

Vins Gigou N.V. "La Bulle Sarthoise" Rouge Demi-Sec

WineWise Code	FGI-BSRGNV
Country	France
Region	Loire
Color	Sparkling
Alcohol by Volume	11.5
Residual Sugar	20?
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	600
Varieties	100% Pineau D'Aunis
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Fermentation duration	10-15 days
Aging method	Stainless Steel 100%
Aging duration (months)	3-4
Filtered?	Yes
Yeast	Native
Malolactic	No
Added Sulfur	Yes
Soil Type(s)	Calcareous
Elevation (meters)	50
Vineyard Aspect	South
Vine age (years)	20-30
Vine Yields hl/ha	40
Farming practices	Certified Organic
Grape Picking	Machine

Notes from the producer:

Established in 1974 with 4 hectares in the Jasnières appellation in the Loire. The domaine currently has 13 hectares of organically farmed land and the estate itself boasts 3 guest rooms.

Sylvie and Joël took over in 1974. Their son, Ludovic and daughter, Dorothee took over in 2012 and converted to organic farming practices.



WineWise Notes:

Speaking of the Rosé: Tempting though it might be to cite the off-the-charts hipness factor of this wine (sparkling Pineau d'Aunis from one of France's most obscure appellations, made without malolactic fermentation) we prefer instead to concentrate on its ebulliently original aroma (blackberries licked with tar) and its unspeakably delicious flavour, allied to alcohol of just 11.5%. And if that were not enough, along come its big brother, all dressed in red and sporting a most unusual lick of sweetness to add to its spice-box full of flavours.

Joel Gigou continues to be the iconic producer of Jasnières. This miniscule appellation is 25 miles north of Tours in the Coteaux du Loir (itself an appellation barely larger, where Gigou also has holdings). The whites are a product of that magical Loire symbiosis between Chenin Blanc and tufa. Arguably, the expression here is the most singular and extreme in all the Loire region. Gigou is a conscious archaist. One look at the ancient photograph on his labels of peasants tilling the vineyards will confirm that. But the wines will hold their own against all that modern wine-wizardry can throw forth. They have that thrilling fusion of fruit and mineral which only the greatest Rieslings, white burgundies and Savennières can offer, surmounted by an ethereal floral perfume that brings tears to the eye. Son Ludovic has been groomed to take over the estate, and he has proved to be as attuned as his father to the qualities that are Jasnières' hallmark. When tasted amongst other wines of the appellation, they were as palpably dominant as any producer we have ever encountered in a comparative tasting. A big hit with David Schildknecht. We have now bitten the bullet and brought in our first reds and sparkling wine. The wines are organic, the yeasts are native.

