

2021 VIN DE FRANCE “BLANCHE” DOMAINE BRÉGÉON \$58

And now, for something even more offbeat: a Loire white that makes Aligoté feel downright mainstream. The first unusual thing you’ll notice here is the bottle shape, followed by the choice of closure—just wait until you cut the foil! Prepare to be bewildered by a most beguiling *blanc*, and the newest addition to the Domaine Brégéon lineup.

Folle Blanche, also known as Gros Plant, is a variety often used in Cognac and Armagnac production. It also has a stronghold in the Pays Nantais, an Atlantic wine region more commonly associated with Muscadet. Winemaker Fred Lallier crafts this rare bottling of pure Folle Blanche from 40-year-old vines grown in a soil of gabbro, an igneous rock rarely found in vineyard land but known to impart wines with impressive textural complexity and chiseled minerality. In the cellar, Fred macerates the grapes on their skins for three weeks to create this lithe and expressive “orange” wine. The combination of technique and terroir create a fascinating interpretation of Folle Blanche, and the opportunity to get to know this intriguing grape on a deeper, singular level.







An ideal palate-opener with a dry, cleansing finish and a fresh, cooling effect like coastal sage and seaspray, it’s the perfect accompaniment to salty, briny snacks like tinned fish, potato chips, or cured meats. —*Madison Brown*



Fred Lallier © Gail Skoff



Pairs well with ahi poke, salt cod fritters, or potato salad.

					
2020 BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ Domaine Taupenot-Merme Burgundy	Aligoté	Vines planted in 1950, 1986 Clay, limestone	Serve cold 48–52° F Decant recommended	Green apple, lemon zest, almond Lean, elegant, focused	Drink now through 2028
2021 VIN DE FRANCE “BLANCHE” Domaine Brégéon Loire	Folle Blanche	40-year-old vines Gabbro	Serve cool 50–54° F Decant optional	Blood orange, white pepper, anise Textural, juicy, tart	Drink now

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© Domaine Taupenot Merme

2020 BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ DOMAINE TAUPENOT-MERME \$33

Aligoté has long been dismissed as Burgundy's *other* white grape. No one thinks "Aligoté" when they hear "white Burgundy," and that's no coincidence. In 1937, the powers that be in France restricted Aligoté grown in the Côte d'Or to the generic Bourgogne Aligoté appellation, leaving more prestigious village designations for the region's golden child, Chardonnay, and its red counterpart, Pinot Noir. As a result, Burgundian vignerons largely turned away from Aligoté, planting it solely in lesser vineyard sites with an emphasis on quantity over quality. That's all started to change in recent years, however, as open-minded vignerons such as Romain Taupenot are breathing new life into this underdog grape variety.

Romain's family has been making wine in Burgundy since the 17th century, and he's the 9th generation to take the helm of the estate. He takes a hands-off approach in the cellar, sometimes referring to himself as a "lazy winemaker." Rather, he prefers to get his hands dirty working diligently in the vineyards, letting the fruits of his labor to evolve naturally so the wines can speak for themselves. The stellar terroir—Romain's Aligoté parcels are in Morey-Saint-Denis and Auxey-Duresses—in combination with his gentle hand in the cellar result in an approachable, elegant, and complex wine that would give many "white Burgundies" a run for their money. A bouquet of orchard blossoms and buttery brioche opens to lemon curd and almond notes on the palate, finishing with a pleasant creaminess backed by chiseled acidity. —*Madison Brown*



Pairs well with smoked salmon, soft-ripened cheeses, or vegetable tempura.

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