



LOUIS DE GRENELLE

Crémant de Loire Platine

Deep under the cobbled streets of Saumur, miles and miles of caves wind their way through the soft limestone bedrock. Carved out over the last millennium, these caverns and passages were dug by prisoners serving sentences for smuggling, most having been caught violating la gabelle – the punitive pre-revolutionary salt tax. Depending on your point of view, the l’Ancien Regime was either so lawless, or so unjust, that today there are far more “streets” underground than above in this picaresque town. From the banks of the Loire along the Quai Mayaud, up through its narrow and winding streets past L’Église Saint-Pierre, and higher still to the ramparts of the imposing Château de Saumur, centuries-worth of quarried limestone is everywhere you look.

One of the last remaining family-owned sparkling wine houses in Saumur, Louis de Grenelle, owns about 2 kilometers of these caves. All of the sparkling wine produced by the property is stored in these cool caverns, many of which were used during World War II by the French resistance. If you are lucky, you will one day get to sit in the king’s chair in the secret cave at the end of one of these caverns. Only if you’re lucky.

The grapes used to produce the sparkling Saumur and Crémant at Grenelle are grown on the hillsides surrounding Saumur and in the small hamlets nearby. They are pressed and flow by gravity into underground tanks at the winery. All of the wines are made in the Champagne method and are bottled with little dosage to preserve the freshness of the Cabernet Franc, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Grolleau grown in the clay limestone vineyards typical of the region.

The primary grapes of Saumur are Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc but Chardonnay also excels on these soils. Louis de Grenelle makes Platine from these three grapes combining both estate fruit and fruit that is purchased on long term contracts. Each variety is fermented separately then blended and aged sur latte for 12 months before disgorgement.

Well within the general character of Northerner bubbles, this lemon-gold colored crémant is light and agreeable. Blending aromas of spring flowers and exotic fruit, it has a vivacious palate and fresh finish.

– Guide Hachette des Vins

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Crémant de Loire

SOIL

Clay limestone, chalk, sand

AGE OF VINES

20–60

ELEVATION

60 meters

VARIETIES

Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, each variety and parcel is fermented separately in tank, secondary fermentation in bottle

AGING

12 months on lees before disgorgement, minimal dosage of 2g/L

