

DOMAINE LA BONNELIERE

SAUMUR CHAMPIGNY, ROUGE TRADITION 2020

André Bonneau and his wife created Domaine la Bonnelière in the town of Varrains, the heart of the Saumur-Champigny appellation, in 1972 with just a few hectares of vines. Today, their children Anthony and Cédric represent the 5th generation of the family. They have increased the size of the domaine to 40 hectares of prime vineyards and gained international acclaim for their wines. The Bonneaus are vigorous proponents of biodiversity in their vineyards and plant grass between all the rows. They farm sustainably, following the *lutte raisonnée* approach. The **Saumur-Champigny Tradition** is a selection of very ripe and healthy fruit from 20-year-old vines across the domaine's holdings on southwest facing slopes. The chalky limestone and gravel soil warms quickly and drains well, giving fully ripe and concentrated Cabernet Franc grapes. 15% of the *cuvée* sees pre-fermentation cold maceration and then 14 days of vatting in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. Extraction is attained as gently as possible by *délestage* and *remontage*, the circulation of the juice over solids. The Bonneaus do not punch down the cap (*pigéage*) in order to avoid extracting any bitter and tannic notes from the solids. From the fermentation period through December, the tanks are regularly given small doses of oxygen to aerate the juice and attain the round, soft and expressively fruity style desired. The Tradition is assembled and lightly filtered through diatomaceous earth before bottling in April. After a rainy winter, the **2020** season started early and was already 3 weeks ahead of the norm by May. Flowering occurred perfectly in the third week of May (earlier than in 2018 & 2019). The grapes ripened well over the summer which was hot and dry. *Veraison* happened in the 3rd week of August followed by beneficial rain which relieved the hydric stress. September was warm and sunny. Harvest took place under ideal conditions in the last two weeks of September, the earliest harvest ever in the region. The 2020 **Tradition** is a deeply colored, supple and generously fruity 100% Cabernet Franc wine with a rich texture and fresh and vivid flavors of dark cherries, dark berries, violets and spices. France's GUIDE HACHETTE gave the 2020 vintage 3 stars, acclaiming its "intense dark fruits and supple texture with crunchy, silky and soft tannins. Everything one would want is here."

