

FAMILLE LIEUBEAU

Muscadet Cru Château-Thébaud

THE ESTATE

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, it's 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.

THE DETAILS

Château Thébaud's mineral punch is more subtle than Clisson and the potential for the richness and complexity of Melon is revealed. No doubt part of this is from the age of these vines – nearing 70 year old – but also due to the difference of soil – schist and gneiss rather than granite. Aged for 36 months on its lees, it picks up a creamy spiciness that only emphasizes this wine's profound minerality.

COUNTRY

France

APPELLATION

Muscadet-Sèvre et Maine Château Thébaud

ELEVATION

40 meters

VARIETIES

Melon de Bourgogne

SOIL

Schist, gneiss, sand

VINE AGE

70 years old

FARMING

Certified organic (AB)

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, basket press, natural yeast fermentation in tank

AGING

Aged 36 months in tank on the fine lees

FOR THE RECORD

2015 Muscadet Château Thébaud – *Wine Enthusiast* – 93

2012 Muscadet Château Thébaud – *Wine Advocate* – 91

2011 Muscadet Château Thébaud – *Wine Advocate* – 92

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**JON-DAVID
HEADRICK
SELECTIONS**