



JEAN-FRANÇOIS MÉRIEAU

Valala Pinot Noir

It sometimes seems like Jean-François Mérieau's mind goes faster than his hands. Although he already produces some of the most respected and sought-after wines of the Touraine, he's not satisfied and is currently looking for new ways to express the old vines and rich landscape that is the Domaine Jean-François Mérieau.

Based in the tiny village of Saint-Julien-de-Chédon (which doesn't seem much changed since the 17th century), Jean-François' property stretches to almost 35 hectares planted to Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Pinot Noir, Cot, Pineau d'Aunis, Gamay and Chardonnay. Many of the vines are quite old, including the Pineau d'zunis which is over 100 years old and the Cot, the youngest of which are 50 years old and the oldest over 100. Unlike most Touraine producers, the vineyards are plowed and the property is in conversion to organic certification. No commercial yeasts are used in the vinification.

The winery is based on a rich history that stretches back for generations. It's not unusual to see three generations in the winery at the same time. Much of the winery and tasting room is in a cave that was carved during the 14th century. The "new" structure that houses many of the fermentation tanks was used by American soldiers during World War I and some left inscriptions on the walls.

Valala is the compelling new project from Jean-François Mérieau, one of the benchmark growers of the Touraine. Jean-François saw an opportunity to produce a delicious and affordable range of wines from sustainably-farmed parcels owned by some of his friends. The Pinot Noir comes from a parcel of Pinot Noir in Saint Pourçain on chalky clay-limestone soils. It is fermented and aged in tank, preserving the crisp and crunchy red fruit typical of Pinot Noir grown in the Loire Valley.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Val de Loire

SOIL

Clay limestone, chalk

AGE OF VINES

20

ELEVATION

120 meters

VARIETIES

Pinot Noir

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Fermented in tank

AGING

8 months in tank

**JON-DAVID
HEADRICK
SELECTIONS**