

2009 Benoit Gautier Vouvray

**RATING:** 86 points

Also recommended, but no tasting note given.

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** -

I tasted some wonderful wines from Benoit Gautier two decades ago, including a special bottling of 1988 sec from the Clos Chateau Chevrier (a property he evidently no longer farms) which was long a favorite chez Schildknecht, and of which my next-to-last bottle was still fresh and spectacularly mineral when enjoyed earlier this year. I can't speak to Gautier's evolution in the intervening years, but his standard 2009 sec that reached me was good rather than exciting.

Russell Herman Selections, World Wine Source, Berkeley Heights, NJ; tel. (908) 771 9082 (various importers)

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$15

**SOURCE:** eRobertParker.com,  
#190  
Aug 2010

2009 Benoit Gautier Vouvray Argilex Demi Sec

**RATING:** 88 points

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$18

**SOURCE:** eRobertParker.com,  
#190  
Aug 2010

The 2009 Vouvray Argilex demi-sec displayed plenty of ripe quince and pineapple with candied lime and lily perfume overtones in the nose and a lush yet still freshly-fruited palate, underscored by a sense of chalkiness. I found its sense of sweetness, though, overrode any nuances that might otherwise have emerged in the finish. Those with a sweet tooth in this genre will however have plenty of good reasons other than sheer residual sugar to enjoy this, and I can imagine it becoming more interesting if left for a few years. I look forward to tasting a wider range of Gautier's wines in a less unusual vintage.

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Russell Herman Selections, World Wine Source, Berkeley Heights, NJ; tel. (908) 771 9082 (various importers)

-David Schildknecht

1995 Benoit Gautier Vouvray Clos la Lanterne  
(Sec)

**RATING:** 88 points

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** 1998 - 2002

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$15

**SOURCE:** WA, #117  
Jun 1998

This wine exhibits fresh scents of minerals, chalk, and earth. On the palate, this lovely medium-bodied wine offers excellent richness, superb balance, and concentrated layers of candied lemon zests, white flowers, and minerals. Anticipated maturity: now-2002+.

The young and dynamic Benoit Gautier crafts deliciously pure, precise, and focused whites from the 12 hectares of Chenin Blanc that form his estate

Represented by Russell Herman, Berkeley Heights, NJ; tel (908) 771-9082. (Reviewed by P. A. Rovani)

-Pierre Rovani

1989 Benoit Gautier Vouvray Cuvee Arnauld  
Grains Nobles

**RATING:** 93 points

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** 1992 - 2012

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$35

**SOURCE:** WA, #82  
Aug 1992

The 1989 Vouvray-Cuvee Arnauld, Benoit-Gauthier's decadent, sweet Chenin Blanc, is still an infant in terms of development. The compelling honeyed, floral nose, and the intensity of the flavors, buttressed by high acidity, make for a spectacular tasting experience. Although this wine should age and improve for 15-20 or more years, I'm a sucker for it now.

Importer: Weygandt-Metzler, Unionville, PA.

-Robert Parker

1990 Benoit Gautier Vouvray Sec Clos  
Chateau Chevrier

**RATING:** 92 points

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** 1992 - 1995

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$12

**SOURCE:** WA, #82  
Aug 1992

One pleasure that is largely unknown to American wine enthusiasts is the thrill of finding and drinking a totally dry, impeccably made Vouvray. No where does the lowly regarded Chenin Blanc grape reach such extraordinary heights of finesse and satisfaction as in Vouvray. That is clearly evident in this bone dry, barrel-fermented 1990 Vouvray-Sec that has been bottled without fining or filtration. An exquisite wine, it offers up aromas of minerals and a multitude of floral scents. In the mouth, there is beguiling ripeness, lovely, zesty acidity, light to medium body, and a dry, immensely pleasing, sexy finish. I could drink this wine all summer, fall, and spring! It should last for 2-3 years, but who can resist it now?

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1992 Benoit Gautier Vouvray Sec Clos  
Chateau Chevrier

**RATING:** 87 points

**PRODUCER:** Benoit Gautier

**FROM:** Vouvray, Touraine,  
Loire Valley, France

**VARIETY:** Chenin Blanc

**DRINK:** 1993 - 1998

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$15

**SOURCE:** WA, #87  
Jun 1993

This barrel-fermented, totally dry, intensely perfumed Vouvray admirably displays what heights the Chenin Blanc grape can attain. The 1992 is not as authoritatively flavored or as complex as the great 1990 (Gautier completely declassified his 1991). In the lighter 1992 vintage, Gautier has fashioned a wine for drinking in its first 4-5 years of life. All charm and elegance, it exhibits a huge, pure, flowery-scented nose, melony, light to medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, ripe flavors, and a crisp, dry finish. Importer: Weygandt-Metzler Importing, Ltd., Unionville, PA.

-Robert Parker