

# LOUIS DE GRENELLE

## Si Irrésistible

### THE ESTATE

Deep under the cobbled streets of Saumur, miles and miles of caves wind their way through the soft limestone bedrock. Carved out over the last millennium, these caverns and passages were dug by prisoners serving sentences for smuggling, most having been caught violating *la gabelle* – the punitive pre-revolutionary salt tax. Depending on your point of view, the l’Ancien Regime was either so lawless, or so unjust, that today there are far more “streets” underground than above in this picaresque town. From the banks of the Loire along the Quai Mayaud, up through its narrow and winding streets past L’Église Saint-Pierre, and higher still to the ramparts of the imposing Château de Saumur, centuries-worth of quarried limestone is everywhere you look.



One of the last remaining family-owned sparkling wine houses in Saumur, Louis de Grenelle, owns about 2 kilometers of these caves. All of the sparkling wine produced by the property is stored in these cool caverns, many of which were used during World War II by the French resistance. If you are lucky, you will one day get to sit in the king’s chair in the secret cave at the end of one of these caverns. Only if you’re lucky.

The grapes used to produce the sparkling Saumur and Crémant at Grenelle are grown on the hillsides surrounding Saumur and in the small hamlets nearby. They are pressed and flow by gravity into underground tanks at the winery. All of the wines are made in the Champagne method and are bottled with little dosage to preserve the freshness of the Cabernet Franc, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Grolleau grown in the clay limestone vineyards typical of the region.

### THE DETAILS

Grolleau Noir and Gris can be quite captivating with a perfumed, and delicate balance between floral and red fruit aromas, especially when care is taken in the vineyard and cellar. Such is the case with this sparkling rosé rightfully named *Si Irrésistible*. Made from a blend of Grolleau Gris & Noir this wine is aged just under 9 months sur latte to preserve the delicate primary fruit character at the expense of the AOP Saumur Sparkling label.

#### COUNTRY

France

#### APPELLATION

Vin de France

#### ELEVATION

60 meters

#### VARIETIES

Grolleau Gris & Noir

#### SOIL

Clay limestone, chalk

#### VINE AGE

25 years old

#### FARMING

Sustainable

#### FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, gentle pressing to obtain the color, fermented in stainless steel tank, secondary fermentation in bottle

#### AGING

9 month on the lees before disgorgement, small dosage of 5.6g/L

### FOR THE RECORD

