



# DOMAINE BELARGUS

## Layon

Domaine Belargus was created in 2018 after Jo Pithon sold his estate to Ivan Massonnat. Ivan is a passionate wine enthusiast who has long believed in Chenin Blanc's potential for diverse terroir expression equal to Pinot Noir in Burgundy. Now totaling 24 hectares, Ivan has assembled a collection of parcels and monopoles in the Anjou Noir – the geologically complex and ancient volcanic vineyard lands that stretch from Savennières in the northwest to Bonnezeaux in the southeast. The fame of this region was established in the 11th century, and royal courts across Europe served these wines until phylloxera devastated the region in the late 19th century. Replanted in the early 20th century the Anjou Noir saw the only 1er & Grand Cru designations in the Loire Valley. By the 1970s however, industrial farming and shortcuts in the cellar seemed to have irrevocably tarnished the region's reputation. But starting in the 1980s a new generation of vigneron began to chart a new and promising future, among whom was Jo Pithon who rediscovered and rejuvenated the dramatic and lost terroir of Coteau des Treilles – the “Côte Rotie” of the Layon Valley. With Ivan Massonnat stepping in to carry on Jo's efforts, the future of wines in the Anjou looks more promising than ever.

With a team that includes winemaker Adrien Moreau, vineyard manager Amaury Chartier, and consultants Jo Pithon and Guy Bossard, Ivan has created a collection of wines that not only reflect the future of Anjou but he has revived the reputation of Coteaux du Layon and Chaume. We are honored that Ivan has selected us to represent these profound wines in the US.

With the advent of modern winemaking, the once notable Coteaux du Layon fell into decline with most of the production geared towards the cheap, plentiful, and insipidly sweet. But when Layon is done right, the results can be breathtaking. Domaine Belargus makes a sumptuously classic Coteaux du Layon from mainly south-facing sites planted on schist between Beaulieu and Val-du-Layon. If anyone can put Coteaux du Layon back on the map, it would be Domaine Belargus.

## ACCOLADES

92 - 2022 Layon – Decanter

96 - 2018 Layon – Wine Advocate

93 - 2018 Layon – Wine Spectator

### ORIGIN

*France*

### APPELLATION

*Coteaux du Layon*

### SOIL

*Schist, sandy clays*

### AGE OF VINES

*30*

### ELEVATION

*25-40 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Chenin Blanc*

### FARMING

*Certified organic (ECOCERT) & in conversion to biodynamic (BIODYVIN)*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, direct pressing, natural yeast fermentation*

### AGING

*24 months in 400L French oak barrels*

