

**LOIRE VALLEY**  
**SANCERRE**
**THOMAS-LABAILLE**  
**CHAVIGNOL**


**OVERVIEW** | Along with Cotat and Gerard Boulay, Thomas-Labaille is one of the few remaining Chavignol producers to produce traditional, old-style Sancerre. Claude Thomas ran the domaine for many years before it was taken over by his daughter and son-in-law. Before taking on the role of full time winemakers, however, Jean-Paul Labaille, a former civil servant, spent ten years of his vacation time assisting his father-in-law.

**VINEYARD AREA:** 9 hectares

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** 4000 cases

**TOP SITES:** Les Montes Damnés

**SOIL TYPES:** Kimmeridgian Marl

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** sauvignon blanc, pinot noir

The wines are rich, fat, round, with layered aromas, a subtle nose and a long finish. Not a typical bistro Sancerre, but a graceful wine meant for aging and pleasure.

**VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES** | Les Monts Damnés plot is too steep a slope to ever consider machine harvesting, which is now the norm in the appellation, and it requires intensive, non-mechanized vineyard work. Drainage and exposure are excellent and ensure the best ripeness for the vintage.

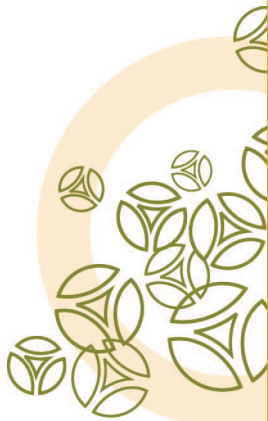
Since taking over, Jean-Paul has implemented only minimal changes. The vineyards remain among the best in Chavignol, with a large proportion of old vines. The old foudres, once used for élevage are not in use any more, but the vineyard and cellar work follow the same time-honored techniques. Some cuvées still age in large concrete vats, other in stainless steel, and the oak barrels have been replaced by newer ones, mostly second-hand, 2 to 3 years old, not in order to impart any oaky character to the wine, but to let it breathe and evolve slowly on its lees.

**WINES** | Sancerre Authentique - Made from 20-30 year-old vines, all from the village of Chavignol.

Sancerre Chavignol Les Monts Damnés - The site, Les Monts Damnés, or the damned mountains, is so called because of the dangerously steep slopes on which the vines are grown. The steepest parts of which require grape pickers to slide down the mountain on their behind, with a cushion of course.

Sancerre Cuvée Buster - A selection of particularly expressive plots bottled exclusively for Louis/Dressner Selections.

Sancerre Rouge - 100% pinot noir.


**triage wines**

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