

JEAN-MICHEL GAUTIER

VOUVRAY MOELLEUX



The Gautier family traces their domaine in Vouvray to a land deed from 1669. Today, the Domaine de la Racauderie is run by Jean-Michel Gautier, who makes traditional Vouvray from the 35-hectare estate. His extensive underground cellars are carved out of tuffeau limestone, providing perfect natural conditions for the wines. He makes classic dry Vouvray Sec, a racy, off-dry Demi Sec, and when nature permits, the rare Vouvray Moelleux, made from botrytis-infected, late-harvest grapes. Also produced on the estate is a selection of high-quality, sparkling wines.

Region:	Loire
Appellation:	Vouvray
Owner:	Jean-Michel Gautier
Established:	1981
Farming Practices:	Sustainable
Vineyard:	2 Ha
Soil:	Limestone and Clay
Grape Varieties:	100% Chenin Blanc
Avg Age of Vines:	35-50 years
Yield/Acre:	25-30 hl/ha
Residual Sugar:	18-45 grams/l (depending on vintage)

Vinification and Élevage: Grapes are harvested manually and vinified by traditional methods. Fermentation and aging take place in stainless steel tanks or in large, older barrels. Gautier espouses a minimalist, hands-off approach. For sparkling wines, the vin clair is aged in tank and then transferred to bottles for the secondary fermentation, all of which happens in his underground cave. The bottles stay sur latte for 12-18 months, after which they are disgorged.

About Moelleux Wines: Moelleux is a sweetness category used in Vouvray to describe late harvest wine, typically picked with some degree of botrytis. The grapes are picked in several different tries or passages through the vineyard and handled carefully in the cellar. A rare wine, only produced in great vintages, perhaps 2-3 times per decade.

Tasting Notes: Aromas of quince jelly, caramel, licorice, acacia honey and candied fruit, a splendid display of complex bouquets. These wines accompany foie gras, strong cheese (like Roquefort) or lighter dessert. In France, they are often prized as a special aperitif. Vouvray Moelleux continues the richness of late harvest wines with the lively freshness so typical of Vouvray wine.

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