

# BIANCO

August 2023



© Thierry Germain

## 2022 SAUMUR BLANC “L’INSOLITE” THIERRY GERMAIN \$49

Here we have a serious Chenin Blanc, produced by one of the Loire Valley’s natural wine legends. Thierry Germain, a Bordeaux native with a Burgundian winemaking style, has been honing his craft at Domaine des Roches Neuves since the early ‘90s. He farms 28 hectares of enviably situated vineyards planted to Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc. According to Thierry, the process is all about balance, from the vines to the wines: “Balance of the environment, of nature, of the relationship between humans, plants, and also animals. Balance when it comes to finding symbiosis between the terroir and the plant. Each harvest, a search for balance in determining the right maturity of the grapes to preserve minerality and tension.” As one of the Loire’s early converts to biodynamics, he cultivates a deep connection to the hallowed ground he works, tending his land with the utmost respect for life and biodiversity. This uncompromising philosophy translates directly to the wine, resulting in Saumurs that are entirely complete and exude an unmistakable sense of place.

Thierry’s Insolite, meaning “unusual,” comes from a tiny plot of gnarled 90-year-old Chenin Blanc vines embedded in clayey, silex-rich soils over chalky limestone bedrock. The combination of ancient vines and special terroir result in an ultra elegant and finely-etched expression of the grape. A sensorial springboard to the charms of Thierry’s mineral-driven whites, Insolite is loaded with notes of citrus skin, ripe orchard fruits, river rocks, and a touch of smoke. The extraordinary depth, freshness, and precision in the glass will leave no doubt that this is Saumur *blanc* at its most scintillating. —*Madison Brown*



*Pairs well with pan-fried sea bass, shrimp tacos, lobster rolls, Chicago-style hot dogs, or crispy rosemary roasted potatoes.*

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## 2022 ILE DE BEAUTÉ BLANC YVES LECCIA \$37

**B**ack in the '90s, at the time when Yves Leccia discovered a tiny block of presumed-extinct Biancu Gentile, it is estimated there was only a single acre of this ancient vine left on earth. He and a small group of Corsican vigneroni salvaged what they could, carefully selecting budwood with the hope of propagating, grafting, and eventually giving new life to a phantom limb of Corsican viticultural history.

Thirty years later, Yves now farms one hectare of healthy Biancu Gentile vines in Partinellone, a quintessential Patrimonio terroir of pure schist. With slopes that face the Ligurian Sea, it channels an ample coastal breeze from the Gulf of St. Florent.

Corsica is undoubtedly an island anchored by ancient roots, and the heirloom grapes growing here have a story to tell. Yves listens, and makes wines of total clarity, bringing out the best in each of his characterful vineyards. His *Île de Beauté Blanc* is a thoughtful blend of Vermentinu and Biancu Gentile. Unabashedly Corsican, it's fresh, slightly tart, and delightfully easy to drink. There is something special in your glass, something rare... Taste the fruits of tenacious, genuinely Corsican labor—there's nothing quite like it. —*Madison Brown*



© Yves Leccia



*Pairs well with grilled halibut, pesto pasta salad, fried calamari, or crab cakes.*

					
<b>2022 SAUMUR BLANC</b> "L'INSOLITE" Thierry Germain <i>Loire</i>	Chenin Blanc	90-year-old vines  Silex, clay, red limestone, sandstone	Serve cool 48–52° F  Decant optional	Green apple, lime blossom, acacia  Textural, lean, energetic	Drink now through 2030
<b>2022 ÎLE DE BEAUTÉ BLANC</b> Yves Leccia <i>Corsica</i>	70% Vermentinu, 30% Biancu Gentile	5- to 20-year-old vines  Clay, limestone, schist	Serve cold 48–52° F  Do not decant	Mediterranean herbs, apricot, lemon zest  Saline, balanced, thirst-quenching	Drink now

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