



the living vine
ORGANIC. BIODYNAMIC. SUSTAINABLE

TASTING NOTES

NICOLAS JOLY "LES VIEUX CLOS" CHENIN BLANC, 2007

BACKGROUND

THE ESTATE IS LOCATED IN THE COMMUNE OF SAVENNIÈRES IN THE LOIRE REGION IN FRANCE. THE OWNER NICOLAS JOLY (BORN 1945) IS A LIVING LEGEND, AND IS ONE OF THE LEADING PIONEERS OF BIODYNAMIC WINEMAKING. HE IS AN ECONOMIST BY TRAINING, WITH AN MBA FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK, AND TOOK OVER THE ESTATE FROM HIS PARENTS IN 1977. INSPIRED BY THE IDEAS OF RUDOLF STEINER, JOLY CONVERTED THE ENTIRE OPERATION TO ANTHROPOSOPHIC GUIDELINES.

THE VINEYARD AREA TOTALS 15 HECTARES. THIS INCLUDES THE MONOPOLE STEEP SLOPE VINEYARD COULÉE-DE-SERRANT (ALSO CALLED CLOS DE LA COULÉE-DE-SERRANT), A SEVEN-HECTARE SITE FIRST WORKED BY CISTERCIAN MONKS. THIS VINEYARD IS CLASSIFIED AS AN OWN APPELLATION SAVENNIÈRES COULÉE-DE-SERRANT. THE DRY WHITE WINE COULÉE DE SERRANT PRODUCED FROM CHENIN BLANC GRAPES HAS BECOME A CULT WINE. IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST WHITE WINE OF THE LOIRE, AND ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THE ESTATE ALSO HAS THREE HECTARES OF THE VERY SIMILAR APPELLATION SAVENNIÈRES ROCHE-AUX-MOINES. THE CLOS DE LA BERGERIE VINEYARD HERE PRODUCES THE Eponymous WHITE WINE. BOTH WINES REACH THEIR PEAK ONLY AFTER A MINIMUM OF FIVE TO TEN YEARS. THREE HECTARES OF THE NORMAL AC SAVENNIÈRES ARE USED TO PRODUCE THE BECHERELLE WHITE WINE, WHICH IS ALSO 100% CHENIN BLANC.

'... NICOLAS JOLY [is] A VOCIFEROUS PROSELYTIZER FOR BIODYNAMIC FARMING. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF JOLY'S EFFORTS, THE LOIRE MAY LEAD THE WORLD IN THE NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS OF THIS ESOTERIC, HYPER-ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICE. JOLY'S FAMILY ALSO OWNS AND FARMS THE COULÉE DE SERRANT VINEYARD, A SCHIST-STUDDED SLOPE ON THE BANKS OF THE LOIRE WHERE VINES HAVE BEEN TENDED FOR NEARLY 800 YEARS. THE WHITE WINES OF SAVENNIÈRES ARE USUALLY DRIER AND MORE SAVORY THAN THE WINES OF THE TOURAINE, AGAIN WITH EXTRAORDINARY AGING POTENTIAL AND A HAUNTING MINERALITY THAT EXPRESSES ITSELF OFTEN WITH NOTES OF MUSHROOM, EARTH, AND TRUFFLE - GIVING YOU A PRETTY GOOD INDICATION OF WHAT TO SERVE WITH IT.' (PATRICK COMISKEY, LOS ANGELES TIMES, AUG. 23, 2006)

TASTING NOTES

IF YOU WANT TO DISCOVER THE SECRET OF NICOLAS JOLY'S WINES, I SUGGEST YOU START WITH THE WINE FROM "LES VIEUX CLOS." THIS VINEYARD HAS 3 HECTARES WHICH ARE STOCKED EXCLUSIVELY WITH CHENIN BLANC VINES WHICH PROVIDE THE GRAPES FOR THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIC WHITE WINE. FIRM, SOFT, COMPLEX, INTENSE, A NEW UNIQUE FULL-BODIEDNESS OF FRUITS AND AROMAS. ENJOY THIS WINE AT TEMPERATURES OF BETWEEN 12 AND 14 DEGREES, AND DECANT IT BEFOREHAND. CAN BE STORED UNTIL 2015. ALL OF THIS IS REINFORCED IN NICOLAS JOLY'S TWO OTHER WINES.



VINTAGE: 2007

WINERY: NICOLAS JOLY ([HTTP://WWW.COULÉE-DE-SERRANT.COM/](http://www.coulee-de-serrant.com/))

REGION: LOIRE

CASE QUANTITY: 6 BOTTLES PER CASE

BOTTLE SIZE: 750 ML

CERTIFICATION: BIODYNAMIC / ORGANIC

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