

## LOIRE VALLEY

FRANÇOIS CHIDAINE  
MONTLOUIS

**OVERVIEW** | Montlouis is an appellation of 400 hectares located directly across the river from Vouvray. (Until it was granted AOC status in 1937, Montlouis wines were under the Vouvray appellation.) The soils in both places are quite similar: sandy clay on a base of tuffeau. Some say that a slightly higher percentage of sand and pebbles in the Montlouis soil makes the wines somewhat leaner than the wines of Vouvray. But if that's true, it also gives them a lively crispness on the palate and outstanding minerality.

**VINEYARD AREA:** 30 hectares

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** 11,000 cases

**TOP SITES:** Clos Badoin, Clos Habert, Clos de Breuil

**SOIL TYPES:** sandy clay

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** chenin blanc

François Chidaine worked alongside his father Yves for many years, in two independent estates. He works his vines the old-fashioned way, but does not want any mention of organic viticulture on his bottles even though he is certified organic. He champions the Chenin Blanc grape and its ability to produce vibrant wines that age gracefully.

Chidaine's estate is divided into 8 distinct plots, with much of the vineyards between 40 and 80 years old. Clos de Breuil is Chidaine's sec, or dry, cuvée of Montlouis, while Clos Habert and Tuffeaux are demi-sec, or off-dry cuvées. A stunning Méthode Traditionnelle, or pétillant, is made with grapes from younger vines. After consulting with Prince Poniatowski on his Vouvray sites for a number of years, François is now leasing and producing his own wine from the treasured vines of Clos Badoin.

**VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES** | Chidaine farms his land with a close eye to nature. At the time of our visit, all but two hectares of his vines were being farmed biodynamically. Chidaine, however, insists on making no mention of organics or biodynamics on his bottles. In fact, he's loath to talk much about biodynamie at all. He farms naturally because he feels it results in a purer expression of the vine and of his terroir.

**WINES** |

Montlouis-sur-Loire Brut Traditionelle  
 Montlouis-sur-Loire Sec Clos du Breuil  
 Montlouis-sur-Loire Demi-sec Clos Habert  
 Montlouis-sur-Loire Demi-sec Les Tuffeaux  
 Montlouis-sur-Loire Moelleux Les Bournais  
 Vouvray Sec Les Argiles  
 Vouvray Demi-sec Le Bouchet  
 Vouvray Demi Sec Clos Badoin



## trriage wines

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