



SYLVAIN POTIN
Biodynamic Viticulturist

CLAU DE NELL



BIODYNAMIC

FRANCE | LOIRE

CABERNET FRANC 2017

ABOUT THE WINERY

Domaine Clau de Nell is located in the Loire Valley wine region of Anjou, southeast of Angers and west of Saumur, in the village of Ambillou-Château. Clau de Nell was named in 2000 by the previous owners, Claude and Nelly, but the domaine has been in existence for 100 years or more and the age of the vines attests. The vineyards were converted to fully biodynamic cultivation in 2000 and yields estate wide are kept close to 30 hectoliters per hectare (2.2 tons per acre). Wines are aged in centuries old cellars made within historic troglodyte (limestone) caves created from the tuffeau quarries in the region. Purchased by Anne-Claude Leflaive and Christian Jacques in 2008, the family appointed Sylvain Potin as their biodynamic viticulturalist. A project built on immense passion, Christian Jacques famously quotes *“We have not chosen Clau de Nell, so much as Clau de Nell has chosen us!”*.

ABOUT THE WINE

This Cabernet Franc is a lively expression of the variety with powerful fruity aromas of black fruits like black cherry and mulberry. The wine’s softer structure balances integrated tannins with spice detail along the edge.

Harvested by hand, the destemmed grapes were fermented using native yeasts with more of an infusion maceration style than extraction in the tank. Bottled without filtration or fining on April 29th 2019, a “flower day”.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Vineyards have been 100% biodynamically farmed for the past 20 years
- An ideal expression of Cabernet Franc from the Loire Valley with no new oak and a light vinification process to accentuate the fruit and provide pure expression of the terroir
- Clau de Nell’s centuries old wine cellars were built into the iconic tuffeau (local limestone) found next to the winery

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Varietal Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc

Vine Age: 40 years | **Aging:** 12 months on fine lees in French oak casks, used five times before, followed by six months in stainless steel vat

Alcohol: 13%



WINEENTHUSIAST

“From the estate created by the late Anne-Claude Leflaive of Domaine Leflaive in Burgundy, this wine is beautifully structured, perfumed and ripe. Smoky tannins link with generous berry fruits to give a wine that is still aging and deserves more time. Drink from 2022.”

– Roger Voss, July 2020



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