



FRANÇOIS CHIDAINE 'LES TUFFEAUX' MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE 2018



"You have to look to the historical collections of regional leaders Foreau and Huet to find comparable consistently high quality, making it clear that Chidaine is one of the world's finest craftsmen in the medium of white wine" *David Schildknecht VN*

Facing Vouvray, the other side of the river, Montlouis-sur-Loire is just 2 miles as the crow flies, from its illustrious older brother. Like in Vouvray, Montlouis is exclusively dedicated to Chenin Blanc, but the subtlety of Terroir, Flinty for Montlouis and Chalky for Vouvray, make them truly distinctive.

It is there that François Chidaine started his venture in 1989, when he took over after his dad. Since then, he caused a mini-revolution in this tiny appellation, in many ways that the contemporary history of Montlouis is the history of his. Organic since 1992 and biodynamic since 1999 he shaped this appellation to be a natural wine heaven, with a swag of winemakers following his footsteps. His estate is now made of 90 acres, 50 acres in Montlouis, 25 in Vouvray and 15 in Touraine.

SOIL TYPE

Clay with pieces of coarse flint over a base of "Tuffeau" - soft, white limestone. Selection of multiple parcels with various exposure. A patchwork of what Montlouis can offer.

VARIETAL

100 % Chenin Blanc. 30 to 90 years-old vines

CULTURE

Vines conducted in Biodynamy. No use of phytosanitary products. Natural grass cover between the rows (Only Nematicidal & mellifera plants are sowed). Biodynamic preparations come only from transformed material of vegetal and mineral origin. **Manual harvest with multiple sorting.**

VINIFICATION

Pneumatic pressing. Alcoholic fermentation with native yeasts in used 600 liters French oak barrels. Fermentation can last up to 6 months. Ageing on fine lees for 11 months in the same barrels. The goal is to not complete the malolactic fermentation. 14% alc | **10 g/L of RS** | 2.96 g/L of total acidity.

TASTING NOTES

"Explosive in the glass. Soaring citrus, floral pear and slate-infused aromatics leads into a rich, creamy palate that fills out beautifully. The 2018 is generous and so inviting, and yet remains airy, with beams of salinity that frame the subtle, nuanced finish. A wine of understatement and class, the 2018 is just gorgeous today. The balance of sweetness, acid and structure is compelling, with the sugar present and yet so well-integrated, in the wine's magical balance"

-- Antonio Galloni, Vinous Oct 2020 – 94 pts
also reviewed by Aleks Zecevic, Wine Spectator Nov 2020 – 94 pts

From the same Winery :
Touraine Sauvignon Blanc & Rouge 2020/2019
Vouvray "Les Argiles" 2018

