

# FAMILLE LIEUBEAU

## La Fruitière Chardonnay

### THE ESTATE

Granite rock was used for centuries to build the massive fortresses that dot the landscape of Muscadet. Its density and structure were rarely breached by arrow, cannonball, or the good 'ole medieval siege. Because of its density and the fact that it is everywhere in Muscadet, it's unclear why anyone would think that this was the place to plant hectares and hectares of vines. The Romans might have gotten a few things wrong in France, but they did get something right: they planted vines on this lunar rock of a landscape. Today, this area is called Muscadet and is home to over 8,000 hectares of Melon de Bourgogne.



Famille Lieubeau farms over 40 hectares of vines and produces both Muscadet Sèvre et Maine and Vin de Pays from grapes such as Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Regardless of the varietal, the vines are planted on rock, and in most cases, sheer cliffs of rock through which the roots have to bury for meters for any hydric source. The vines, and the wines, are fed by water that is awash in wet rock. It's not a big shock that the wines smell and taste more like rock and minerals than fruit or flowers. Combine this with the cold Atlantic breezes and you've got an amazing cool climate, high cut, precise bottle of white wine.

The Lieubeau family takes great care to vinify the wines according to exposition, density of granite, and harvest date. Farming for their Folle Blanche, Chardonnay and Sauvignon is certified by Terra Vitis and all of their Melon is now certified organic by *Agriculture Biologique*. They keep yields as low as possible to produce wines that express the varietal character and terroir – not just acid. These are delicious, vibrant wines that are easily among the best values in the portfolio.

### THE DETAILS

This is hand-harvested, low yield Chardonnay that grows on the famous granite of Clisson. In this parcel, there is virtually no dirt present, just meters and meters of crushed rock. The boys at Domaine de la Fruitière prefer minimal manipulation and like to let the wine do the talking. This is Muscadet's answer to village Burgundy at a third the price.

#### COUNTRY

France

#### APELLATION

Val de Loire

#### ELEVATION

40 meters

#### VARIETIES

Chardonnay

#### SOIL

Granite

#### VINE AGE

20 years old

#### FARMING

Certified sustainable (TERRA VITIS)

#### FERMENTATION

Gentle pressing, fermentation in tank

#### AGING

Aged 4 months in tank (85%) and neutral French oak barrels (15%)

### FOR THE RECORD

*This wine has a hazelnut and brioche nose, and a well-balanced, textured palate with notes of white fruits and toast. Best served as an aperitif, or with fish, poultry, or savory tarts – FRANÇOIS LIEUBEAU*

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**JON-DAVID  
HEADRICK  
SELECTIONS**