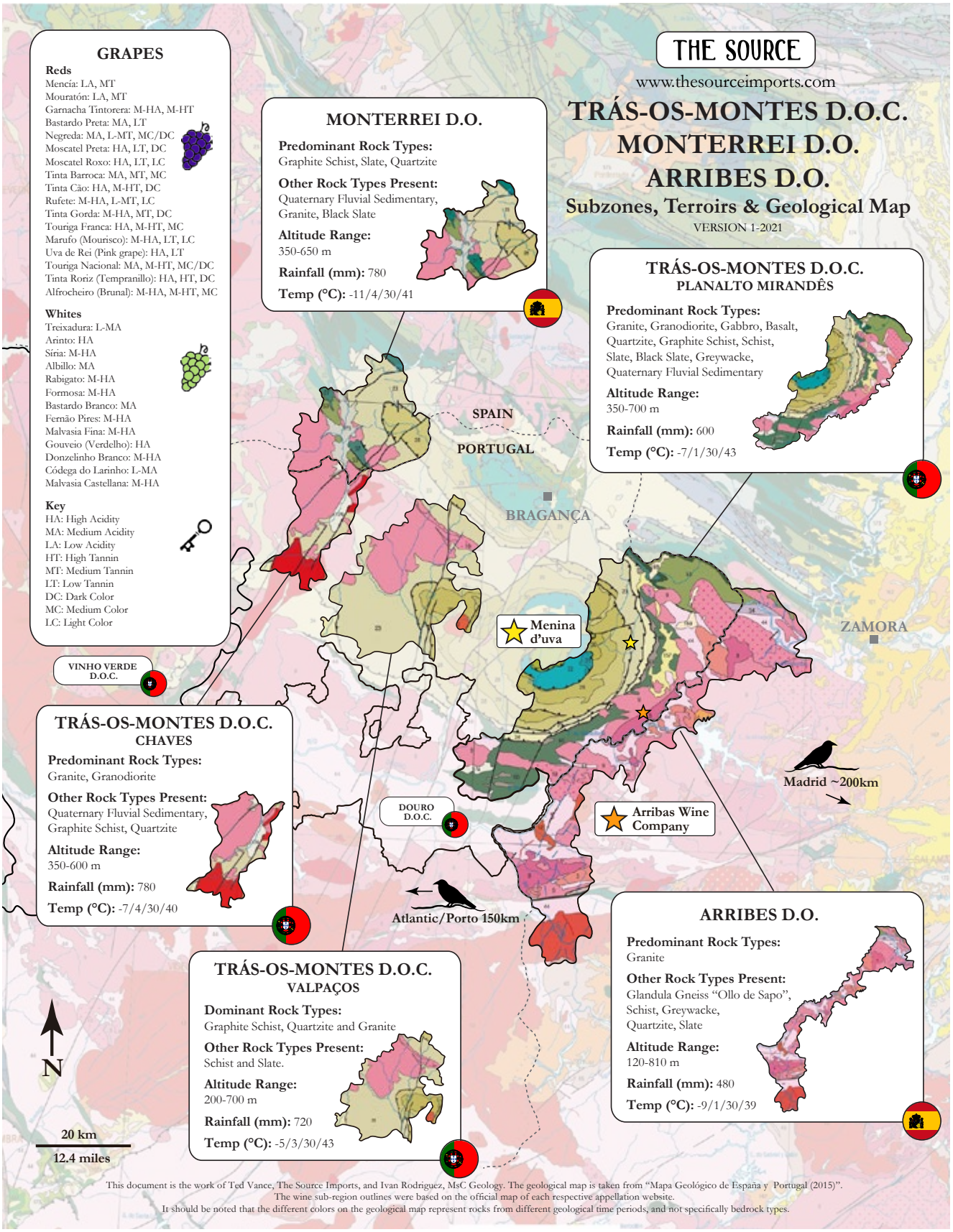
MENINA D'UVA

PLANALTO MIRANDÊS - TRÁS-OS-MONTES

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/menina-duva/

In 2017, Aline Domingues left her home city of Paris for Uva, a remote village on the Planalto Mirandês, a quiet and mostly desolate countryside in northeast Portugal's Trás-os-Montes wine region. While the Trás-os-Montes is known for heavy wines, Menina d'uva couldn't be much further from that style. Here, she's begun to modernize the wines in the best possible way: indigenous local grape varieties, organic farming, naked wines made through gentle extraction and a low-tech, heavily thought out, soft-touch approach. The result is wines with soft-colored hues, low-to-medium alcohol with natural freshness and tension. Her wines have heightened aromatic nuances of spring fruits, moorland brush and flowers, with unusually profound minerally and metallic textures that vibrate on the palate.

2021	**Vinho Tinto,** *Ciste*	**750**	**12**	**Available**



Go to our website at www.thesourceimports.com for more educational content like this; Photo courtesy of Menina D'Uva's Aline Domingues

QUINTA DA CAROLINA

CIMA CORGO, DOURO

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/quinta-da-carolina/

The Douro property that was once in the hands of California trailblazing winemaker, Jerry Luper, (whose illustrious wine career included tenures at Château Montelena, Bouchaine, and Rutherford Hill), has been for years now under the ownership of Luis Candido da Silva, a well-known wine retailer in Porto. Today, the winery has been slowly taken over by his son, also named Luis, and things are going through some noticeable changes the more Luis Jr. commits himself to the project. His day job is working as the head enologist and wine director for the still Douro wine program at Dirk Niepoort's ever expanding, global wine empire. Niepoort has a history of recognizing talent and churning out many superstars in Portugal, most notably Luis Seabra, the boys over at Arribas Wine Company (also in our portfolio), and starting in 2018, Luis Jr. The respect he has garnered at a very young age in Portugal speaks volumes for the confidence the local wine world has in his skill and attention to detail. Exciting things are in store for this very small estate with wines that cover both the traditional style like his father's, and the extreme progressivism of his generation, with a gorgeous touch, exquisite crafting and a razor-sharp attention to detail. Expect big things, albeit in very small quantities (unfortunately) from this special Quinta.

2021	**Douro Branco,** *Xis*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Douro Tinto,** *Xisto Amarelo*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2017	**Douro Tinto,** *Quinta da Carolina*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Douro Tinto,** *Quinta da Carolina*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Vinho Tinto,** *El3mento*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Vinho Tinto,** *El3mento*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

TAPADA DO CHAVES

PORTALEGRE - ALENTEJO

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/tapada-do-chaves/

There are few Portuguese wineries as mythical as Tapada do Chaves. Its line of extraordinary successes produced from vines planted in 1901 and 1903 by Senhor Chaves fell off the map when they were sold in the 1990s to a sparkling wine company. The property's fortune changed with its purchase in 2017 by Fundação Eugénio de Almeida under the direction of Pedro Baptista, one of Portugal's most celebrated oenologists most famously known for producing Pera Manca, some of the country's most prized (and expensive) wines. Immediately these historic vineyards planted on a unique granite massif that towers over the flatter lands more typical of Alentejo below were converted to biodynamic farming, priming Tapada do Chaves to reassert itself as one of Portugal's most preeminent terroirs. The white wines are blends of Arinto, Assario, Fernão Pires, Tamarez, and Roupeiro, with the reds Trincadeira, Grand Noir, Aragonez, and Alicante Bouschet.

2018	**Vinho Branco**	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2018	**Vinho Branco,** Vinhas Velhas	**750**	**6**	**Available**

ESPAÑA

RIBEIRA SACRA SUBREGIONS AMANDI (LEFT)
AND RIBEIRAS DO SIL (RIGHT)

XESTEIRIÑA
RÍAS BAIXAS - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/acios-da-xesteirina/

Xesteiriña is destined to be yet another Salnés Vally Albariño superstar. This singular wine that comes in two forms, with added sulfites and without, comes from a single vineyard just west of Portonovo, two kilometers from the Atlantic. The project and property are owned and operated by the extremely sharp and thoughtful José Manuel Dominguez, an Agricultural Engineer who comes from three generations of winegrowers in Salnés. It's a unique geological location largely composed of granodiorite and what may be some transitional materials similar to gneiss, the extremely spare topsoil is derived from the bedrock though almost entirely composed of organic matter. Surrounded by forests of mostly indigenous Galician trees (rare in these parts overrun by Eucalyptus), approaching the vineyard takes caution and respect for the ecological environment. Organic methods guide his work, despite his being so close to the ocean a hostile environment for mildew and vine diseases.

2022	**Rías Baixas** Albariño	**750**	**12**	**Out of Stock**

PEDRO MÉNDEZ
RÍAS BAIXAS - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/pedro-mendez/

Cousin of local viticultural legend, Rodrigo Méndez, Pedro Méndez wears two hats with full-time work in his family's vineyards and their restaurant during the summer. Located in the Salnés subzone of Galicia's Rías Baixas, he has medium-aged vines and pre-phylloxera Albariño vines that are nearly two-hundred years old that look more like trees. These ancient plants fill his full-bodied Albariños with structure and a pure citrusy, salty, minerally, high acidity power that only Albariño possesses. He also makes a compelling range of red wines with Mencía and Caíño.

2021	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *Sen Etiqueta*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *Pedro Méndez*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Rías Baixas** Tinto, *As Abeleiras*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
NV	**Rías Baixas** Tinto, *Xuntanza*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

MANUEL MOLDES
RÍAS BAIXAS - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/manuel-moldes/

One of the brightest lights in the slowly rising tide of the Rías Baixas, Manuel Moldes has an aptitude for finely tuned, deeply technical wine analysis, but it's his curiosity and open mind that guide him. Manuel's approach to his Albariño range is to have wines with notable differentiating characteristics; they either contrast the soil type altogether, whether it be completely on schist, the A Capela de Aios, or those granite parcels bottled as Afelio; or the particularities within a rock and soil type to illuminate their differences and are compelling enough to be bottled alone, like As Dunas, from sandy schist soil with no bedrock contrasts A Capela de Aios, grown on shallow schist topsoil with a soft schist bedrock. The simplicity of the red winemaking follows suit with the Albariños, but involves the art of blending different grape varieties from numerous terroirs into one wine. Acios Mouros, a blend of 60% Caiño Redondo, 20% Loureiro Tinto, 20% Espadeiro, is an extremely high-toned red from the Rías Biaxas, and his Bierzo, a more supple red blended with 60% Garnacha Tintorera and 40% Mencia.

2023	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *Afelio*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *Peai*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *As Dunas*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Rías Baixas** Albariño, *A Capela de Aios*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Rías Baixas Tinto,** *Acios Mouros*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Bierzo,** *Lentura*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

AUGALEVADA

RIBEIRO - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/fazenda-augalevada/

Iago Garrido may be destined to become one of Spain's most influential winegrowers. In 2014 this former professional soccer player buried an amphora filled with Treixadura in the middle of his granite vineyard inside Ribeiro's Avia River Valley. Initially convinced he had made a mistake with the discovery of a flor yeast veil, he later realized this errant shot actually hit a vein of gold that went on to define the direction of his wines. What makes Iago's wines special is not only that he welcomes the influence of flor yeast, or that he is committed to biodynamic practices in his cellar and the vineyards he owns and the ones he works directly himself, and to only using a minuscule dose of sulfur in his wines, it's his razor-sharp attention to detail coupled with his openness to take in the ideas and opinions of others. His creative range is focused on indigenous Galician varieties with many different bottlings.

2022	**Blanco,** *Ollos*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Albariño,** *Parcela Eiravedra*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Blanco,** *Ollos de Roque*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Blanco,** *Areas de Rei*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Tinto,** *Mercenario*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Tinto,** *Mercenario*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *Ollos*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *Ollos de Maia*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**

CUME DO AVIA

RIBEIRO - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/cume-do-avia

Diego and his brother, Álvaro, grew up in Vigo, northwestern Spain's largest metropolitan and industrial area. The bustle of city life wasn't in their blood, so in their early twenties they embarked on the courageous restoration of vineyards with their cousins, Anxo and Fito, in an ancient Galician ruin where their ancestors once lived. They started their new lifelong adventure together in 2005 that ultimately pushed them to the brink of financial ruin and tested their relationships with each other and many of their loved ones. The vineyards are surrounded by dense forest and sit on the top of a hill (a Cume) above the river Avia. By 2008 they planted their first vines, and in 2012 finally made their first vinification "tests," as Diego calls them; it was the first time any of them had ever made wine. On the vineyard are thirteen different indigenous Galician varietals selected from ancient vines in the Ribeiro. "The past of these forgotten grapes has been erased, leaving no one to discuss the ideal practices for them. Much knowledge was discarded with the introduction of chemicals to the vineyards after the second World War and there is no manual or record. We are trying to reinvent and rebuild this lost history," Diego explained. In what they would consider their first real vintage, the 2017 wines are gorgeous and taut with energy. They are not to be missed by those interested in the rise of Galician wines.

2021	**Branco,** *Arraiano*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Branco,** *Arraiano*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Branco,** *Colleita No. 8*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Branco,** *Colleita No. 9*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Branco,** *Colleita No. 10*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Branco,** *Dos Canotos*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Tinto,** *Arraiano*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Tinto,** *Arraiano*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *Arraiano*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Tinto,** *Colleita No. 8*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Tinto,** *Colleita No. 9*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *Colleita No. 10*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Tinto,** *Dos Canotos*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Tinto, Brancellao,** *Dos Canotos*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

PONTE DA BOGA

RIBEIRA SACRA - GALICIA

2020	**Ribeira Sacra** Mencia, *Pizarras y Esquistos*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

VAL DO SALNÉS

PRE-PHYLLOXERA ALBARIÑO

Above: Manuel Moldes in "Peai." Below: Pedro Méndez in Meaño with vine for 'Tresvellas'

PABLO SOLDAVINI

RIBEIRA SACRA - GALICIA

https://thesourceimports.com/producers/pablo-soldavini

The Argentine national, Pablo Soldavini, returned to his ancestral home in Castro Caldelas inside Galicia's Ribeira Sacra in the early 2010s. He has influenced many fellow winegrowers with his extraordinary, intuitive ability to understand the nature of any particular terroir and maximize its potential. Today, Pablo has dropped his winemaker consulting life to focus on his own projects based in Ribeira Sacra's Ribeiras do Sil subzone with indigenous variety vineyards set at high altitudes in a largely abandoned viticultural area. Everything is done by hand with great care and a gentle approach with natural yeasts, hand harvesting and varying degrees of stem inclusion, gentle extraction (almost infusion), aging in steel or old oak and very little in the way of added sulfites.

2022	**Rías Baixas Albariño,** *Obranco*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2023	**Rías Baixas Albariño,** *Obranco*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2023	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Simple*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *A Besta*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Lurpia*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Tanis*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**

PRÁDIO

RIBEIRA SACRA - GALICIA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/fazenda-pradio

Xabi Soeanes is in love with his Galician countryside, and he's even more taken in by its nearly forgotten past. His greatest desire, his dream, is to share this cultural treasure with the world, through the lens of his varietally blended wines the historical winegrowing practice of this area. Fazenda Prádio (named after a local tree known as a false maple, or sycamore) is located within the Chantada subzone, one of the coldest of Ribeira Sacra, heavily influenced by the Atlantic. His 3.5ha of vines, a collection of Mencía, Caíño Longo, Merenzao, Brancellao, Godello, and other indigenous varieties, are perched on wide terraces between 180-300m that overlook the Miño River gorge and are carved out of a steep hill of granite and schist. Xabi practiced organic and biodynamic farming for years but after a series of seasons that almost put him out of business, he keeps the door open to move freely when needed.

2019	**Ribeira Sacra Branco,** *Pacio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** Mencia	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2018	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Pacio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Pacio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Ribeira Sacra Tinto,** *Pacio*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

FUENTES DEL SILENCIO

JAMUZ - CASTILLA Y LEÓN

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/fuentes-del-silencio

The story of Fuentes del Silencio is of Indiana Jones-level proportions for lost and nearly forgotten wine cultures. Miguel Angel Alonso and his wife Maria José Galera, retired doctors and hobby winemakers, have stumbled on and excavated one of the rarities of the wine world. In the south of Leon province, up on the high plains of Herreros de Jamuz, among forests and fields of shrubs, they discovered the ancient Mencia vineyards buried under grounds that predate the phylloxera epidemic. There they started a rescue mission, restoring many of the old vines and putting them back into production. Miguel and Maria developed a team of passionate wine professionals who seem more like archeologists, and taken on the task of bringing this Spanish treasure trove back to its former glory with a minimalist approach in the cellar. The youngest vines of their collection of parcels were registered as planted in 1930, but the oldest locals told Miguel stories about their grandfathers planting the last set of vines closer to the turn of the century, after phylloxera had passed through. I've seen a lot of unique looking vines, but I've never come across anything that looked like hairy little square animals, dug into the ground, with vine shoots sprouting from their backs.

2016	**Viñedos del Jamuz Tinto,** *La Gandara*	**750**	**6**	**Spring Arrival**
2019	**Viñedos del Jamuz Tinto,** *Las Jaras*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Viñedos del Jamuz Tinto,** *Las Quintas*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

ASEGINOLAZA & LEUNDA

NAVARRA

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/aseginolaza-y-leunda

Environmental biologists and former winemaking hobbyists, Jon Aseginolaza and Pedro Leunda, have directed their full attention to a project focused on a better understanding of Spain's Navarra, a historical region with a severe identity crisis stemming from its living in the shadow of its illustrious neighbor, Rioja, Spain's historical crown jewel. Always the bride's maid and never the bride, the region began to focus on international varieties to stand out and increase its market share. Moving in the opposite direction of this trend, Jon and Pedro are focused on finding and recovering old vineyards planted with indigenous ancient genetic material (mostly Grenache, the historic grape of the region) inside vastly biodiverse areas all assets that give the region a possible edge on the widely monocultural approach of much of Rioja. The life and authenticity in their first wines (started in 2017) are clear and their future is promising.

2023	**Navarra Tinto,** *Txuria*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2023	**Navarra Tinto,** *Birak*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Navarra Tinto,** *Matsanko*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Navarra Tinto,** *Matsanko*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2019	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2019	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée Las Santas*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée Las Santas*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Navarra Tinto,** *Cuvée Las Santas*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Navarra Tinto,** *Camino de Auritz*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Navarra Tinto,** *Camino de La Torraza*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

BIEN DE ALTURA

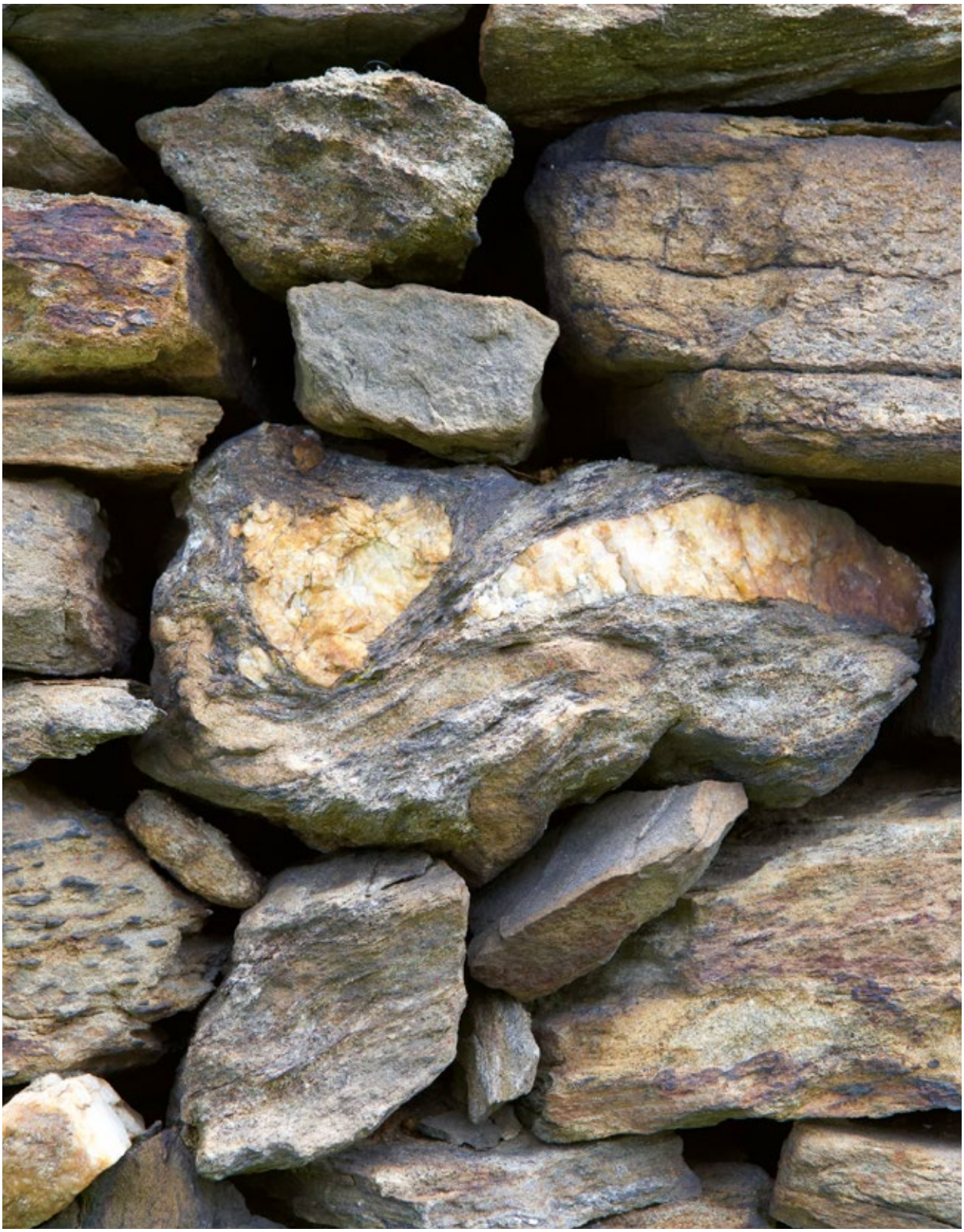
CANARY ISLANDS

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/bien-de-altura/

Raised by his mother and grandmother, Carmelo inherited from them a big heart, warmth and charm, along with the inner-city energy and hustle of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, an industrial port scrunched between the sleeping volcano and Atlantic crammed with half a million locals and four million tourists each year. He returned home in 2017 to begin Bien de Altura after traveling the world working in cellars and vineyards. Listán Negro is the dominant grape in Carmelo's range, and results in more elegant wines with a fresher fruit profile. In this arid climate with an average annual rainfall of only 134 cm (5.3 inches) and at some of the wine world's highest altitudes, from 1,100-1,460 meters (3,600-4,800 feet), on mostly east-facing sites on extremely steep orange volcanic sand, silt, clay, and rocky topsoil, he crafts a series of wines with a global cult following. The cellar practices are intendedly low tech and made with minimal sulfites, whole bunch fermentations, extended macerations and neutral aging vessels.

2022	**Tinto,** *Ikewen*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *Agan*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Tinto,** *Sansofi*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2022	**Tinto,** *Tidao*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Tinto,** *El3mento*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Tinto,** *El3mento*	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**

ÖSTERREICH & DEUTSCHLAND



SPITZER GRABEN METAMORPHIC BEDROCK
IN RIED BRANDSTATT

MARTIN MUTHENTHALER

SPITZ - WACHAU

https://weingut-muthenthaler.at

A former truck driver who seemingly explains with pride that he was fired from his job (likely for wanting to do everything with greater precision!), Martin Muthenthaler returned home to his family's vineyards in the Spitzer Graben of the Wachau, the coldest section on the north side (left bank) of the Danube (Donau) River. Once a former pathway of the Danube before tectonic movements altered the course of the river, this steep, east-to-west running valley splits off from the Danube at the far western end of the Wachau where it turns north about 4 km in. Here, Martin farms organically, almost everything of the work himself, at least until the arrival of his Bavarian wife, Melanie, who in 2021 began helping with the vineyard and administration. Without the assistance of outside consultants in the cellar but drawing on many years of exchange and collaboration with his great friend and neighbor, the Wachau luminary Peter Veyder-Malberg, this garagiste renaissance man with a talented green thumb and palate crafts Rieslings and Grüner Veltliners of sterling precision and quality, which have few equals in all of Austria.

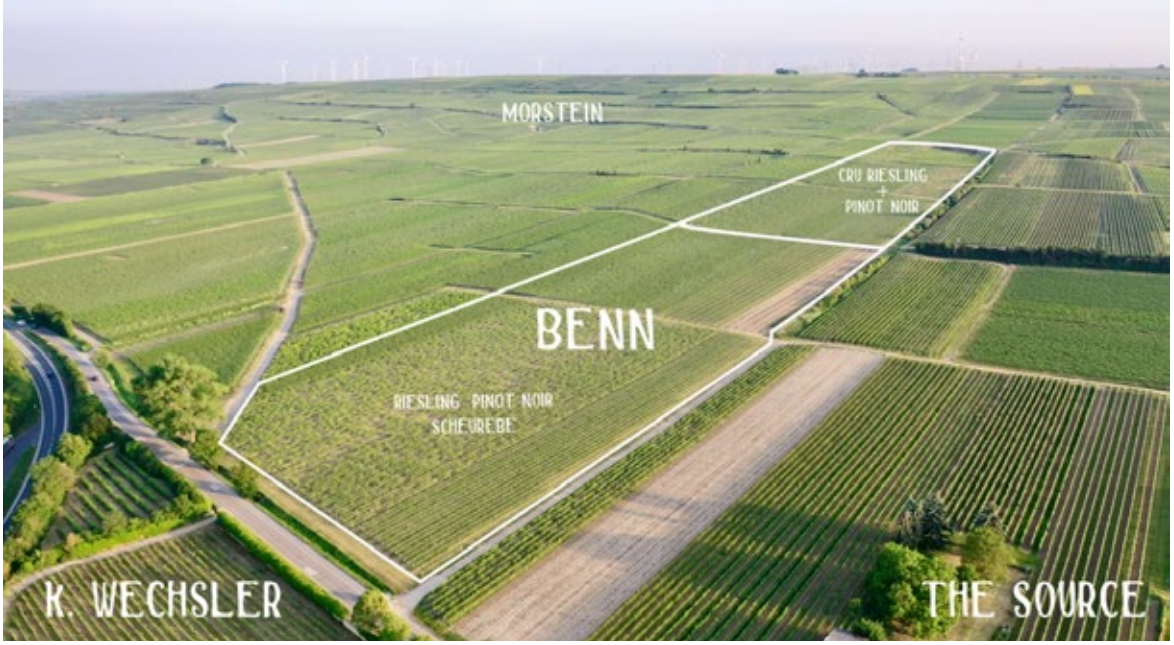
2022	**Grüner Veltliner,** '*Spitzer Graben*'	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Grüner Veltliner,** *Ried Schön*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Grüner Veltliner,** Monopollage "*Stern*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Grüner Veltliner,** *Ried Brandstatt*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** *Ried Bruck*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** Monopollage "*Stern*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** *Ried Brandstatt*	**750**	**12**	**Available**

K. WECHSLER

WESTHOFEN - RHEINHESSEN

www.thesourceimports.com/producers/katharina-wechsler/

The German organic and biodynamic winegrower, Katharina Wechsler, has officially arrived. The owner of enviable holdings in the most famous dry Riesling area of the Rheinhessen (thanks to the local luminaries, Klaus-Peter Keller, and Philipp Wittman), the highlights in her stable include a big slab of the grand cru vineyard, Kirchspiel, and a small chunk of perhaps the most coveted of all recognized grand crus, Morstein. Between these two juggernaut vineyards of dry Riesling, her family owns entirely a large vineyard, called Benn. Only the upper section of Benn on the strongly calcareous sections is planted to Riesling, while much of the lower slopes are a patchwork of many different grape varieties that she loves to play with in her cellar, concocting things that range between pure pleasure and fun, savory orange wines, to more serious classically styled dry wines, like her knockout Scheurebe. The entry-level trocken Riesling will give any dry Riesling in all of Germany a run for the money but showcases the lifted and elegant exotic characteristics of Riesling only found in this part of the world.

2021	**Pinot Rose,** *Sexy MF*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Scheurebe,** Trocken	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Scheurebe,** Fehlfarbe	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Riesling,** Trocken	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** Trocken	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Riesling,** '*Kalk*'	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** '*Kalk*'	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Riesling,** "*Benn*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2020	**Riesling,** "*Kirchspiel*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Riesling,** "*Kirchspiel*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** "*Kirchspiel*"	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2020	**Riesling,** "*Morstein*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Riesling,** "*Morstein*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** "*Morstein*"	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Riesling,** '*Schweißtröpfchen*'	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Riesling,** Feinherb, "*Kirchspiel*", *KRS16*	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2021	**Riesling,** Kabinett, "*Kirchspiel*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**
2022	**Riesling,** Kabinett, "*Kirchspiel*"	**750**	**12**	**Spring Arrival**
2021	**Riesling,** Spätlese, "*Morstein*"	**750**	**12**	**Available**

DRONE VIEW: WESTHOFEN