

# LE ROCHER DES VIOLETTES

## Touche Mitaine

### THE ESTATE

Just what are the differences between Vouvray and Montlouis? The consensus is that the soils in Montlouis are sandier, which is generally the case. Still, if you were to compare the top sites on the Première Côte of Vouvray to the top sites in Montlouis, they are strikingly similar. Tasted blind, many of the best bottles of Vouvray and Montlouis cannot be distinguished based solely on the appellation of origin, only on their quality. So if the top growers in Montlouis are not on your radar, then you're missing some of the most precise, pure, and expressive renditions of Chenin made at comparatively bargain prices. Enter Xavier Weisskopf and Le Rocher des Violettes.



Xavier was born in Picardy in northern France. An early interest in wine led him to Chablis, which only confirmed his desire to become a winemaker, so he moved to Beaune for formal studies. After graduation, he took a position with Saint-Cosme in Gigondas to learn his trade with Louis Barruol. After 4 years there, an opportunity arose in 2005 that he could not pass up in the form of a 15th-century tuffeau cave outside St-Martin le Beau along with 7ha. of old vine Chenin and Côt. Today his estate is 17ha. in size. Many of his cuvées are from a single terroir, and the younger vines are all propagated using selection massale. Farming is certified organic by Ecocert, and everything is harvested by hand. Fermentations are spontaneous in stainless-steel tanks or mainly neutral French oak barrels. While admittedly, we share Xavier's love of pure and riveting Chenin Blanc in its many guises, which he has certainly mastered in Montlouis, we have to admit that his red wines from the Touraine are some of the most satisfying we've ever tasted as well.

### THE DETAILS

Touche Mitaine is a parcel of 35-year-old Chenin Blanc planted on a unique terroir in Montlouis – a cooler terroir with a clay and silex soil. Always a more linear styled Chenin, it is fermented in 228L French oak barrels and aged 12 months before release. Touche Mitaine is a pure, mineral, and focused Chenin that shows Xavier's incredibly deft touch in and outside the cellar.



#### COUNTRY

France

#### APPELLATION

Montlouis

#### ELEVATION

75 meters

#### VARIETIES

Chenin Blanc

#### SOIL

Silex, clay

#### VINE AGE

35 years old

#### FARMING

Certified organic (ECOCERT)

#### FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, gentle pressing, natural yeast fermentation in 228L French oak barrels

#### AGING

12 months in 228L French oak barrels, vegan friendly

### FOR THE RECORD

Light golden. Fruity but linear, offering aromas and flavors of of underripe nectarine, apricot, pear and lemon verbena, with streaks of salty minerality, leading to a puckery finish. Fresh and charming.

– 2017 Touche Mitaine – Jason Wilson, [vinous.com](http://vinous.com) – 90 points

[EUROPEANCELLARS.COM](http://EUROPEANCELLARS.COM)

**JON-DAVID  
HEADRICK  
SELECTIONS**