

“Yannick Amirault is one of the most talented red wine producers in all of the Loire Valley, and his consistent excellence over at least the decade has been surpassed by absolutely no one in the region.” John Gilman - Sept 2014



Yannick Amirault (Organic)

www.yannickamirault.fr

Bourgueil & Saint Nicholas de Bourgueil



Bourgueil is located west of Tours in the western part of the Loire Valley. Bourgueil is situated on the northern side of the Loire, across the river from Chinon, and represents one of the northern-most appellations for growing red grape varieties in France. There are a variety of soil types here with the biggest and most cellar-worthy wines generally coming from the best vineyards on the slopes located further away from the Loire to the north and north-east of the town of Bourgueil. The vineyards on the flat gravelly river soils closer to the Loire yield wines which are usually aromatic, elegant and earlier to mature.

Amirault has about 13 hectares of vineyard holdings in Bourgueil, mostly located on, or just at, the base of these slopes to the north and northeast of the village of Bourgueil. He also has 6 hectares of vineyards in Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil. Even in abundant years the yields are kept very low by doing a green harvest so the quality and consistency at this estate is remarkable. Average yields here are much lower than the authorized yields of 55 hl/ha for Bourgueil and 60 hl/ha for Saint Nicholas de Bourgueil. Much investment has been made in the cellars in recent years with purchases of large tronconic oak casks as well as barrels of 400 litre capacity to reduce the influence of oak ageing.

All vinifications are made with indigenous yeasts with no acid or sugar adjustment. All wines are bottled unfinned and unfiltered. Amirault produces 5 Bourgueil's and 4 St Nicolas de Bourgueil's from which we have selected following;



100% Cabernet Franc for all wines

2014 Saint Nicholas de Bourgueil “La Source”

Produced from vines planted mostly on sandy soils with an average age of 30+ years, this wine is vinified in tank and aged in large ‘tronconic’ barrels designed specially in this area. The wine is loaded with perfumed cherry and red-currant fruit along with generous hints of spice, white pepper and even chocolate. This is a perfumed and supple wine that is perfect for drinking on its perfumed and fleshy primary fruit.

2014 Bourgueil “La Coudraye”

From averaging 30 to 35 years old vines on mostly sandy slopes situated closer to the town of Bourgueil. Made from yields around 30 hl/ha the alcoholic fermentation is done in open tanks with gentle plunging. This cuvee are aged in large specially designed large wooden tanks for 12 months. This wine is notable for its freshness and perfume and has very fine tannins well covered with admirable flesh coming from fully ripe fruit.

2009 Bourgueil “La Petite Cave”

This wine is produced from old vines averaging more than 45 years old which are located around the middle of the slope on the best soils. The wine is matured in 450 litre “demi-muid” barrels and is the richest and deepest wine in his cellar. In great years like 1997 and 2003 the wine is a dark almost impenetrable black colour with amazing concentration and depth of mulberry and black raspberry fruit with anise and spice notes that linger for ages. This is a wine that shows very well at a relatively young age in ripe years like 2009, and which will also age effortlessly for decades. This wine has remarkable depth of fruit supported by substantial fine tannins with just enough acidity to keep the wine fresh and appetizing without becoming too heavy. From the outstanding 2009 vintage, this is a remarkably fresh and pure wine of substantial depth and structure—this is Bourgueil, and Cabernet Franc, at its finest.



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2010 Bourgueil “Pavillon du Grand Clos” - Domaine Yannick Amirault

Made from a tiny plot of vines surrounding the house of Yannick & Nicole Amirault which is located in the prime mid-to-high part of the slope above Bourgueil. “Pavillon du Grand Clos is actually the official name of Domaine Amirault, but it also graces the label of their top bottling, which is made from their finest terroir. The vines here are still on the young side by the high standards of this domaine, but the vigor of these fifteen year-old cabernet franc vines is held in check by green harvesting and aggressive pruning. I do not have figures on how much new wood the wine is raised in, but it clearly sees some during its elevage. The 2010 Pavillon du Grand Clos is a young and outstanding bottle of Bourgueil, offering up a primary and very classy nose of dark berries, a bit of roasted meats, espresso, woodsmoke, tobacco leaf, dark soil tones, tree bark and a stylish base of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, focused and rock solid at the core, with a very youthful personality, firm, chewy tannins and a very long, nascently complex finish that closes with superb grip and intensity of flavor. This is a great bottle of Bourgueil in the making, but it will need some time in the cellar to start to blossom. 2020-2045. 94.” **John Gilman - View from the Cellar**

