

# LA VARENNE

Chinon is a charming village nestled to the east of where the Vienne river slides in from the south-east to join the Loire river. Chinon was established long ago in the 5<sup>th</sup> century as a Gallo-Roman fortification. The wines of Chinon are made from Cabernet Franc and are considered to be the Loire Valley's finest and most age worthy reds. The wines exhibit gorgeous soft-centred raspberry and sweet earth perfume with an occasional scent of violets. Much of their character is fresh raspberry fruit mingled with earth and stone. They age as well as all but the best from Bordeaux.

The Gouron family has been producing wine for five generations at their estate in Cravant-les-Côteaux just east of the village of Chinon. Surrounded by forests, Laurent and Stéphane Gouron tend their 72 acre La Varenne estate. All of their vineyards are located within the Appellation of Chinon.

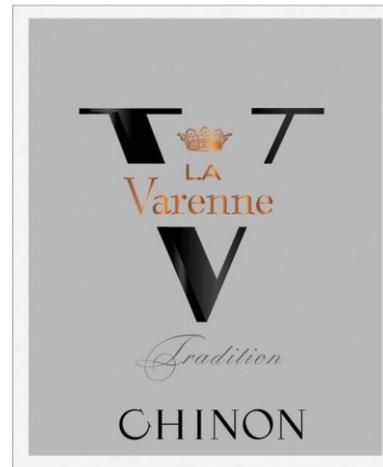
Throughout the year the Gouron's take great care of their vines to coax the best maturity and natural low yields from their fruit. To reach the ultimate concentration and expression of their Cabernet Franc they utilize cover crops in each row, practice rigorous green harvesting and canopy management. Each parcel is harvested and vinified separately to reveal the expression of each terroir. The gravelly-sandy and silex soils of the plane and the sandy-limestone hilltops provide unctuous and tender fruity wines for La Varenne **Chinon Tradition Cuvée**. Parcels on chalky-limestone or limestone-siliceous slopes provide wines of greater concentration for the Vieilles Vignes or Special Cuvées aged in oak barrels. Sustainable agriculture is practiced in all of the parcels.

From 50 year old vines planted on predominantly gravelly soils and rocky terraces, which provide lower yields and more concentrated fruit, the **Chinon Les Pierres Blanches** (white stones) is made. Les Pierres Blanches is aged in tank to preserve the fresh fruity character of the wine. The resulting wine is deep and well structured with great length, complex cassis and spice notes, and solid but nicely polished fine tannins.

When vinification is complete, caves extending hundreds of feet under the hillside of the estate offer the perfect natural and constant temperature conditions for tank and barrel aging. After bottling, the caves offer the bottled wines the necessary time to settle down before shipping.

La Varenne produces approximately 3500 cases of Tradition Cuvée and approximately 1500 cases of Les Pierres

Blanches. Only a small portion of their production makes it to the US. It is truly a small family owned estate producing hand crafted, beautiful wines. We are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce La Varenne to the US market.



W INES

Chinon - Tradition  
Chinon - Les Pierres Blanches  
Chinon Rosé