

WINE COLLECTIVE

selected by Jacqueline Pirolo

January 2023: Loire Valey

Happy New Year! Welcome to January, and perfect white wine weather. Fittingly, this month we're in Loire Valley, which has a long tradition of producing excellent sparkling wines, specifically Crémant. Only one and half hours by train from Paris, Loire has over 80 appellations, an outstanding cultural landscape with historic towns and villages and great architectural monuments. Their lands have been cultivated and formed over many centuries of interaction between their population and the physical environment, primarily the river Loire itself.

In true Macchialina wine club fashion, we are keeping it a bit obscure and highlighting some of the lesser known, up and coming regions. This is a vast subject to cover, and we are just scratching the surface here. So, expect Loire Valley as a topic again.

To break it down, there are four major areas: Lower Loire Valley, Middle Loire Valley, Central Loire and Upper Loire. Major grapes start with Chenin Blanc - super versatile, made in all styles, sweet, still, sparkling, typically great food pairing because of acidity, and often a somms pick because it pairs well with food. We always say when in doubt drink sparkling, but also when in doubt, drink Chenin Blanc. Basically, Cabernet Franc is a great alternative to Cabernet Sauvignon, Muscadet is unparalleled as a companion to shellfish, and Montlouis-sur-Loire is the best sparkling white wine appellation you've never heard of. As diverse as Loire wines are, stick with us and you'll be popping Melon de Bourgogne with your oysters in no time.
Cheers!

Remember, there is always more.
Shoot me an email if you'd like to purchase another bottle
(or case) of something that you loved.
jacqueline@macchialina.com.

Thank you!
#macchinmyglass

SPARKLING WINE 101

Carbonic Maceration

A trend that started in Beajoulais with Gamay, and that has gained popularity all over the world.

Carbonic maceration is putting whole clusters of grapes into sealed tanks with carbon dioxide. In this oxygen-free environment the available CO2 begins to break down sugars inside the grape, initiating fermentation intracellularly, or from the inside out. Sometimes called whole cluster fermentation, you can expect a fruit forward, young wine. These less tannic, more fun, chillable, crushable reds are perfect in our Miami climate.

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KITCHEN NOTE

Pirolo's Veggie Caponata

There are many ways to make a Caponata, traditionally Sicilian is fried eggplant, here veggies are tossed with spicy anchovy, caper, oregano, tomato sauce. Eat right out of the jar with good bread or crackers, as a spread on a sandwich, or tossed in a pasta as a sauce.

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MACCH
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Andre-Michel Bregeon Muscadet "Gorges" 2013

Producer: André-Michel Brégeon
Name: Gorges
Variety: 100% Melon de Bourgogne
Vintage: 2013
Location: Muscadet Sèvre et Maine, Loire, France

Gabbro is old, blue-green, volcanic rock, rarely found in vineyard land. Formed by magma eruptions under the ocean floor, it imparts intense complexity to wines.

This bottling represents the realization of Michel Brégeon's lifelong dream to elevate the wine of Muscadet to a loftier status than a simple oyster sipper, but make no mistake, it is the ultimate oyster pairing wine. This is a 2013 and is now aged ten years, a perfect time to decant and enjoy a remarkable aging potential in his wines that rivals any other white from France.

Michel Brégeon is described as part renegade and part crusader ardently defending the Muscadet-Sèvre-et-Maine terroir. Thanks to his deep understanding of the land, he plays the game much differently than other domains in the region who produce en masse and lose the subtlety of the appellation. He worked for his family's domaine before setting out on his own in 1975. When his father retired in 1989, he gave his remaining vineyard land to Michel. Serve chilled, and savor the culmination of his life's work.

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Mary Taylor Valençay 2020

Producer: Mary Taylor Wines
Name: Valençay
Variety: 30% Pinot Noir, 35% Côt, 35% Gamay
Vintage: 2020
Location: Valençay AOP
Follow: @MaryTaylorWines

Best known for its famous pyramid-shaped goat cheese, the Valençay area of France's Loire valley also produces an equally singular (if much lesser known) array of wines. What they lack in name recognition, however, they more than make up for in terms of sheer deliciousness and everyday charm- which illustrates an important principle. More often than not, the hidden values of the world of wine are discovered along the road less traveled, far from the common crowd. In fact, originally founded in 1960, the Jourdain estate has been run since 1990 by Sophie Siadou and her partner Francis Jourdain, and Sophie originally came from Avignon to work on a goat farm! However, she met Francis, and remained in Lye to raise a family and make wine. Together, they sustainably farm 28 hectares of vines, from which they craft their brilliant range of honest, regionally-expressive wines.

Although the winery functions as a family affair, it was Sophie's unique vision that informed this specific bottling, to which she has lent her name. Reflecting her holistic approach to the ecosystem of the vineyard and her careful attention to the nuances of her terroir, this wine was allowed to ferment naturally, using only the indigenous ambient yeasts present in the surrounding environment, the vineyard and cellar. In the glass, the decision to allow natural fermentation comes across as an almost electric vibrancy- not so much a beverage but a living, breathing thing. Expressing all the lightness and elegance of its high percentage of Pinot Noir, plus a wonderful floral quality, it also reveals its leaner, more structured "Malbec" side, expressed through a sturdy wash of tannins that balance its succulent flavors of raspberries, black currant, and spice. The archetypal "country wine," intrinsically designed for drinkability, it would be ideal with roast chicken, any kind of barbecue- or, even better, a nice chalky slice of Valençay cheese.

MACC
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Domaine La Piffaudièr, Mon Tout Rouge 2021

Producer: Domaine La Piffaudièr
Name: Mon Tout Rouge
Variety: 100% Pineau D'Aunis
Vintage: 2021
Location: Vin de France, Loire
Follow: @Domaine_de_la_Piffaudièr

Olivier Bellanger grew up in Monthou sur Cher, a scant hour east of Tours, a village right in the center of Loire Valley. He obtained his agricultural diploma in 2000, and spent the next 8 years working for notable domains in the Loire, then in 2008 he had the opportunity to buy 15 acres of vineyards in Thesée, near his native village. Without a second thought, he converted them to organic farming. Later came the details, like the fact that the land was affordable partly because there were no associated buildings. Eventually, he secured a cellar and now he farms about 25 acres and vinifies in a friend's winery where he rents space and sells some fruit to other wineries.

He remains committed to local grapes and deplors the regulations that reward ripping up old vine native varieties that are not in fashion, or not allowed in the regional appellation. His own wines of course are his labor of love. He's still fine-tuning his blends and adapting to vintage conditions, but the results are always exciting and convincing. And delicious. And we are extra excited about them because they are brand spanking new to the Miami market.

MACC
CALINA

Domaine Damien Moyer, "L'Extra Brut" 2020

Producer: Domaine Damien Moyer
Name: L'Extra Brut
Variety: 100% Chenin Blanc
Vintage: 2020
Location: Montlouis-sur-Loire, France
Follow: @Domaine_Moyer

Two things you must know: 1. this box is the only place you'll find this juice in Miami. 2. This stunning showcase of sparkling Chenin Blanc, will have you wondering, Champagne who?

The Moyer family has been continuously producing wine from father to son since at least 1850. The present generation of the family, Damien and Michaël are the sons of Dominique and grandsons of Edmond, who witnessed the creation of the National Institute for Appellations d'Origine (INAO) and was one of the founder wine producers of the Montlouis AOC in 1938.

This is a beautifully crafted sparkling wine that showcases notes of pears, apricots and green apples on the nose. On the palate there are remnants of tropical fruit, a Chenin signature, mixing with a vibrant minerality and a racy acidity. Bone-dry finish with fine bubbles and lingering notes of red apples.

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Domaine Nebout, Le Tressallier Des Gravieres 2020

Producer: Domaine Nebout
Name: Le Tressallier des Gravières
Variety: 100% Tressallier
Vintage: 2020
Location: Saint-Pourçain AOC, France

Tressallier is the source of one of France's oldest, rarest and most vibrant white wines. Tressallier today is grown on less than 90 acres of land world-wide-and all of those are located in Saint-Pourçain, one of France's oldest wine regions, and Domaine Nebout is the family that is helping to return this grape to the hallowed status it once held. Tressallier combines the delicious tension of Chablis with the chalky notes characteristic of Loire Valley Sauvignon in a wine that is bone dry, vibrantly flavored and invigorating. For three generations, the Nebout family has cultivated Tressallier and is one of the few estates that craft a pure, 100% Tressallier wine from vines grown on an ancient riverbed. The region sits at altitude, some 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level. Resulting in aromas of citrus zest, crushed stones, light herbs, and fresh nuts. Tangy and fresh, light bodied with bright acid and good balance, delicious as a refreshing aperitif with charcuterie or appetizers, light salads and fresh French cheeses.

MACCH

2019 Domaine de L'R, Chinon Le Canal des Grands Pièces

Producer: Domaine de L'R
Name: Le Canal des Grands Pièces
Variety: 100% Cabernet Franc
Vintage: 2019
Location: Chinon, Touraine, France
Follow: @domaine_de_lr

Frédéric Sigonneau - the vigneron at this estate, doesn't focus on the fruit. Instead he highlights air, soil, and water as the primary components that should harmonize to make great wines. You will be hard pressed to find a bottle with more purity of fruit than this one. His dedication to Cabernet Franc is palpable.

Red Chinon wines are made from 100% Cabernet Franc and vary given where they come from within Chinon. This has some structure as it comes from gravel and sandy soils. The aromas show dark berries, pure character, and sometimes Cabernet Franc can be green or vegetal, but not in this case. Don't be fooled though, the clean, fruit-forward style of this wine is in no way a jammy fruit bomb. This year-round sipper as it is light enough to quaff on a summer evening or snuggle up with on a chilly night.