

Les Maisons Brûlées

Profile

Les Maisons Brûlées is an estate founded by Michel Augé -a former head of one of the first biodynamic cooperatives in France- and his wife Beatrice.

The vineyards are located in Pouillé, which also happens to be the town with the cheapest gas prices in the vicinity of Clos Roche Blanche, a place very close to our hearts. It is, in fact the continuation from Clos Roche of the first hillside rising from the southwest side of the Cher river into the Touraine. The soils consist of limestone-clay with lots of silex and fossils. As with many Touraine estates, many grape varieties co-exist on the same land: Gamay, Pinot Noir, Pineau d'Aunis, Côt, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc are planted amongst the estate's 8 hectares of vines.

As of 2013, Michel has retired and sold the estate to young couple Paul and Corinne Gillet, who have taken over as head vigneron. Paul and Corinne and both of Alsatian origin, and both began their careers in the restaurant trade. After falling in love, the couple moved to Argentina and continued doing restaurant work. A chance opportunity to own some vines there led Paul to move back to France to study oenology and viticulture, and though he planned to bring his knowledge back to South-America, they would ultimately decide to stay in France.

Corinne quickly joined him, and the two discreetly started working full time for Michel before fully taking over the estate. The work in the vines continues to be biodynamic, and while a few of Michel's cuvées will continue to be produced (L'Art de L'eau and Erèbe), other will be discontinued to make way for new ones. Paul will not add any sulfur on the reds, but is considering adding a touch at bottling for the whites.