



CLAUDE RIFFAULT

Sancerre Rosé La Noue

Based in the village of Sury-en-Vaux, the Stéphane Riffault works 33 different parcels in 6 different lieu-dits spread across 4 villages. The 13.5 hectares of vines are plowed and no synthetic material is used (the property is in the process of being certified organic). Unlike most Sancerre producers, the entire harvest is carried out by hand and an extensive sorting takes place before the grapes are crushed. Stéphane's wife, Benedicte, leads the harvest team while Stéphane manages the sorting and press during harvest.

Most of the domaine's holdings are planted on the soft limestone soil called Terres Blanches with some parcels on calliottes and silex. Small, judicious uses of oak help to add length to the already precise and vertical bottling. All of the parcels are vilified separately and with the exception of the rosé, all the wines are bottled unfiltered.

Having studied and worked in Burgundy (and closely with Olivier Leflaive), it's easy to see the Burgundian influence in Stéphane's wines. The mastery of minerality standing shoulder-height with the wood is rarely duplicated in Sancerre. Regardless of the exposition of his parcels (many are south-facing), Riffault's wines are always crisp and high-cut with a jeweled sort of delineation that speaks to the precision and attention these wines get. These are not your daddy's (or his daddy, Claude's) Sancerres.

La Noue is a 2.5 hectare plot of Pinot Noir on clay limestone and marl. Divided into seven plots and ranging in age from 10 to 60 years old it is the source for both the Noue Rosé and Rouge. The rosé is a combination of a juice bled off the Sancerre Rouge with direct press wines after a 6–12 hour maceration.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Sancerre

SOIL

Kimmeridgian limestone (Terre Blanches)

AGE OF VINES

10–60

ELEVATION

270 meters

VARIETIES

Pinot Noir

FARMING

Organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, a combination of saignée and direct press wine after 6-12 hour maceration

AGING

4 months in tank

ACCOLADES

90 – 2013 Sancerre Rosé La Noue – Wine Advocate



JON-DAVID HEADRICK
SELECTIONS