

TERRA VITA VINUM

LOIRE VALLEY · FRANCE



**BÉNÉDICTE PETIT &
LUC BRIAND**

The dark rocks come first. Anjou Noir – the locals' name for this stretch of the Loire – sits on the western edge of the Armorican massif, where the soil is schist, gneiss, rhyolite, and granite. The stone is ancient and hard, nothing like the soft tuffeau of Vouvray upriver. Vines have to push deep to find water here. What they bring back carries the weight of the rock.

Bénédicte Petit and Luc Briand both grew up in Nantes but arrived at wine from opposite directions. Bénédicte spent a decade as a caviste – a wine merchant – tasting constantly, building an education bottle by bottle. Luc was the son of winemakers who chose not to follow them, pursuing other businesses for decades before circling back. It took him, by his own telling, about forty years to mature his winemaking project.

They purchased their estate from the Richou family in 2019 and earned Demeter certification the following year. The property spans twenty-five to thirty-four hectares organized into seven named terroirs, each vinified to stand on its own. Chenin Blanc dominates, with Cabernet Franc, Grolleau, and Gamay filling the reds.

The harvest comes in eight-kilogram crates – small enough that the fruit at the bottom isn't crushed by its own weight. Aging happens in new oak from three separate coopers, concrete eggs, and terracotta amphoras, each vessel matched to the character of a specific parcel. Bat corridors run between the blocks. Hedgerows and grazing cattle share the land with vines.

They don't buy grapes. Every bottle is grown, picked, and made on the property – a simple rule that turns thirty hectares into a full-time commitment to seven distinct expressions of dark Anjou stone.

Their top cuvée, Bigottière, comes from a single parcel. The schist there is so dense you can hear it ring when a hoe strikes it.

"If you want to produce a great wine, you need to have a taste for working the vines."

WINES AVAILABLE

CUVÉE



Bigottière Savennieres 2020
Savennieres
Chenin Blanc



Grand Vau Anjou Blanc 2022
Anjou
Chenin Blanc



Infusions VDF Rouge 2022
Vin de France
Cab Franc, Grolleau, Gamay, Chenin Blanc



Terre de 3 Anjou Blanc 2023
Anjou
Chenin Blanc



Violettes VDF Rouge 2023
Vin de France
Cabernet Franc

Demeter certified since 2020. Seven named terroirs vinified separately. Eight-kilogram harvest crates; new oak, concrete egg and terracotta amphora. Estate fruit only – no bought grapes.