



Mickaël Olivon © Patrick Domeyne

2021 HAUTES ALPES BLANC “GRAINS DE CLOTINAILLE” DOMAINE LES HAUTS LIEUX \$49

My dad earned a reputation for looking where no one else was looking: his early imports from Chinon, Bandol, and Saint-Joseph were veritable unicorns in a world dominated by Bordeaux and Burgundy. Of course, this was over forty years ago, and the global wine landscape has evolved quite a bit. Chinon, Bandol, and Saint-Jo are now considered classics, and jaded palates seeking new thrills must turn their attention to new horizons.

With that in mind, if there is one wine to discover from the far reaches of the middle of nowhere, it is most certainly this pristine *blanc* from Domaine Les Hauts Lieux, a tiny property perched high in the southern Alps. Mickaël Olivon farms vineyards at up to 1,000 meters elevation in narrow Alpine valleys tucked beneath epic snow-capped peaks, like the Tête de Clotinaille, which towers over his vines. “Grains de Clotinaille” is one of four wines he makes from this unforgiving mountain terroir, each one named for a nearby peak he has scaled. What’s more, the word Clotinaille features an old name for a fermentation vessel—*tinaille*—suggesting the locals way back when had a taste for wine.

The blend features Chasan, an unlikely crossing of Palomino with Pinot Noir, with some Chardonnay. The wine’s purity and light floral character reminds me of a dry sake, while its bright, clean focus on the palate recalls a breath of crisp mountain air. A subtle hint of perfectly integrated oak provides a depth of texture that might appeal to Burgundy lovers. —Anthony Lynch



Pairs well with grilled halibut, lemon and pea shoot risotto, or Alpine cheeses like Abondance, Comté, and Reblochon.

♦ ♦ ♦ KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT ♦ ♦ ♦

2022 BOURGOGNE PINOT BEUROT “LES GRANDS POISOTS” DOMAINE LUCIEN BOILLOT ET FILS \$50

Pierre Boillot is a rare master of both the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits—not only does he have the vineyards but also the *savoir-faire* and skill. Many of his vineyards are under-appreciated treasures: Volnay *Les Angles*, which was originally classified as one of the top *premier cru* sites in Volnay in the 19th century, Pommard *Croix Noires* right below *Rugiens*, Gevrey *Cherbaudes* right next to Chapelle-Chambertin *Grand Cru*. Every wine he makes is a classic representation of its appellation—from Volnay and Pommard to Gevrey, as Pierre’s work in the cellars is geared towards transparent, terroir-driven wines of finesse.







The truth is, this bottling is a Volnay Blanc. However, thanks to wine legislation in France, it can’t be labeled that way. Pinot Beurot is the Burgundian name for their local strand of Pinot Gris. It can be found co-planted with Pinot Noir in very old Burgundian vineyards, as it added aroma and texture to weaker Pinot harvests of yesteryear, much like Viognier was used in Côte-Rôtie. As average temperatures have moderated in Burgundy, the Boillots decided to separate these grapes to make a dry white wine. It is unique and delicious and showcases an interesting bit of Burgundy’s history. —*Dixon Brooke*



Pierre Boillot © Joanie Pontiglio



Pairs well with king crab legs, Vietnamese noodle salad, or scallop and citrus crudo.

					
2021 HAUTES ALPES BLANC “GRAINS DE CLOTINAILLE” Domaine Les Hauts Lieux Hautes-Alpes	70% Chasan, 30% Chardonnay	Vines planted in 1980s Moraine and scree (dolomite, silt, gravel)	Serve cold 48–52° F Decant optional	Mountain flowers, quince, fresh butter Lively, creamy, textured	Drink now through 2026
2021 BOURGOGNE PINOT BEUROT “LES GRANDS POISOTS” Domaine Lucien Boillot et Fils Burgundy	Pinot Beurot (Pinot Gris)	Vines planted in 1958 Clay, limestone	Serve cool 50–54° F Decant optional	Honeysuckle, green apple, beeswax Perfumed, crisp, mineral	Drink now through 2028

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