

TUTTO



JÉRÔME LAMBERT

Anjou, Loire

Jérôme Lambert tends a couple of hectares of vines near Rablay-sur-Layon in a part of Anjou that is undoubtedly one of the Loire's great terroirs.

Jérôme is a true Angevin. Born in the area but not to a family of vigneron, his love of wine grew naturally. As a teenager he would pick leftover grapes, stomp on them and wait to see what would become of the fermenting juice. For over a decade he farmed small parcels that totalled less than a hectare of vines, making wine guided by nothing but instinct and the occasional advice from locals such as Richard Leroy.

Jérôme now farms a total of four hectares of vines dotted around the countryside. He has worked organically from the outset and has been making wine without any additions for several decades. He is best known for producing achingly pure Chenin Blanc from two parcels of old vines planted over sand and schist. These tense, focused expressions of Chenin provide a wonderful expression of the terroir and have a fantastic ability to age.

He also farms a little Grolleau planted over sandy loam, which produces an easygoing, joyful expression of the grape that is amongst our favourite bistro wines. In recent years Jérôme has proven himself to be a deft hand at pétillants, producing pure, vinous sparkling wines that manage to capture both the variety and terroir beautifully. Both his Chenin and a vibrant rosé of Gamay are amongst the best of this genre we have tried.

As is the case when spending time with the man himself, there is never a dull moment drinking Jérôme's wines, which combine raw energy, purity and finesse to great effect.

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L'AIR DE RIEN

2020

This wonderful sparkling rosé is made from a direct press of Gamay and Grolleau, aged on the lees for over two years before disgorgement. A glistening cherry red in the glass, its fine bubbles carry delicate notes of minerals, red berries and blood orange, making for an invigorating, moreish sparkling wine that makes just as much sense at the beginning or end of a meal.