

La Moussiere Sancerre Blanc

The Alphonse Mellot Winery is a forty-eight hectare property located in Sancerre. The winery is heavily staffed with forty people employed working in the vineyard and making wine at all times, picking and caring for the grapes to ensure the best quality grapes (5 times as many as surrounding vineyards).

The vineyards are south, southwest. The soil is clay and limestone. Alphonse believes in dense planting of vines, he plants 10,000 vines per hectare. This causes the vines to compete against each other and work harder to produce top quality juice. The normal plantings at surrounding Sancerre wineries are 6600 vines per hectare.

Absolutely no herbicides and pesticides are used in the vineyards; the winery is working towards becoming entirely organic. All vineyard work and winemaking is done by hand. Alphonse performs abourgeonnage, the practice of eliminating any extra buds on the vine before bud break.

He believes strongly in keeping his yields low. Sancerre production limits are 68 hl per ha. Alphonse produces an average of 53 hl per ha. The grapes under-go whole cluster pressing with three pneumatic presses. Harvest usually takes place one week prior to other Loire producers to produce bright fresh wines. About 2,000 cases are produced every vintage.

GRAPE VARIETIES

Sauvignon Blanc (100%)

VINEYARD AGE

The vines are up to 40 years old with the average vine age at 20 years.

BARREL AGING

Fermentation is in vats for 50% of wine. The remaining part is fermented in new oak barrels. Aging on fine lees for 7 to 8 months and release in March of the following year.

TASTING NOTES

Fresh, almost prickly nose, with a little bit of honey and rich, pure fruit flavors of gooseberry and pear. Well balanced with a long finish.

Reviews

89 POINTS, WINE SPECTATOR

Sinewy Sauvignon, with lots of herb, flint, fleur de sel and citrus flavors. Taut finish. If you like 'em lean, try this now, or give it brief cellaring to open it up. Drink now through 2006. 20,000 cases made. – J.M.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“Great fruit flavors, extra layer of depth, best of tasting.”

GOODWINECHEAP.COM

“Excellent wine for a hot summer day and grilled shellfish. This is a very tangy, minerally wine that is full of melon and grapefruit flavors. The finish is long and lasting.”