
LES CORTIS
(Savoie, France)

April 2024



Jérémy Decoster of Les Cortis in the alpine hills of Condon in Bugey

I am at a loss to explain, really. I must love wines made from the cool climate of alpine hills. For, how could I reasonably explain I represent four alpine producers in our little portfolio: *Les Cortis* from *Savoie*, *Peggy et Jean Pascal Buronfosse* from *Jura*, *Colombera & Garella* from *Alto Piemonte* and *Barbacan* from *Valtellina*. I don't think I was consciously choosing to work with the alpine producers until I took some time to reflect on the list of our producers. A pattern began to emerge. I always loved cool climate wines and alpine grown wines, for me, are ultimate expressions of fresh, fragrant wines.

Growing vines on the cold alpine meadows is difficult. Alpine *vignerons* suffer under challenging weather and, often, impossibly steep hills with tiny parcels and small yields. All are family farmers as no big producers are willing to dedicate themselves under such conditions. The suffering is not in vain. There is something mystically magical about wines that are made from vines grown on these alpine hills. The wines hit every note with absolute clarity. Great alpine wines drink well when young and even greater with some aging in a cool cellar.

In the alpine hills of *Bugey* in *Savoie*, Jérémy Decoster and his wife Isabelle Coiffier of *Les Cortis* are making wines that sing. *Les Cortis* is located in the impossibly tiny village of *Condon* in *Bugey*. You can see the mountains and clouds behind Jérémy and in the photo above. The vineyards are so close to the mountains that the clouds appear to be just above the vines. Today, *Savoie's* vine surface is only a fraction of what was merely a century ago. When one drinks a great bottle of *Savoie*, one understands why the dedicated *vignerons* are still willing to risk all in the appellation that has tiny slopes, climatic challenges, and mountainous isolations.

Jérémy was in an indie band through his teens and twenties. When Jérémy and Isabelle decided to have a family, Jérémy enrolled himself into an oenology school. "Being in an indie band is not a stable career", Jérémy would tell me when we first met. I asked, "Being a vigneron in the alpine hills of Savoie is more stable?" We chuckled as we tasted through the wines. During his apprenticeship at Alice et Olivier de Moor in *Chablis*, Jérémy fell in love with the wines and the idea of a life-long commitment of *vigneron*. After the apprenticeship, Jérémy and Isabelle settled in *Savoie*. They farm six hectares. All vines are farmed in harmony with nature. Jérémy is a fan of complantation. There is a long history with complantation in *Savoie*, which is self-evident in *Les Cortis* wines.

SAVOIE 'OBUSCULE' 2022
SKU: 359214 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$27.00 Wholesale per bottle



This is a new wine from Jérémy Decoster of *Les Cortis*. It is a field-blend of 75% Gamay, 25% Chardonnay, and 5% Pinot Noir. Jérémy's passion is complantation, which means various varietals, both reds and whites, are planted together in the same parcel. There is a long history of complantation wines in *Savoie*. So, Jérémy likes to respect the history because he believes the ancients done such work for centuries for a reason.

This wine sings with a fragrance with texture that is so unique and compelling. The whole (wine) is greater than the sum of its parts (varietals). Perhaps, it is the dash of Pinot Noir that gives this wine its pretty nose. It is so integrated and harmonious that it is hard to tell the parts. Chardonnay adds the mid-palate richness that is hard to achieve in the cold *Savoie* region. Goes down smooth. What a beautiful wine. Drink slightly chilled.

SAVOIE 'MÉRUNE' 2022
SKU: 25765 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$29.63 Wholesale per bottle

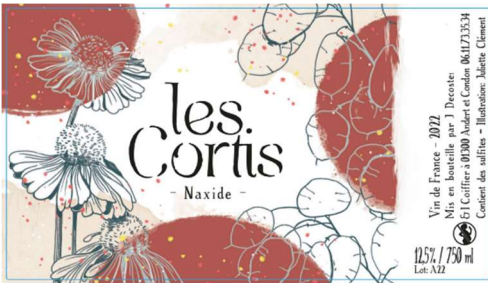


Compelling round texture with captivating taste that lingers. Hard to drink just one glass. This is also complantation wine and it is a blend of 50% of Chardonnay and 50% Altesse. Altesse is an indigenous varietal in *Savoie*. Bright and zippy but with depth and substance. Chardonnay brings out body and roundedness, while Altesse brings out the minerality. This unique white has all the charm of vines grown on cool alpine meadows. Both varietals are pressed together and *élevage* is in

neutral vats for about six months prior to bottling. Isabelle, Jérémy's wife, is an artist and all the labels are made from her paintings.

(Note: the labels may not be current vintages and are shown for illustration purposes only)

SAVOIE 'NAXIDE' 2022
SKU: 359211 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$32.65 Wholesale per bottle



This is also a new wine. It is a field-blend of 60% Chardonnay and 40% Altesse. Creamy texture while maintaining the compelling alpine meadow freshness. The opposite and complimentary trait of creaminess with freshness really brings out complexity to this lovely wine. The older vines of Chardonnay and Altesse are used. It is aged in neutral barrels for about 8-9 months prior to bottling. Quality neutral barrels round out the square corners of this wine and let the

wine breath. Having visited DeMoor in Chablis twice, this Jérémy's wine is greatly influenced by DeMoor. So clean and yet so pure with its soul all intact. Not an easy feat to achieve.

SAVOIE 'BRISURE' 2022
SKU: 97256 SPECULATIVE 750ml 12 bottles/case
\$34.90 Wholesale per bottle



This is a direct press of Gamay Teinturier together with Altesse. The blend is about 50% of each varietal. Because it is direct pressing, this wine looks and tastes like a rosé. A hint of mountain berries with mineral complexity. Exquisite and pretty. The colour is faint crushed pink roses. This is another great example of a wine made from complantation. Drink this alpine beauty and experience a piece of *Savoie* wine history of complantation.

SAVOIE 'UZÉE' 2022

SKU: 149532

SPECULATIVE 750ml

12 bottles/case

\$29.92 Wholesale per bottle



Last but not least. A lovely wine that belongs in a *bar-a-vin*. Easy drinking red with freshness. A hint of berries with a touch of black pepper taste. A blend of about 70% Gamay and 30% Mondeuse. Mondeuse naturally gives dark colour and it shows in this wine. Pretty robe. Violet nose, which comes from Mondeuse according to Jérémy. Energetic. Vibrant. Fresh. This wine speaks clearly of the place and *vigneron*. This wine immediately transports me back to the domain of *Les Cortis* with Jérémy. A beautiful red from the alpine meadows of *Savoie*.

Note:

Jérémy Decoster and his wife Isabelle Coiffier of Les Cortis lost about 90% of their crop in 2021 due to the frost. Growing vines in alpine meadows is challenging. So, none of the 2021 vintage was imported due to small quantities.