

BIANCO

November 2022



Harvesting Pinot Gris © Kuentz-Bas

2016 PINOT GRIS GRAND CRU “FLORIMONT” KUENTZ-BAS \$54

Alsatian Pinot Gris is an often-misunderstood category—a pity, considering the pleasures it can afford, especially once it’s acquired a few years of bottle age, as with this late release from the historic Kuentz-Bas estate. Meticulous attention to detail is the defining characteristic of both the viticulture and the vinification at this domaine, whose origins in the town of Husserren-les-Châteaux can be traced back to 1795. Winemaker Olivier Raffin, who took over direction of the cellar in 2017, puts a strong emphasis on both terroir and accessibility. Just like his predecessor, Samuel Tottoli, he farms biodynamically and ferments with native yeast in order to allow the great *grand cru* sites of Alsace to express themselves to their fullest. Vinified by Samuel and bottled by Olivier, this Pinot Gris embodies the class conferred by these two talented vigneron and the excellence that has defined Kuentz-Bas for more than two centuries.

Unlike light, crisp Italian Pinot Grigio, the grape’s Alsatian counterpart achieves a sun-drenched plumpness that translates to a lusciousness on the palate, no doubt from the dry, sunny climate Alsace enjoys in the rain shadow of the Vosges. With a subtle touch of sweetness, Florimont is a *grand cru* that confers exceptional finesse—in other words, this is a full-bodied white with a featherweight touch.



Olivier Raffin © Anthony Lynch

Pairs well with bratwurst, pork chops, roasted root vegetables, or ripened cheeses.

2018 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE GORGES DOMAINE MICHEL BRÉGEON \$46







This bottling represents the realization of Michel Brégeon’s lifelong dream to elevate the wine of Muscadet to a loftier status than a simple oyster sipper. He was blessed with the appellation’s greatest terroir, the igneous rock called gabbro, which is abundant in the Earth’s oceanic crust but rarely found in vineyard land. Over the course of his career, he consistently observed a remarkable aging potential in his wines that rivals any other white from France.

Though Michel retired after the 2010 vintage, the domaine’s legacy lives on with Muscadet native Fred Lailler. Since taking over from Michel, Fred has continued the Brégeon ethic of producing serious, terroir-driven Muscadet of great complexity and aging potential. He has even completed an organic conversion for the domaine’s vineyards—a rare feat in a region still dominated by high-yielding, intensive viticulture. Tasting a Muscadet from Domaine Brégeon is enough to convince anyone of the caliber of a terroir like Gorges, and proof that the region is capable of much more than the simple quaffer.



Fred Lailler © Gail Skoff

Pairs well with moules marinières, baked halibut, lobster rolls, grilled oysters, or fried fish sandwich.

					
2016 PINOT GRIS GRAND CRU "FLORIMONT" Kuentz-Bas <i>Alsace</i>	Pinot Gris	42-year-old vines Clay, limestone	Serve cold 50–54° F Decant optional	Mirabelle plum, dried fruit, apricot, smoke Powerful, broad, plump, refined	Drink now through 2028
2018 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE GORGES Domaine Michel Brégeon <i>Loire</i>	Melon de Bourgogne	65-year-old vines Gabbro	Serve cold 48–52° F Decant optional	Quince, sea spray, white pepper, flint Focused, bright, mineral, structured	Drink now through 2030

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