

Vins Gigou 2012 "Gigou't" (Gamay)

WineWise Code	FGI-GIG12
Country	France
Region	Loire
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	12.5
Residual Sugar	1
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	250
Varieties	Gamay 100%
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Aging method	Used Barrique
Aging duration (months)	36
Filtered?	No
Yeast	Native
Malolactic	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes
Soil Type(s)	Calcareous
Elevation (meters)	50
Vineyard Aspect	South
Vine age (years)	40
Vine Yields hl/ha	25-30
Farming practices	Organic
Grape Picking	Machine

Notes from the producer:

Established in 1974 with 4 hectares in the Jasnières appellation in the Loire. The domaine currently has 13 hectares of organically farmed land and the estate itself boasts 3 guest rooms.

Sylvie and Joël took over in 1974. Their son, Ludovic and daughter, Dorothee took over in 2012 and converted to organic farming practices.



WineWise Notes:

While we waited for the perfect Cru Beaujolais to come our way (see Perrachon), we found this remarkable essay in Gamay from the north. Uncommonly well coloured, it was aged in used Bordeaux barriques for upwards of two years then aged patiently in Gigou's labyrinthine caves before release. Plummy, smoky and not insubstantial, it should make a true believer of any doubters in the possibilities of Loire Gamay.

Joel Gigou continues to be the iconic producer of Jasnières. This miniscule appellation is 25 miles north of Tours in the Coteaux du Loir (itself an appellation barely larger, where Gigou also has holdings). The whites are a product of that magical Loire symbiosis between Chenin Blanc and tufa. Arguably, the expression here is the most singular and extreme in all the Loire region. Gigou is a conscious archaist. One look at the ancient photograph on his labels of peasants tilling the vineyards will confirm that. But the wines will hold their own against all that modern wine-wizardry can throw forth. They have that thrilling fusion of fruit and mineral which only the greatest Rieslings, white burgundies and Savennières can offer, surmounted by an ethereal floral perfume that brings tears to the eye. Son Ludovic has been groomed to take over the estate, and he has proved to be as attuned as his father to the qualities that are Jasnières' hallmark. When tasted amongst other wines of the appellation, they were as palpably dominant as any producer we have ever encountered in a comparative tasting. A big hit with David Schildknecht. We have now bitten the bullet and brought in our first reds and sparkling wine. The wines are organic, the yeasts are native.