
LAURENT SAILLARD
(Pouillé, Loire)

November 2023



With Laurent Saillard in the freshly ploughed vineyard near the village of Pouille

Laurent Saillard, in addition to being a great *vigneron*, is a fantastic cook. Laurent used to own a restaurant, which explains his culinary skills. As always, my visits to the Domaine Laurent Saillard end at his dining table for a meal, where we catch-up on our lives. Laurent is also one of the most resourceful *vignerons* that I have met. During my last visit, he walked through his vineyard to collect *mâche* and wild garlic to make a salad. I think it is this resourcefulness is what made Laurent Saillard. He started with virtually nothing in producing his wines. Laurent is not from a family of *vignerons*. When I see all the changes today at his cellar and vineyards, I am amazed. In 2018, Laurent finally purchased a small house with a cellar near the village of *Pouillé*.

I first met Laurent Saillard in 2010 when I was visiting Noëlla Morantin, whose wines we also import. And that is how I met Laurent. Laurent, then, was working for Noëlla in the vineyards and cellar. In his youth, Laurent went to see the new world and eventually stayed in New York for a number of years. Laurent, French native, missed his home land. Laurent already had met a few *vignerons* while living in New York. So, Laurent decamped with his dog to the quiet countryside of *Touraine* in the Loire, surrounded by nature, vines and *vignerons*. In 2013, Laurent made his first commercial wine. The production was small. Today, Laurent has about seven hectares, which is small but that is the way he likes it. That is about the maximum size of vineyards that he feels he can tend well with occasional help.

LA PAUSE 2022

SKU: +4972 SPECULATIE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.58 Wholesale per bottle



Laurent Saillard made beautiful and balanced wines in the 2022 vintage. When many produced alcoholic wines from the dry and hot conditions of 2022, Laurent wines are fresh. All of his 2022 wines from his vineyard came in between 11.5% and 12.5%. La Pause clocks in at 12.5%. Laurent's hard work in the vineyard is paying off. La Pause is made from 100% Gamay grown on limestone over clay. No other wine speaks so easy, relaxed and delicious than wines made from Gamay. Drink this beauty slightly chilled.

(Note: Labels are not current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes)

LUCKY YOU! 2022

SKU: +35499 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.58 Wholesale per bottle



A deliciously uncommon blend of about 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Chardonnay. Pretty nose and great texture. This vintage is sappy and delicious. Immediacy of Sauvignon tempered by the lasting-power of Chardonnay. Endlessly charming and engaging white from the Loire. Hand-harvested grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts – like all of Laurent Saillard wines. A great Loire white.

SCARLETTE 2022

SKU: +176600 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.58 Wholesale per bottle

Scarlette

Vin de France • 12% vol • 75cl • LA16
Mis en bouteille par LAURENT SAILLARD
Vigneron à Pouillé 41 Produit de France
Contains sulfites

Charming. Pretty. Glorious without weight. 100% soul and 0% body. *Pineau D'Aunis* grown on clay over chalk. This red is only a shade darker than a rosé, which is typical of *Pineau D'Aunis* due to its thin skin. Pronounced white peppery taste with a fragrance that reminds me of peonies. This wine symbolizes the beauty of light-bodied, perfumed, and pleasurable wine that is Loire. Drink slightly chilled. *Pineau D'Aunis* is an indigenous varietal in the Loire that only a few of us crazy Loire wine lovers

know about. I am glad to receive some of this wine as I did not receive any for the last couple years. *Pineau D'Aunis* from our other producers, Pierre Olivier Bonhomme and Le Clos du Tue-Boeuf, are sold out. So, enjoy Laurent's Scarlette while it lasts.

Grenache Syrah 2021

SKU: 422686 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.31 Wholesale per bottle

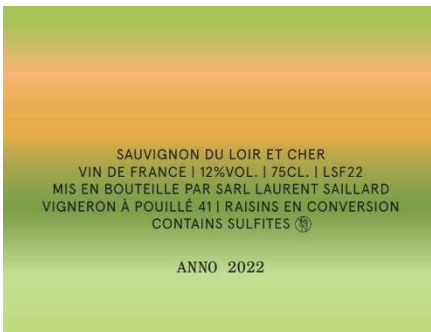


This wine had been sold out for many months when Laurent Saillard unexpectedly emailed me: “*Would you like some? One of my importers cancelled his reservation at the last minute.*” This wine has a hint of spices that adds complexity. A blend of Grenache and Syrah from the purchased grapes that are grown in the southern France due to the frost vintage of 2021 in the Loire. Grenache is from *Gard* and Syrah is from *Vauchuse*. The purchases are from the vigneron that Laurent Saillard trusts. The easy-going, sultry Grenache is tempered by the seriousness of Syrah to bring out some structure. Alcohol remains low at

12.5%, despite the grapes from the southern France, making this wine a pleasure to drink. Best served slightly chilled. Having spent some additional time in Laurent Saillard's icy chalk cellar, this wine is smoother and even more delicious.

SAUVIGNON DU LOIR ET CHER 2022

SKU: 374937 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.86 Wholesale per bottle



This is a new wine for Laurent Saillard. As the name of the wine implies, this is from the Sauvignon Blanc vines grown near the Loir River and the Cher River. This wine is from the purchased grapes from the *vigneron* that Laurent Saillard knows and trusts, where the vines are farmed organically. The wine is raised in neutral vats and bottled in the spring for freshness and fruit, which shine in this white. Beautiful Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire that screams drinkability.

SKU: 133262

ÇA SE DISCUTE 2022
SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.96 Wholesale per bottle



This is 100% *Pineau D'Aunis*. Luminescent burgundy colour. Floral with a hint of intriguing white pepper taste. This is made in an easy drinking *Vin de Soif* style, where the maceration is short to keep freshness. It is a blend of *Pineau D'Aunis* and *Pineau D'Aunis Teinturier*. Each strain ripens at different times. So, each strain is picked separately and blended after fermentation. *Élevage* is in neutral vats. Best slightly chilled. This is slightly darker than the *Scarlette* above due to the darker skin of *Pineau D'Aunis Teinturier* in the blend.

SKU: 133267

LA PAIRE 2021
SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.31 Wholesale per bottle



This is an equal blend of *Gamay* and *Grolleau*. The two greatest *bistro-vin* Loire varietals of all time. *Grolleau* is a thin-skin varietal that gives light, low-alcohol, quaffable *vin de soif* that recalls summer fruits with fading tannins in its youth. If you have drunk a bottle of our *Catherine et Pierre Breton Grolleau*, you already have a good feel for *Grolleau*. Blend the two varietals together and *Voilà*. This is also non-filtered. A lovely light red to drink slightly chilled.

SKU: 133259

UN ÉTÉ PARTAGÉ 2022
SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.96 Wholesale per bottle



This is 100% *Grolleau*. Pretty nose. Fragile and delicious. *Grolleau* gives a light-coloured wine that is great to drink young and cool. *Un Été Partagé* means a shared summer. Drink this bright light red under our grey winter skies and dream about the summer days to come. *Grolleau* used to be abundant in *Touraine* in the 1930's and 1940's. Then, just about all of *Grolleau* was ripped out in favour of other varietals for commercial reasons. *Un Été Partagé* is from forty-year-old vines from two different heirloom strains: *Grolleau Noir* and *Grolleau Gris*. Loire wine history in a bottle. Best slightly

chilled.

As we get closer to the Holiday Season, we often get asked about availability of MAGNUMS. Here is our annual list of available MAGNUMS for the Holidays:

**DOMAINE DE LA PÉPIÈRE 'CHÂTEAU THÉBAUD' CRU MUSCADET
SÈVRE ET MAINE SUR LIE (MAGNUMS) 2019**

**SKU: 379382 SPECULATIVE 1.5Litre 6 bottles/case
\$ 74.16 Wholesale per bottle**



Perfect for oyster and mussels, which are in season right now. This Muscadet spends an extraordinarily long time on its lees – between 30 to 36 months, depending on a vintage. This long aging on the lees gives this Cru Muscadet complexity and elegance that are rare. A hint of anise really adds unique drinking experience. Château Thébaud is the name of a village in the Muscadet appellation and it is one of the nine crus recognized by the AOC.

**DOMAINE DE LA PÉPIÈRE 'GORGES' COMMUNE CRU MUSCADET
SÈVRE ET MAINE SUR LIE (MAGNUMS) 2019**

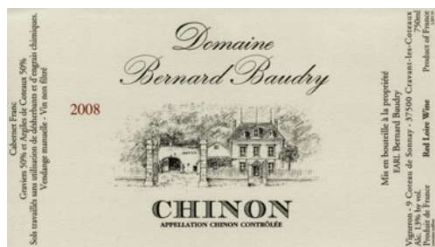
**SKU: 379342 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$ 72.62 Wholesale per bottle**



Elegant. Fresh and minerally. *Gorges Cru* sees about 36 to 42 months of lees-aging. This extended lees-aging gives *Gorges* complex, marrowy taste. The vineyard is located at the top of plateau, consisting of gabbro rocks. The soils are deep, characterized by the presence of weathering quartz clay. From a tiny parcel is about two hectares and the vines are over 70 years old. *Commune Cru Muscadets* are utterly unique in a world that

is obsessed with releasing wines early to make money. Open a bottle, pour a glass, and slow down, preferably with a bowl of steaming mussels and crusty baguette.

**BENARD BAUDRY CHINON 'LE DOMAINE' 2021 (MAGNUMS)
SKU: 48825 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$58.53 Wholesale per bottle**

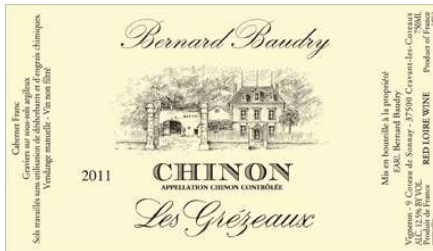


Fresh. Splendid. Crunchy fruits of blackberries. Minerally from the vines rooted in limestone. Bottled two springs after the vintage. Matthieu tells me he spends much energy in producing this cuvée as it defines the domain and hence the name. Matthieu Baudry '*Cuvée Domaine*' remains my benchmark for *Chinon*, and not just because of the modest price but also for its beauty. It is a blend of various parcels. About 75% comes from the majestic parcel of *Saint-Louans*, where the site is comprised of limestone

with very thin clay on top. The *lieu-dit* of *Saint-Louans* is special, known for lasting power and elegance. The remaining 25% comes from the gravel soil, where it gives suppleness. What value!

BERNARD BAUDRY CHINON 'LES GRÉZEAUX' 2019 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 48830 SPECULATIVE 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$64.95 Wholesale per bottle

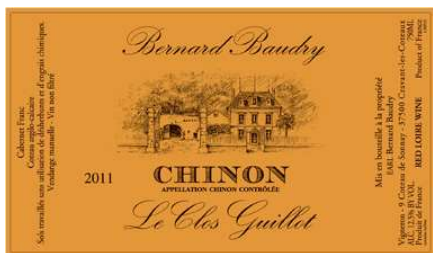


Deep. Dark and rich in this 2019 vintage while maintaining the freshness. Minerally. *Croquant* – crunchy as French would say in praising the quality of wines. Full of blackberries and violets. This *Chinon Grezeaux* has compelling texture and taste. From the 80 year-old vines grown on gravelly soil with sand and limestone base, which gives this wine distinctive flinty and smoky nose. From one of the most majestic vineyards in *Chinon*.

100% Cabernet Franc.

BERNARD BAUDRY CHINON 'LE CLOS GUILLOT' 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SPECULATIVE SKU: 048833 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/case
\$77.35 Wholesale per bottle



A hint of alluring peonies perfume. Beautifully balanced. Minerals wrapped in black fruits. From the Cabernet Franc vines grown on yellow limestone. In *Chinon*, there are only a few *lieux-dits* that have this yellow limestone because such yellow stone is bounded by a fixed elevation and location. This yellow limestone gives this *Chinon* elegance and fine tannins. Matthieu tells me *Le Clos Guillot* vineyard gives Burgundy-like *Chinon*. Not surprising

since there is only a narrow dirt path separating *Le Clos Guillot* with *Chêne Vert*, which is considered to be one the finest parcel in *Chinon*. Fermented in the traditional *triconic* wooden vats and aged in neutral barrels for about sixteen months, followed by another year in bottles in the icy limestone cellar. Lovely. 100% Cabernet Franc.

NOELLA MORANTIN TANGO ATLANTICO 2020 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 361130 Speculative 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/ case
\$66.08 Wholesale per bottle

Vin de France
**TANGO
ATLANTICO**
Noëlla Morantin



Gently earthy, summer berry-fruits. Dare I say this wine tastes like a beautiful Bordeaux from a bygone era. Not so surprising as this wine is a blend of about 60% *Côt* (aka *Malbec*) and 40% *Cabernet Franc*. Two Bordeaux varietals that have a long history in this part of Loire. Each varietal is picked and vinified separately. While *Cabernet Franc* is fully destemmed, about half of *Côt* is with stems. Then, the two are blended. *Élevage* is long - about eighteen months in demi-muids (500 litre barrels). Then, the barrels are assembled. The assemblage is rested and bottled without filtration.

NOELLA MORANTIN LBL (Sauvignon Blanc) MAGNUMS 2020

SKU: 474893 Speculative 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/ case

\$91.38 Wholesale per bottle



So pure in 2020. Smooth texture with flowers and citrus notes. Compelling. Elegant. A mineral backbone with seamless structure. Unified taste that is only present in a great *cru*. This is very singular Sauvignon Blanc. From the old Sauvignon Blanc vines grown silex-clay soil over limestone hill. The exposure is ideal southeast. The vines were planted in 1943. It is rare to see Sauvignon Blanc vines this age, even in the Loire. This wine sees the second winter in demi-muids, followed by many months in bottles prior to release. LBL mean *Les Bois Lucas*, which was the first domain that Noëlla worked. Noëlla used to farm the same parcel, where she used to vinify the Sauvignon Blanc. When the owner of *Les Bois Lucas* retired, Noëlla

bought the vineyard. This is her top wine.

NOELLA MORANTIN CHEZ CHARLES (Sauvignon Blanc) MAGNUMS 2020

SKU: 474885 Speculative 1.5 Litre 6 bottles/ case

\$74.31 Wholesale per bottle



Elegant. Complex. Deep. Inimitable perfume and texture of finely made Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire. Beautiful. Hand-harvested Sauvignon Blanc grapes are fermented with ambient yeasts - like all of Noëlla's wines. *Élevage* in neutral demi-muids (500 litre barrels) for about a year, followed by many months in bottles to settle down. Relatively long *élevage* really brings refinement and texture. It has that illusive engaging marrowy richness without the weight. Grace of old vines shining through. The vines come from the parcel that used to be farmed by the gentleman name Charles Buchet before Noëlla purchased the vineyard. In honour of him, Noëlla named the cuvée

after his name. The vines were planted in the 1960's.

BRAMATERRA 'CASCINA COTTIGNANO' 2018 (MAGNUMS)

SKU: 251015 Speculative 1.5 L 6 bottles/ case

\$88.03 Wholesale per bottle



Perfumed nose. Elegant. Rippling translucent burgundy colour of Nebbiolo. From the single parcel in *Bramaterra*, where the soil is volcanic sand. The soil is distinctively reddish-brown. Colombera and Garella say it is this reddish-brown soil that gives this wine its elegance. The vines are 60 years old on average. It is a blend of 80% Nebbiolo, 10% Vespolina, and 10% Croatina. The wine is aged for two years in 6,000 litre *botti* (big wooden barrels) and an additional year in bottles. Thoroughbred of mountain-grown Nebbiolo shines in this wine. A hint of orange peel, rosemary and sage that is so compellingly and uniquely Italian. Inimitable taste and nose. Old vine sap and structure of Nebbiolo are self-evident.

LESSONA 'PIZZAGUERRA' 2018 (MAGNUMS)
SKU: 46973 Speculative 750 ml 12 bottles/ case
\$88.03 Wholesale per bottle



Floral and fresh. Slightly more structured than *Bramaterra* above. What a beautiful expression of alpine-grown Nebbiolo. *Lessona* is 100% Nebbiolo. Whereas *Bramaterra* has volcanic sand, *Lessona* has marine yellow sand from a risen seabed. *Lessona* is only a ten-minute drive from *Bramaterra* but the soil composition is completely different. This *Lessona* is from the single parcel of *Pizzaguerra*. A regal expression of Nebbiolo grown near the mountains. Youthful. A pleasing grip from Nebbiolo shining through with a lingering aftertaste. This wine spent two years in neutral barrels, followed by an additional year in bottles. What a compelling alpine-meadow grown Nebbiolo.

C&P BRETON BOURGUEIL 'TRINCH!' 2021 (3 Litre Bag-in-Box -BIB)
SKU: 502325 SPECULATIVE 3 Litre 6 BIBs/case
\$81.93 Wholesale per BIB



Not MAGNUMS but I could not resist. Trinch! in 3 Litre Bag-in-Box. Great for Holiday Season parties. Simply keep the wine in your fridge and pour the desired amount into a carafe. Leave the wine in carafe for 10 - 15 minutes to bring up the temperature a bit and enjoy. BIB lasts for about a month once you start using. One BIB equals 4 bottles of 750 ml Trinch! That is savings of 25% per volume, which comes from efficient packaging of BIBs. The only reason not to buy this wine is that you cannot drink 3 litre of wine in a month.

www.racineimports.ca