



CHÂTEAU DE VILLENEUVE "LES CORMIERS" SAUMUR BLANC 2021



The town of Saumur, and its castle of the 11th century overlooking the left bank of the Loire River, is where start this 7 miles plateau of "Turonian" limestone, locally called "Tuffeau", that offers the greatest Terroir of the Anjou-Saumur region for the production of Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc. It is there in the small village of Souzay-Champigny, one of the 8 villages of the appellation, that Jean-Pierre Chevalier, respected oenologist engineer trained in Bordeaux, farms organically his 60 acres single plot of vines surrounding the family *Château*.

Fully certified organic since 2012, the vines have always been farmed in respect of nature with no use a phytosanitary products. In order to guarantee the best purity of fruit Jean-Pierre harvests his entire production in small cases at optimum maturity and use sorting tables. Winemaking is hands-off and happens with native yeasts and minimal addition of SO₂.

The terroir of Château de Villeneuve is considered by many wine professionals as the greatest for Chenin Blanc, with the slatey schist of Savennières.

SOIL TYPE _____

Clay and "Tuffeau" limestone (Turonian chalk).

Single parcel enclosed by wall "Clos des Cormiers"

VARIETAL _____

100% Chenin Blanc.

CULTURE _____

Certified organic Ecocert

The Soil is worked under the row. Natural grass cover between the rows. Severe winter pruning leaving 6 buds per branch. Base-bud removal. Leaf-thinning at the "Veraison" in order to optimize the maturation of the grapes. Harvest is made exclusively by hand in small cases. Sorting tables are used before a gentle pressing in pneumatic press.

VINIFICATION _____

Long fermentation in old 500 liters French oak barrels, followed by an ageing on fine lees during 10 months in the same "Tonnes". No "Bâtonnage" and no malolactic fermentation.

TASTING NOTES _____

"Delicious notes of honey, vanilla, wood and spice create a heady scent, which is followed by a lovely succulent sip, the textural mouthfeel and racy but ripe acidity combining on a long, well-balanced finish. Les Cormiers, from Villeneuve, is the prestige white and always has a great potential to age well, 20 to 30 years at least, and the 2021 is no exception."

-- 96pts by Jim Budd, Decanter on March 2023

Other wines from the same estate:

Saumur Blanc 2022

Saumur Champigny 2021

"Vieilles Vignes" Saumur Champigny 2021

"Le Grand Clos" Saumur Champigny 2019

