

MUSCADET SEVRE & MAINE DOMAINE HENRI POIRON



CÉPAGE: 100% Melon de Bourgogne

The Loire Valley is famous not only for its magnificent chateaux, but also its superb white wines. Among the best known is Muscadet, from vineyards just east of the Atlantic and southeast of Nantes. Muscadet is made only from one grape, the Melon de Bourgogne. There are four different appellations here, but the finest and fruitiest wines come from AOC “Muscadet Sèvre et Maine.” The Sèvre and the Maine are two tributaries of the Loire and form the boundaries of this appellation. Here the finest terroirs are composed of granite and schist. The best wines are bottled “sur lie”, or “on the lees,” which refers to the practice of leaving the wine on the fine lees through the winter after the harvest, then bottling in late March without final racking. This preserves the fresh, delicate fruit, producing a richer, delightfully refreshing wine. Hugh Johnson refers to Muscadet as “Neptune’s Vineyard” as the wines are outstanding with the abundant fish, shellfish and fruits de mer from the nearby Atlantic.

The Domaine Henri Poiron traces its roots in winemaking in the region since 1800. The winery and vineyards are located in the heart of the Sèvre & Maine appellation and consists of 39 hectares of vines, spread over 4 properties. The Domaine des Quatre Routes consists of 13 hectares planted entirely to Melon de Bourgogne vines, with an average age of 45 years-old. Today proprietor Eric Poiron produces wines with a respect for the terroir and a focus on traditional techniques. The vineyards are hand-harvested, and vinification is in older oak barrels. The wines are bottled sur lie for maximum flavour and freshness. The wine is classic Muscadet with a crisp, racy character.

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