

## BEAUJOLAIS

**DOM. LAURENT GAUTHIER**  
**MORGON**

Laurent Gauthier  
Morgon 8 ha

Beaujolais, a region of beautiful hills, is the traditional home of the gamay grape. Although this varietal was banned by Philip the Bold in 1395 because it was too vigorous for the rich, limestone soils of Burgundy, gamay reaches its full potential when planted in the granitic terrain and thin sandy topsoils of Beaujolais. Morgon and Chiroubles are two of the ten cru Beaujolais.

Laurent Gauthier farms 8 hectares of vineyards in Morgon split between two "lieu dit"; "Grand Cras", a reference to the large stones found there and Côte du Py. His vines are planted at an altitude of between 220 and 250 meters on hillsides with southern and southeastern exposure.

The soils of Morgon are formed from foliated rock called schist and M. Gauthier's vineyard has a soil more specifically known as "roches pourries" or rotted rocks. His vines have an average age of 55 years and no chemical treatments are used in the vineyard. The "cuvaision" lasts 11 to 13 days with a regime of punching down the cap "pigeage" and stirring of the lees. The wine is matured for 9 months in pièces (Beaujolais foudre). The wine is fined but not filtered and bottling is done in April.

Laurent Gauthier farms merely a half of a hectare in Chiroubles on a parcel called Chatenay. He produces little more than 200 cases a year. The vineyard is located at an altitude of 400 meters on a hillside with southern exposure. Harvesting is always started late to insure maximum ripeness and maturation of the grapes. In order to protect the fruit and aroma of the wine, the "cuvaision" lasts for only 5 to 6 days and the wine is then aged partially in enameled concrete vats and partially in oak foudres for six to eight months. The wine is fined by egg whites but not filtered.

**trriage wines**

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