LOIRE 2016
LIGHT ON ALCOHOL, LONG ON FLAVOUR
REDS, WHITES & ROSÉS
SUMMER DRINKING

For me, Loire wines are quintessential summer drinking, delivering freshness and fruit in abundance, and conjuring up images of beautiful châteaux and lazy meandering holidays bathed in sunshine. Delicious, food-friendly wines are produced the length of the Loire Valley, from mouthwatering Muscadet in the coastal west, to the racy sauvignons of the Central Vineyards and the lesser-known southerly outpost of Saint-Pourçain. At the heart of the valley, Touraine, realm of versatile chenin blanc, stylish cabernet franc and much more, offers cracking value.

With close to 90 different appellations and myriad grape varieties, ten of which we feature here, there is tremendous variety to choose from, so narrowing down my selection was no easy task! The relatively cool climate means that most wines are at the lighter end of the alcohol spectrum but pack in plenty of flavour, particularly in the fine 2016 vintage, when volumes might have been cruelly low but quality is irresistibly high!

We have put together a selection of mixed cases to help you explore the many flavours of the Loire. Whether you’re a sauvignon lover or red-only drinker, you'll find plenty of choice, from familiar bottles to my favourite new finds.

From the freshest of Muscadets in the west to the smartest of sauvignon blancs in the east, with pretty chenin blancs and intriguing oddities, like chasselas and even a white pinot noir, there is plenty to share with you.

Val de Loire Sauvignon Blanc, Famille Bougrier 2016
Remarkably easy-drinking, fruity sauvignon in the style of Touraine but at a snip of the price. 11.5%
ref LB-LO13231 £8.50 bottle £78 dozen

NEW Vin de France ‘Le Petit Cousin’ Chenin Blanc, Famille Bougrier 2016
A light, fruity, friendly chenin offering cracking value: an ideal picnic wine and summer quaffer. The introductory saving is thanks to supplier support. 12%
ref LB-LO13391 £6.50 bottle £78 dozen
£5.95 introductory bottle price
£71 introductory dozen price
SAVE £7 PER DOZEN

NEW Saumur Blanc ‘Les Plantagenêts’ 2016
Refreshing and nicely rounded chenin blanc with hints of pineapple and citrus fruit, and bright palate-cleansing acidity. The dozen saving is thanks to supplier support. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13313 £7.75 bottle £81 special dozen price
£6.75 equivalent bottle price
SAVE £12 PER DOZEN

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine de la Renaudie 2016
From one of our favourite producers, where daughter Charlotte was in charge for the first time. She did a great job too, delivering bright, peachy fruit and appetising freshness. 12%
ref LB-LO13321 £8.50 bottle £102 dozen

Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine sur Lie Château de la Templerie, Domaine Huchet 2016
Like gold dust in 2016, young Jérémie Huchet’s organic Muscadet ticks all the boxes of the vintage, with lovely richness balanced by an appealing saline finish. 12%
ref LB-LO13511 £8.50 bottle £102 dozen

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine Guénault 2016
From the Bougrier family’s own estate at St Georges, Guénault makes a more tightly knit, chalky sauvignon, and is a smart buy for lovers of (much pricier) Sancerre. This wine is offered with a case saving thanks to supplier support. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13317 £8.75 bottle £90 special dozen price
£7.50 equivalent bottle price
SAVE £15 PER DOZEN

Cheverny, Domaine du Salvard 2016
A perennial favourite from the Delaille family, yet Cheverny is still something of an insider’s secret. The appellation stipulates majority sauvignon with a little chardonnay, and it works! This one is lime-fresh and lipsmackingly good. 12%
ref LB-LO12971 £8.95 bottle £107 dozen

Coteaux du Vendômois Le Carillon de Vendôme ‘Le Cocagne’ Chenin Blanc 2016
Pristine, delicious but grown-up chenin blanc from the small co-op just outside Vendôme, with fresh appley aroma and lovely bright fruit. A treat with fish and chips! 12.5%
ref LB-LO13151 £9.50 bottle £114 dozen


Joanna Locke MW
Society Buyer
Pretty pinks are particularly popular in France at the moment, and the palest of hues are the most sought-after. Our smart summer edit showcases three distinct Loire styles from the incredibly versatile off-dry Rosé d’Anjou to the stylish Sancerre from the lovely Laloue family, and a delightful blend from Touraine.

**NEW Touraine Rosé, Domaine des Echardières 2016**
A typical foodie blend of gamay and cabernet franc (here known as côt), lightly pressed to achieve the palest salmon-pink colour, with a clean, bright palate and a hint of pepperiness on the finish. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13411
£8.95 bottle £107 dozen

**Sancerre Rosé, Domaine Serge Laloue 2016**
A stylish and refined rosé, delicate in colour but with extra body and charm in the ripe 2016 vintage. Pure, healthy fruit with the delicate redcurrant aromas of the pinot noir grape. Now to 2018. 14%
ref LB-LO13101
£14.95 bottle £179 dozen

**REDS**
With the accent on fruity freshness, soft tannins and perfume, Loire reds make great summer drinking, particularly when served just slightly chilled. While cabernet franc is the valley’s real speciality (and still under-appreciated in my view), gamay, pinot noir and malbec (côt) complete the picture and are all represented below.

**Val de Loire Pinot Noir ‘Le Chapitre’, Réthoré Davy 2016**
From the western Loire and a tiny, historic vineyard area, this is a fresh young pinot, vibrant in colour, with bright, cherry-scented fruit. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13011
£7.95 bottle £95 dozen

**Touraine Gamay Les Guinetières, Domaine de la Renaudie 2016**
This is a juicy old-vines cuvée of gamay, with ripe red-fruit flavours and a touch of spice you don’t find in gamays from further south. Serve cool with anything from a picnic to a steak. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13331
£8.25 bottle £99 dozen

**Touraine Rouge ‘Le Bécassou’, Domaine des Echardières 2016**
This juicy blend of majority gamay, with 15% each cabernet franc and malbec, and a (quite legal!) splash of the über-ripe 2015 for consistency and mid-palate weight, is ideal served on the cooler side with charcuterie or sausages. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13311
£8.95 bottle £107 dozen

**Anjou Rouge ‘L’Ardoise’, Domaine des Rochelles 2016**
Now fully certified organic, the Lebreton family’s range starts with this light, fresh, brasserie-style cabernet franc, made to be drunk young and fruity. 12.5%
ref LB-LO13181
£8.95 bottle £107 dozen

**NEW Bourgueil ‘Passion’, Joël Talau 2016**
From a producer we have rediscovered after a long absence, this is a drop-dead gorgeous and infinitely approachable Bourgueil, with ripe, fleshy black-fruit flavours and soft tannins showing off the cabernet franc grape in all its glory. 13%
ref LB-LO13521
£9.95 bottle £119 dozen

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EXPLORE LOIRE 2016 MIXED DOZEN

Travel the length of the Loire in this 12-bottle case, containing one bottle of each of the following wines:

**WHITES**
- Vin de France ‘Le Petit Cousin’ Chenin Blanc, Famille Bougrier 2016
- Saumur Blanc ‘Les Plantagenêts’ 2016
- Cheverny, Domaine du Salvador 2016
- Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine sur Lie Château de la Templerie, Domaine Huchet 2016
- Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine Guénauld 2016
- Pouilly-sur-Loire Vieilles Vignes, Domaine de Riaux 2016

**ROSÉS**
- Rosé d’Anjou, Château de Mauny 2016
- Touraine Rosé, Domaine des Echardières 2016

**REDS**
- Touraine Gamay Les Guinetières, Domaine de la Renaudie 2016

ref LB-MX17156

£99.50 A SAVING OF £6

2016 LOIRE REDS

The fresh, young red credentials of a predominantly white region, featuring one bottle of each of the six wines below:

- Touraine Gamay Les Guinetières, Domaine de la Renaudie 2016
- Touraine Rouge ‘Le Bécsassou’, Domaine des Echardières 2016
- Chinon ‘Le Logis de la Bouchardièrè’, Domaine Serge et Bruno Sourdaïs 2016

ref LB-MX17153

EXPLORE LOIRE 2016 MIXED CASE

Buyer Joanna Locke MW’s latest and most exciting discoveries. One bottle of each of the six wines below:

**REDS**

**ROSÉ**
- Rosé d’Anjou, Château de Mauny 2016

**WHITES**
- Vin de France ‘Le Petit Cousin’ Chenin Blanc, Famille Bougrier 2016
- Val de Loire Vendée ‘Moulin Blanc’ Blanc de Noirs, Jérémie Mourat 2016
- Pouilly-sur-Loire Vieilles Vignes, Domaine de Riaux 2016

ref LB-MX17154

£56

EXPLORE LOIRE SAVIGNON BLANC 2016

A homecoming for the world’s most popular grape in six bottles, one of each of the following:

- Val de Loire Sauvignon Blanc, Famille Bougrier 2016
- Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine de la Renaudie 2016
- Cheverny, Domaine du Salvador 2016
- Reuilly Les Pierres Plates, Domaine Denis Jamain 2016

ref LB-MX17155

£62.50

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