

DOMAINE HUET

‘A Loire Legend’

- Decanter Magazine

Year Founded: 1928

Region: Vouvray, France
(Loire Valley)

Owners: Sarah & Hugo Hwang

Winemaker: Jean-Bernard
Berthomé

Known for: Being the finest
Chenin Blanc producer in the
world and lauded for making
some of the world's most
compelling white wines,
including some of the longest-
lived sweet wines.

Cool Fact: First vineyard in
France to use biodynamic
viticulture.

**-Certified Biodynamic,
Organic, Sustainable-**

Since its founding in 1928, Vouvray's Domaine Huet has been the standard-bearer for great, age worthy Chenin Blanc. And to this day, year after year, the estate produces some of the world's most compelling white wines—and in a remarkable range that spans sparkling, dry, semi-dry and breathtaking dessert styles.

Chenin Blanc has been identified with Vouvray since at least the 9th century, and many of its great vineyards were known by the 14th century. By those standards, the Huet estate is relatively young.

Yet it was this youngster that established, once and for all, that Vouvray was capable of world-class quality.

The estate produces Sec, Demi-Sec, Moelleux or Moelleux 1ère Trie ("first selection") from any of the three principal vineyards. All grapes are harvested by hand, which enables picking by successive tries - each tri being a separate pass by the workers through the vineyard, ensuring only the best bunches of ripest (or even botrytised) grapes. There is no encouragement of malolactic fermentation, thus many Huet wines remain rich in malic acid, a character that brings an age-worthiness to the wines which is compounded by early bottling, in either March or April following the vintage, so that all the maturation occurs slowly in bottle. The wines stored at the domaine are preserved in the *tuffeau* caves, where temperature is a constant 12 degrees centigrade and humidity levels are high - the perfect conditions to ensure a long life. Even in a moderate vintage, these wines are capable of retaining their character for a decade or more. In the resulting wines, the influence of the malic acidity remains constant regardless of the type of wine being produced, which is why even the sweeter examples have a succulent, juicy acidity to help balance out any residual sugar. With his years of experience working with the appellation's greatest terroirs, Jean-Bernard and his team are achieving incredible transparency, purity and balance in the wines of this world-renowned estate. 2019 marks Jean-Bernard Berthomé's final vintage at Huet. He has been saying for years that he wanted one more, great Sec vintage, and 2019 offered up a gem. Despite a challenging summer, the estate enjoyed ample yields of powerful, concentrated, and razor-sharp Sec wines from all three vineyards; a direct contrast with the dessert-heavy 2018 vintage.



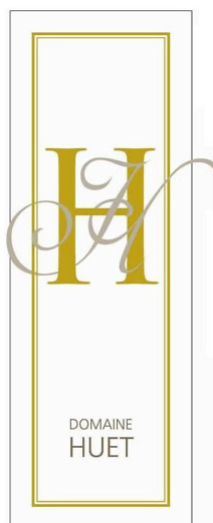
THE VINEYARDS

The estate's three vineyards sit atop Vouvray's esteemed Première Côte. The Côte's limestone-rich clay soils yield wines of intensity and great longevity. By any reckoning, these rank among the greatest vineyard sites in the Loire Valley.

Vouvray would not be Vouvray without its royal river, the Loire. Majestic, it brings the "Tourangelle sweetness".

At the time of harvest, the vineyard disappears under the morning mist to better blossom then in the soft autumn sun.

These ideal conditions favor the maturity and concentration of white Chenin berries.



2019 Petillant

Among the great values in sparkling wine and competes in pedigree, texture and flavor with many Champagnes. Shows true versatility of Chenin. From several estate parcels on Vouvray's esteemed Premiere Côte. Bottled before primary fermentation is finished, resulting in a lower pressure sparkling wine - pétillant - because only a portion of the fermentation occurs inside the bottle. The wine ages for a minimum of three years before being disgorged. If dosage is added, the domaine uses past vintages of demi-sec, moelleux or even moelleux 1ere trie as dosage.

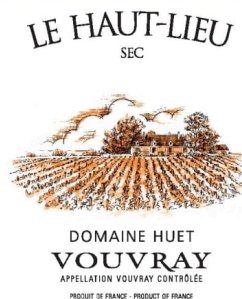
93 Points - John Gilman

92 Points - James Suckling - *"The enticing aromas of orange blossoms, chamomile and toasted baguette pull you into this very attractive and juicy sparkling wine with a discreet mousse on the medium-bodied palate. Moderate acidity for this appellation with a touch of salty minerality."*

LE HAUT-LIEU

The original vineyard purchased by Gaston Huet in 1928 consists of 3 to 4 meters of heavy clay soil mixed with chalk, known locally as *aubuis*, which lies over a bed of limestone yielding the estate's most precocious and tangible wines. It is the limestone subsoil that proves to be the constant link between the three vineyards owned by Huet, and it is the vines proximity to the porous, yellow *tuffeau* that is responsible for the overriding style of wines produced from each of the sites. This friable rock is from the Turonian Age and was laid down during the Cretaceous Period, which dates them at between 67 and 137 million years. This is the reason why Vouvray is made up of a labyrinth of caves and troglodyte dwellings.

2023/2024 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Sec



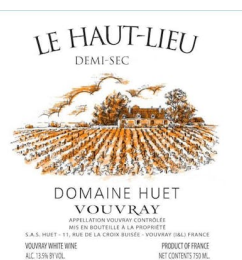
'Top 100 Wines' – Wine Spectator 2022

91 Points - Wine Spectator 2024 - *"A fresh, salty, floral and expressive version, with a burst of lemony freshness behind its crunchy apple, nectarine and meadow blossom notes. Salty, tangy and savory, with subtle tones of warm spices, but this is mostly about freshness and savory purity."*

93 Points - Vinous 2023 - *"A pure, refined, seamless style with pear, pineapple and nectarine flavors. It boasts excellent clarity and refinement, with lovely freshness hailing from calibrated acidity that bursts through this blossoming wine."*

92 Points - Wine Spectator 2023 - *"Fresh-crushed apple, quince and spice notes have an earthy dimension, with hints of roasted agave and wet soil. There's beautiful range and just enough plumpness to make this generous, yet it's held in check by a chalky mineral element and very fine tannins. Toasted almond and salted butter notes move in, with lime-edged acidity cleaning up the finish. Refined and complex."*

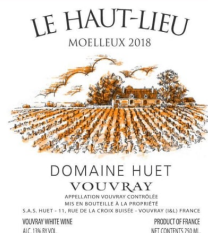
2022 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Demi Sec



94 Points - Wine Spectator - *"Bruised apple and persimmon give this a beautiful earthy dimension, while racy, pithy acidity powers the energy. The rich fruit and ripeness is well-matched by the notes of fleur de sel and crushed stone. Shows impressive depth, acid verve and coiled energy, which carries the off-dry profile."*



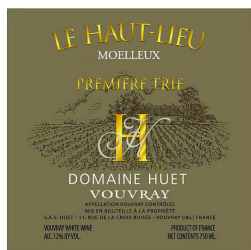
2022 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux



94+ Points – John Gilman

93 Points - Vinous - “A supple, tender style. It's delicate on the palate while succulent and medium-sweet, which is quite a feat. You'll struggle to find many producers in the world who can achieve this balance. It has a fine, delicate fragrance of apple, pear and even a hint of celery. The finish is gentle, with a fine texture lightly coating the palate.”

2003 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux 1er Trie



96+ Points – Robert Parker - “Shows a beautifully intense, extraordinary clear, refined and elegant bouquet of ripe fruits intertwined with mineral flavors — fascinating! Sweet, intense and delicate on the palate, this highly elegant and lovely concentrated Chenin is of great purity, balance and finesse. Its length is impressive, its generous flow is extremely sensual and its overall intensity and accessible generosity are absolutely gorgeous. This 2003 is great today, but will probably even more fascinating in 50+ years. The balance and drinkability is superb. Highly recommended.”

2020 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux 1er Trie

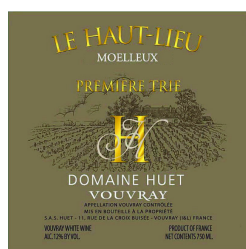


96 Points – Vinous - “Gorgeous with its sweet embrace (71g/L residual sugar) caressing the palate like a silky-smooth velouté. It sits calmly in the mouth, showing the typical fruit-forward character of the site, all oranges, chamomile and violets. The deeply satisfying finish provides the merest of grips, and fresh acid makes your mouth water. Already delicious in its youth, this wine has the concentration, acidity and sweetness to age gracefully, as Huet fans will know well.”

95-96 Points – Robert Parker

95 Points – Wine Spectator

2022 Vouvray Le Haut-Lieu Moelleux 1er Trie

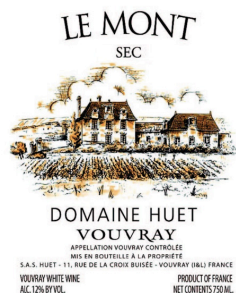


93 Points – Vinous – “Supple and fine with a high level of purity and finesse. Delicate, light and precise.”

LE MONT

Purchased in 1957, Le Mont lies on the esteemed Premiere Côte. With less clay and more stone than Le Haut-Lieu, Le Mont yields young wines of intense minerality. Undergoes temperature-controlled fermentation in large, old oak demi-muids as well as stainless steel vats. There is no encouragement of the malolactic fermentation, thus many Huet wines remain rich in malic acid, a character that brings an age-worthiness to the wines. Often the most reticent wines at this estate, they develop profound character with age.

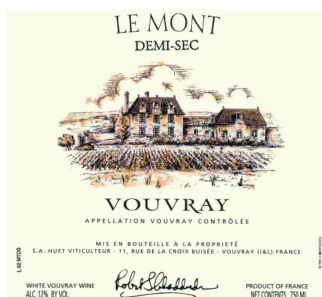
2023/2024 Vouvray Le Mont Sec



93 Points - Wine Spectator 2024 - “A silky, streamlined beam of green plum, star fruit and pear blossoms is dusted with green herbs. Salty density builds, with the purity of fruit bolstered by succulent acidity and chalky mineral notes. Floral high tones grace the finish, which shows precision and focus.”

96 Points - James Suckling 2023 - “One of the great dry white wines of the Loire. This dry Chenin Blanc is rich and concentrated, but also graceful and delicate. Full-bodied but so elegant and precise, with a wet stone minerality that builds in a spectacular manner in the very long, refined finish.”

2022/2023 Vouvray Le Mont Demi-Sec

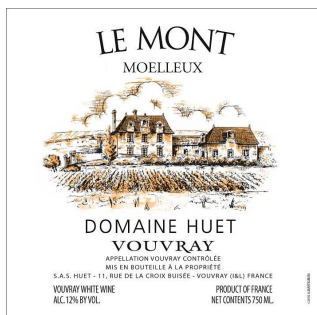


94 Points – Vinous 2023 - “Boasts a residual sweetness (20g/l) that brings a sense of tenderness and amplitude to a terroir that's big on precision and tension. The flint component in the soil and the natural freshness of the 2023 vintage provide persistence and momentum. Pure and tender, there's a distinctive spearmint-like cooling sensation on the long finish.”

93 Points – Wine Spectator 2023

95 Points – Vinous 2022

2022 Vouvray Le Mont Moelleux



95 Points – John Gilman – “Domaine Huët’s 2022 Vouvray “Le Mont” Moelleux is another prodigiously beautiful young wine. The bouquet is deep, precise and shows a lovely touch of exotica in its aromatic constellation of sweet quince, pear, orange blossoms, white lilies, honeysuckle, chalky soil tones, honeycomb and bee pollen. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and a bit sweeter in personality than the le Haut Lieu Moelleux, with stunning depth at the core, a fine girdle of acidity, great focus and grip and a long, complex, seamlessly balanced and dancing finish. Great juice.”

94 Points – Vinous – “A medium-sweet, tender style that is just so welcoming and appealing. It is the quiet type that doesn't show off. It offers breadth without weight, which I always like about the Huet wines - they're like clouds of Chenin floating over your palate. A fine floral and fruity fragrance reminiscent of lilac, pear and pineapple lingers off the tranquil finish. While the acidity in 2022 is a little gentle, it still has enough tension to sweep up the wine and hold it all together.”

2022 Vouvray Le Mont Moelleux Premiere Trie



'Top 100 Wines' - International Wine Report 2017

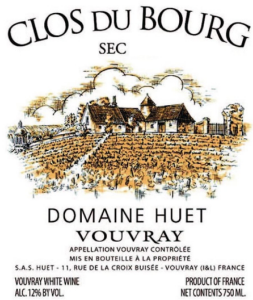
A beautiful medium-sweet, or Moelleux style Vouvray. The Premiere Trie, or first sort, sees the wine made from multiple selections through the vineyard, in order to obtain the best grapes at the peak ripeness. The proximity of the Loire brings the morning humidity which, combined with the autumn sun, favors the maturity and the concentration of the grapes.

95 Points – Vinous – *“Balanced, fine and long. Yes, its sweetness fills the mouth and makes it blossom, but there’s no suggestion of unctuousness or weight. It has a tranquility as if it has just finished a weekend on a retreat, calmly coating the palate with its curves. In 2022, its tender acidity makes for a gentle conclusion with a delicate floral fragrance. Nevertheless, the refined, chalky tension pulls this wine through, bringing line and length.”*

CLOS DU BOURG

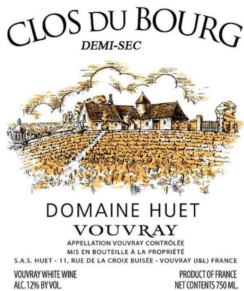
This ancient, walled vineyard was acquired in 1953. It has the estate’s shallowest, stoniest soils and produces wines of great depth and richness. Many consider the 6 ha of Clos du Bourg to be Vouvray’s finest single site.

2023 Vouvray Clos Du Bourg Sec



94 Points – Wine Spectator - *“Alluring and aromatic, this seduces with honeysuckle, quince and orchard fruit wrapped in salty, leesy notes on the palate, with a hint of toast. Salty density builds toward the finish, with bitter mineral notes bringing balance along with the tangy, mouthwatering acidity. Hints of garlic scape and alpine herbs make for a fresh, clean finish. Built to last.”*

2022/2023 Vouvray Clos Du Bourg Demi-Sec



Revealing the soul of a unique grape variety that takes root even in the tufa, the semi-dry vibrates and resonates in the mouth like a taste echo, the natural sugar and acidity of Chenin mingling harmoniously. Airy and complex, it is appreciated young on the fruit but also gradually reveals itself to those who know how to wait.

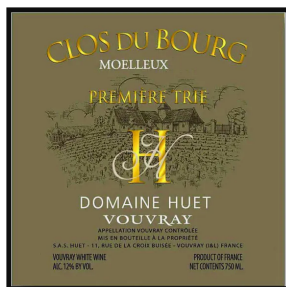
94 Points - Wine Spectator 2023 - *“Firmly structured and elegant, this is a demi-sec but supremely food-friendly and balanced, with subtle sweetness delicately offset by savory power and mineral notes. Plush and generous, with flavors of honeycomb, ripe apple and heather that are all tightly hemmed in with plum skin acidity and apple seed tannins. Green almond bitterness and hints of fleur de sel mark the complex finish.”*

96 Points - John Gilman 2022

95 Points – Wine Spectator 2022 – *“This voluptuous, full-bodied, off-dry white shows a lot of power, offering round pear, mango and honeycomb flavors that take a salty turn on the palate, with notes of brine, crushed flint and bitter almond skin, backed by a subtle hint of brioche on the finish. Opening up in the glass, this gorgeous wine offers loads of immediate charm, but should have a long life ahead in the cellar as well.”*



2020 Vouvray Clos Du Bourg Moelleux Premiere Trie



Le Clos de Bourg is perhaps recognized as the most promising source for *moëlleux*, from grapes that have been affected either by botrytis or *passerillage*.

97 Points – Vinous – “Succulent yet refined, the 2020 Clos du Bourg Première Trie Moelleux offers elegance and focus despite its sweetness. There’s no sense of heaviness nor unctuousity (yet there’s 93g/L residual sugar). Expect pineapple and smoky notes, florals and apple strudel, along with masses of concentration and impeccable balance. A real delight that has plenty of drinkability even in infancy but will evolve over the coming decades. Finished sample.”

96-97 Points – Robert Parker

Cuvée Constance

Selected from the oldest vines in all three vineyards, and only made in top years.

Since 1989, the estate has produced this magical, botrytized dessert wine selected from one, two or all three vineyards. When made, the Cuvée Constance (named for Gaston’s mother) ranks among the world’s greatest dessert wines.

2018 Cuveé Constance

98 Points – James Suckling - “Fabulous aromas of toasted almonds, caramelized oranges, melted butter and floral honey pull you into this extraordinary chenin blanc dessert wine from the Loire. Incredible concentration, but this is simultaneously so fresh and so silky. The finish nimbly tiptoes over your palate in the fantastically balanced finish.”

97 Points – John Gilman – “A stunning young wine. Scents of sweet quince, honeycomb, barley sugar, heather, chalky soil tones and a topnote of orange peel. Pure, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a great core of fruit, lovely soil undertow and grip, zesty acids and a long, hauntingly balanced and refined finish. This is a puppy today, but also delicious to drink in its youthful guise. I would do my best to try and hold onto bottles for at least another decade and really let the fireworks unfold!”

96 Points - Robert Parker - “Slightly smoky nose that is reminiscent of baby pineapples, stone fruits, lemon and quince aromas intertwined with a very delicate flintiness. Playful and finessed in all its richness, this is a full-bodied, highly elegant yet intense, saline and very sustainable Vouvray Chenin with an almost endless finish. The acidity is very finely grained but vital and savory, carrying this brilliant beauty to a very long, intense yet always delicate and stimulating finish.”

96 Points - Wine Spectator - “A heavenly wine, with a beautiful earthiness rippling through decadent flavors of poached pear, stewed apple, honeycomb, pastry and spiced fig. Stealth power underscores the up-front fruit, with steely mineral, refreshing lemon verbena and crushed dried herbs adding balance and vibrancy. A stunner.”

