

Domaine de Noiré

Chinon

France
Loire Valley
Chinon



OVERVIEW

Domaine de Noire owner Jean-Max Manceau is a man about the Loire Valley—not only is he president of the Chinon AOC, but he also sits at the head of a commission that aims to keep the practices of Loire growers and winemakers true to the region's traditions.

Manceau and his wife Odile care for just over 20 acres of vineyards in Chinon, a region that sits at the crossroads of the Loire and Vienne rivers. It's hard not to be infected by their combined enthusiasm for Cabernet Franc—these are very dedicated artisans (albeit hobbyists—Manceau runs a larger property as his “job”) who seek above all to capture the purest expression of this native varietal.

The domaine draws its name from a legendary neighboring vineyard, “Clos de Noire.” This high-altitude plot is renowned in the Loire for its alabaster soils, rich in minerals and chalk. It's the same sort of porous rock one can find in Champagne, and more immediately, in the walls and towers of the Loire's breathtaking chateaus.

Manceau's Cabernet Franc vines, on average 60 to 70 years old, share similar soils as “Clos de Noire.” This great terroir, a combination of gravel and chalk, is ideal for Cabernet Franc.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Soif de Tendresse and Élegance are fermented in stainless steel tank.
- Rosé – saignée
- Caractère with long post-ferm. maceration and 12-16 months in older oak.

WINES

Soif de Tendresse

Translates to mean “Tender Thirst!” and what a lovely silky red this is! This 100% Cabernet Franc wine is a fantastic introductory Chinon from the Loire Valley. It exhibits dark juicy, black fruits, with a floral perfume, hints of minerality, and some spice. Fortunately, Manceau has a knack for getting Cabernet Franc ripe—no herbal characteristics in this tender wine!

Élegance

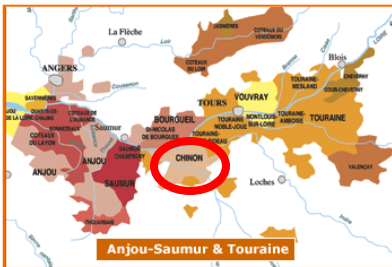
This supple, refreshing 100% Cabernet Franc, a selection of the Domaine's finest fruit from older vines in Chinon. Deep purple in the glass, “Cuvée Elegance” lives up to its title—intoxicating notes of violets and plums show on the classic nose, with luscious, almost chewy flavors of black and purple fruits on the mouth. While delicious now, this wine, with its impeccable balance and density of fruit, will show well with cellaring. Quite captivating!

ACCOLADES for the 2009 Tendresse 90 pts—Wine Advocate

“The Noire 2009 Soif de Tendresse – latest installment of a March-bottled, earlier-drinking, fruit forward cuvee inaugurated in 2007 – is full of ripe cassis, elderberry, and nut oils, with a polished feel and juicy exuberance, its long, lip-smacking finish subtly tinged with piquant toasted nuts, pungent herbs, invigorating salinity, and otherwise crystalline mineral notes. This 13% alcohol (by vintage standards, virtually light) Chinon will prove a delightful value as well as excellent introduction to its appellation over the next 12-18 months.

President of the Chinon growers' syndicat and long-time (though no longer) regisseur at next-door Chateau de la Grille, Jean-Max Manceau continues to turn out exceptionally fine wines from his own small estate.” **David Schildknecht eRobertPar-ker.com #190**

Varieties: Cabernet Franc – vines averaging 60 years of age
Total Acreage: 22 acres



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