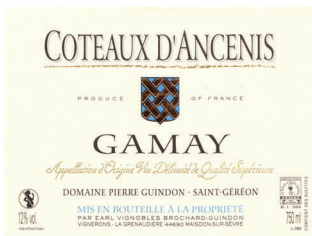


DOMAINE GUINDON

Muscadet-Côteaux
de la Loire



Pierre Guindon



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France

LOIRE VALLEY
Nantais

OVERVIEW

Outside wine geek circles, Muscadet is the red-headed stepchild of the Loire Valley. Even inside geek-land, there are some whose esteem for Savennières & Sancerre may cause them to view Muscadet as a prestige-less backwater of oyster wine. Since the raw material—Melon de Bourgogne—isn't widely admired, it is historically little-loved by the mainstream wine press, no doubt also because it is so ubiquitous as to be little more than a commodity. However, things have been changing radically as a new generation of *vignerons* takes over, lavishing new experimental energy on the wines, and Pierre Guindon—who is among the echelon of growers who set the qualitative tone for the entire Nantais—is one of these. Though he doesn't make a version of the most popular new-fangled wine (a wine aged for 3½ years on the lees), his extremely rare *Granite de Clisson* will challenge any preconceived notion of Muscadet. Quality:Price rapport in Muscadet continues to be unmatched worldwide.

Varieties:

White: Malvoisie (a.k.a. Pinot Gris), Melon de Bourgogne

Red: Cabernet Franc, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Gamay

Total Acreage:

59.3 acres

Average Production:

6,500 cases

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Vines tended via *lutte raisonnée*, (in Guindon's case, this means practicing organic)
- Harvests later than is typical for Muscadet, to capitalize on better phenolic ripeness
- All wines are tank fermented, Muscadet aged *sur-lies* for at least 6 months

WINES

Muscadet Côteaux de la Loire Sur Lie Cuvée Prestige

Boldly fruity with an undercurrent of bright minerality, Guindon's flagship is an archetype of great Muscadet. This wine is a consistently inspiring example of *terroir* and succulence.

Muscadet Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie Granite de Clisson

A widely unavailable wine, it is a wildly complex Muscadet that spends 24 months on its lees. It possesses great precision, minerality, and fruit presence. We'll let you know if we get some.

Malvoisie Côteaux d'Ancenis

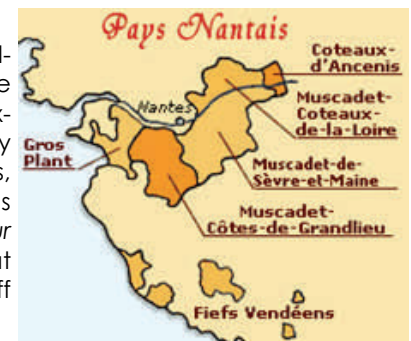
A creamy, lip-smacking wine that has the refreshing zip and underlying minerality of chalk soil, and with a couple of years in the bottle it takes on a buttered tropical richness.

Gamay Rosé Côteaux d'Ancenis

A delicious, floral, raspberry scented rosé with the brightness and clarity of a Loire white and a broad, texturally exciting, mouth-coating fruit presence.

INFORMATION ON / INTRO TO NANTAIS

The area known as the Nantais encompasses several appellations, but beyond Muscadet-de Sèvre-et-Maine, they are not well-known. Gros Plant & Côteaux d'Ancenis both extend well into the Muscadet regions, but in Gros Plant only the eponymous variety is permissible; in Côteaux d'Ancenis, accepted white varieties are Chenin Blanc & Pinot Gris; reds are the Cabernets Franc & Sauvignon, and Gamay. The 'Sur Lie' label is limited to wines of Muscadet's sub-regions that spend one full winter on the lees and are bottled directly off the lees without racking or filtration.



ACCOLADES

Guindon's **2008 Muscadet Côteaux de la Loire Cuvée Prestige** displays the clarity, refreshment, and rather adamant sort of minerality for which his wines from a schist stone sub-region of Muscadet are known. But let that description not lead anyone to imagine the wine is deficient in fruit. Lime, lemon, and white peach all contribute to winsome succulence, which along with an alluring hint of nut oils washes over salt and wet stones in the finish. This can be enjoyed for at least 4-5 years: Guindon's Muscadet has a solid track record in that respect, with some vintages remaining fascinating for a decade or longer.

David Schildknecht, *The Wine Advocate*, #184