

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, August 10th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Treasures from France's Loire Valley
With Drew from A&B Imports
\$10 Tasting Fee!

The Loire Valley in central France lies along the middle stretch of the Loire River. Once the playground of France's royalty and nobility, the Loire Valley has been a wine region of renown since before the Romans first invaded ancient Gaul and remains the source of delightful liquid treasure today!

Paul Buisse Cremant de Loire Brut NV \$16.99

Paul Buisse is well known in the Loire Valley, where in addition to his 15ha estate near Montrichard, he runs a fantastic negociant business sourcing great value wines from across the region.

Grapes for this sparkling blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay are hand harvested and carefully pressed to obtain the fine consistency required for two separate fermentations.

Bottles mature on wooden slatted racks for 12 months, resulting in a very delicate, aromatic wine containing tiny bubbles. Its intense aromas are reminiscent of brioche, with overtones of quince, lime blossom and honey so characteristic of Chenin Blanc.

Louis Métaireau Muscadet Sevre et Maine "Black Label" 2010
\$18.99

Muscadet, the light, citrusy wine from France's Loire Valley, is a quintessential summer white. This classic example from Louis Métaireau was made from Melon de Bourgogne, a grape that grows particularly well at the mouth of France's Loire River, where Atlantic breezes moderate the climate of this northerly region.

Lush aromas of peach and pear are layered over Muscadet's customarily lemony core. Hints of spice garnish chalky undertones for a nice dose of complexity.

On the palate, the wine is an intriguing blend of ripe, rich fruit and the structured, mineral acidity one expects from Muscadet, yet a creamy character softens and broadens the tight, focused nature, before a tangy and persistent finish.

Couronnes et Lion Sancerre Blanc 2012 \$16.99

Here is crisp, full-flavored Sauvignon Blanc from Sancerre. The hilly villages surrounding Sancerre in the upper reaches of the Loire River Valley are recognized as one of the original terroirs of world class Sauvignon Blanc. This is a true classic Sancerre offering ripe gooseberry aromas and a fresh, full citrus palate, leading to a long satisfying finish. Ideal as a partner to seafood, fish or for a traditional match, serve with goat's cheese.

Couronnes et Lion Sancerre Rouge 2011 \$16.99

100% Loire Valley Pinot Noir, this light fruity red shows off floral notes as well as soft tannins and spices, providing a nice introduction to the relatively rare red Sancerre.

L'Exceptionnel de Paul Buisse Saumur Champigny 2008 \$21.99

100% Cabernet Franc, this wine produces aromas of violets and raspberries and the palate follows suit with similar flavors. Supple, full and well balanced in the mouth, it pairs nicely with grilled meat, poultry, white meat and mild cheeses.

Pichard-Jourdan D'ecouverte Chinon 2009 \$18.99

The word "D'ecouverte" means the surface layer of rock, in geologic terminology. A direct translation is "discovery." And what a discovery it is!

Here's what we look for in a Chinon: a wine offering all the trademark notes you look for in Loire Valley Cabernet Franc. Due to low yields, the wine is less light and more medium-bodied. While typically herbaceous, this isn't just green pepper and cut grass, but also red Cabernet Franc fruit as well.