

LOIRE VALLEY
SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY
DOMAINE FILLIATREAU
SAUMUR


OVERVIEW | Domaine Filliatreau is the largest single estate in the Saumur-Champigny appellation, and it is significant in terms of quality as well as size. The Domaine Filliatreau, a large estate of about 50 hectares located near the city of Saumur, is run by Paul and Frédrik Filliatreau, père et fils. Currently run by father-and-son team, it is Paul that has pushed the envelope, constantly innovating and improving the wines during his tenure, bringing Domaine Filliatreau to the head of the Saumur-Champigny pack.

VINEYARD AREA: 40 hectares

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 18000 cases

SOIL TYPES: highly calcareous

GRAPE VARIETIES: cabernet franc

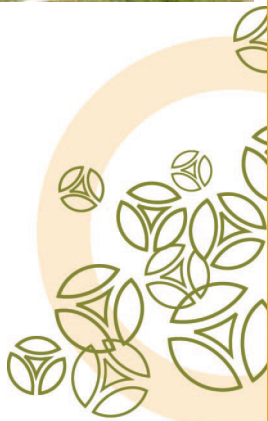
Paul first took on a major responsibility in the family business when he took over the running of an 8 ha portion of the domaine from his father, Maurice, back in 1967. At the time the wines of Saumur were more likely to be rosé than red, and those that were red were not of the quality that can be found today. As Paul took on more and more of the domaine, he built a new cellar and installed stainless steel temperature-controlled fermentation equipment. Quality was pushed up, and Paul traveled widely, raising not only the profile of Domaine Filliatreau but of Saumur as a whole. Paul and Frédrik, who joined his father in 1990, now extol a considerable 40-plus ha of vineyards. They turn out a number of special cuvées, and indeed Domaine Filliatreau was the first to bottle separate expressions of Saumur-Champigny in this fashion.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | The vines are of considerable age and yields are kept low. The main vineyard is worked organically, and the Chateau Fouquet plot is worked biodynamically. Grapes are hand harvested and the wine is vinified in stainless-steel and bottled unfiltered.

Supervision of the fermentation process as well as temperature controls, technical expertise and know-how enable Paul and Fredrik Filliatreau to give the Cabernet Franc vine the whole richness of clay-calcareous lands of the Estate. The wine from each plot is produced separately with great care, to give each vintage its own particular flavor.

WINES | Saumur Chateau Fouquet - a single-plot vineyard that is under biodynamic viticulture.

Saumur-Champigny la Grande Vignolle - rests atop a tufa-stone outcrop that runs along the Loire river for a number of kilometers. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the stone, a creamy colored limestone, was quarried for building some of the great monuments and châteaux of the Loire. Cave dwellings and a few formidable houses were actually carved into the cliffs. The La Grande Vignolle label is a depiction of this site.


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