

# MIKÄEL BOUGES

Montrichard

**F**ormerly running his family's property Domaine de la Puannerie, Mikäel Bouges set up on his own following the break-up of the estate. Out of necessity he bought three key parcels of vines from his parents (La Pente de Chavigny, La Puannerie, & Coudriere) amounting to nearly ten hectares, while he rents a further ten acres. Not far to the west is Montrichard, at the edge of the Loire's Chenin Blanc belt, but Bouges' vineyards are dominated by Sauvignon and Côt (the Loire name for Malbec, which is pronounced "Co-".)

Mikäel cultivates his vines organically, ploughing his fast-draining, pebbly, flint-rich 'perruche' soils (underlain by chalk and clay) near the banks of the Cher to maximise the grapes' natural acidities and minerality and using wild yeasts to capture the true character of the terroir. Vinification is presently carried out in a friend's chai near his vines, while he scours the region for a suitable premise to buy.

Stylistically these wines are a world away from the tutti-frutti New World offerings being lower in alcohol, obviously mineral, persistent and wonderfully pure. In fact, they represent quite unique expressions of their respective grapes. While you can purchase Bouges' excellent Sauvignon for a little more than half the price you would pay for one of our top-notch Sancerres



or Pouilly-Fumés, please do not think of his wine as the poor man's alternative to those better known wines from further east on the Loire. No, his (and his terroir's) is an entirely distinctive expression of the Sauvignon grape. The result is a medium bodied wine that is a welcome relief from the overly pungent & fey. A more refined, foody-wine with precise characteristics of lime, caraway, white currant fruit that is vividly infused with salty, lip-smacking minerality.

And as for Côt, his rendition must simply be tasted to be believed, and is quite unlike any other red wine - much less any Malbec - we have ever had. Grown in pebbly, flinty soil, the deep purple color comes from tiny berries on low-yielding, ancient vines, not from aggressive extraction. No wood aging is utilized and a silky smooth wine is the result, showing virtually no tannic character and zero residual sugar, yet positively bursting with fresh, tart black raspberry fruit.

Loire

**Touraine Sauvignon**  
**"Pente de Chavigny"**  
**Touraine Côt**  
**"Les Hauts de Côt"**

Variety: *Sauvignon Blanc & Malbec*

Total acreage: *Just under 20 acres, including 3 key parcels from the former Domaine de la Puannerie: La Pente de Chavigny, La Puannerie & Coudriere and 10 acres of rented land*