

Domaine Guillemot-Michel is a small family estate located in "Quintaine", between the villages of Viré and Clessé, in the heart of the Viré-Clessé appellation, one of the three Mâconnais crus.

In 1982, after studying viticulture and oenology, Pierrette Michel and her husband Marc Guillemot returned to the estate of Pierrette's parents. In 1985 they bottled their first vintage under the name "Guillemot-Michel".

The vines were converted to organic as soon as they returned, then to Biodynamic in 1991 (DEMETER certification 1992-2017, BIODYVIN since 2018). Since 2012, their daughter Sophie, helped by her husband Gautier, has been following the same path by gradually taking over the management of the estate.

Sophie, Gautier, Pierrette, and Marc cultivate 6.5 hectares of old Chardonnay vines (55-60 years old) located around the hamlet of Quintaine.

Their work in Biodynamics aims to maintain a living soil, by mechanical and non-chemical maintenance, and by the refusal of any synthetic phytosanitary product during treatments, in favor of mineral substances and herbal preparations. These preparations are made at the estate or in groups with other winegrowers. They grow some of the plants used (yarrow, horsetail, nettle, alfalfa, valerian, comfrey, thyme, oregano, savory, etc.) or collect wild plants.

In the cellar, they limit their interventions to what is strictly necessary, thanks to an optimal quality of harvest. When ripe, the grapes are picked by hand and then gently pressed. The musts are decanted cold overnight to separate the clear juices from the lees. The alcoholic and malolactic fermentations take place naturally in concrete vats thanks to indigenous yeasts and bacteria. After fermentation, the wine is kept on the lees until bottling, in early summer.

The 6.5 hectares of Chardonnay are located in the south of Burgundy, on the slopes of Quintaine, halfway between Mâcon and Tournus.

Like the vast majority of wine-growing Burgundy, the vines are located on Jurassic limestone subsoils (Bathonian to Oxfordian, -160 Ma). However, the Quintaine terroir, historically recognized within the villages of Viré and Clessé, has an atypical character.

The relief of Quintaine generates a high density of summer storms, accelerating the decarbonation of limestone into silt. The consequences on the physiology of the vine and therefore on the style of the wines are of three kinds: the addition of water during the summer contributes to a better natural acidity of the wines, the low rate of active limestone favors the establishment of the vine and modifies the structure of the wines, and the silts host a unique microbiota which participates in the fermentation and therefore in the aroma of our wines (vinified with indigenous yeasts). The plots are all exposed to the rising sun and benefit from the climatic influence of the Saône which tempers excesses, both winter and summer.

The oldest vines on the estate still in production were planted by Pierrette's grandfather, on his return from the First World War. The youngest were planted by Marc and Pierrette when the estate was taken over in the early 1980s. Today, they no longer uproot vines but renew the dead vines each year for an average age of around 60-65 years.

Planting density is high: between 7,000 and 8,000 vines per hectare. All vines are trellised and arched with a stick. They prune according to the Guyot-Poussard method, which is more time-consuming but more respectful of the flow of sap, it limits the risk of wood disease and extends the life expectancy of the feet.

Location
France
Wine Production Area
France - Burgundy - Vire Clesse
Owners
Marc, Pierrette and Sophie Guillemot, and Sophie's husband, Gautier Roussille.
Winemaker
Marc, Pierrette and Sophie Guillemot, and Sophie's husband, Gautier Roussille.
Grape Varietals
Chardonnay
Agricultural Methods
biodynamic
Website
www.domaineguillemotmichel.net

The 0.16 ha are fortunate to work on plots large enough to allow them to create natural barriers (hedges, paths, etc.) limiting edge effects. Each of their plots is thus a veritable little microcosm