



# FAMILLE LIEUBEAU

## Folle Blanche

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, its 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.

Folle Blanche, or Gros Plant as it is known in the western edge of the Loire Valley, originated in Gascony and traveled its way up the Atlantic coast of France, where it was grown primarily for distillation. Naturally high in acidity and with a tendency for high yields, it has been declining in recent years but is preserved as its own AOC of Gros Plant de Nantais. Famille Lieubeau makes a delicious version from 50-year-old vines grown on granite near the village of Clisson. Think of it as the country cousin to the Bel Abord and the perfect way to start a meal along with some oysters and maybe some razor clams and prawns if you're lucky.

*Planted near the Atlantic, Folle Blanche produces a lemony, saline and mineral wine that is ideal with oysters, ceviche & sushi.*

– FRANÇOIS LIEUBEAU

### ORIGIN

France

### APPELLATION

Gros Plant du Pays Nantais

### SOIL

Gneiss

### AGE OF VINES

50

### ELEVATION

40 meters

### VARIETIES

Folle Blanche

### FARMING

Certified organic (ECOCERT)

### FERMENTATION

Gentle pressing, fermentation with natural yeasts in tank

### AGING

3 months



**JON-DAVID  
HEADRICK  
SELECTIONS**