



DOMAINE DE LA ROCHEFFE

Neuchâtel Les Rissieux

Situated between the Alps and the Jura Mountains, Neuchâtel is underpinned by the same band of Jurassic limestone that is present in Burgundy and the Jura. Compressed and folded by the geologic process that built the surrounding mountains, then ground smooth by glaciers that also formed the region's three lakes - Neuchâtel, Biel and Murten - Neuchâtel lacks the dramatic vistas of the Valais or the grandeur of Lavaux. The drama of Neuchâtel is subterranean. The vineyards of the region are located on the southeastern-facing slopes above the three lakes where the top soils are thinner and the limestone is closer to the surface. These are the precise ingredients for making incredibly detailed, precise and ageworthy Pinot Noir.

Outside of Switzerland, few are aware of this hidden terroir and if Jacques Tatasciore has his way this will remain so. After leaving the world of business, he settled in Cressier and began to assemble a selection of top sites in Neuchâtel. There is no tasting room, no sign, and visitors are discouraged. Jacques is frequently awarded top honors in Switzerland for his wines, but he never attends the ceremonies - all his energy goes into his wines. Production is tiny, selection is painfully strict, allocations are jealously guarded and details are scarce. The wines speak for themselves.

Despite repeated attempts, we will probably never get all the technical details for any of Jacques' wines, and perhaps we're reaching the point where further questions will only reduce our future allocations. What can be said is that these are the finest Pinots made in Switzerland. While Swiss collectors jealously guard the tiniest of allocations, these wines remain relatively unknown outside the borders of this fiercely independent land. So our inquiry was met with the usual non-committal response to details. Jacques volunteered that this terroir makes wines with a more Chambolle-like personality while Les Rissieux is more Bonnes Mares.

ORIGIN

Switzerland

APPELLATION

Neuchâtel

SOIL

Clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

30-70

ELEVATION

450 meters

VARIETIES

Pinot Noir

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole cluster, natural yeast fermentation

AGING

18-24 months in French oak barrels



ACCOLADES

93+ – 2012 Neuchâtel Les Rissieux – Wine Advocate

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