



# EVOLUTION

FINE WINES



Sancerre, France



## Domaine Thierry Merlin-Cherrier Sancerre Chêne Marchand 2019

SKU 872346 | 6x750 ml | \$35.99 Wholesale

### Winery Information

Thierry and Sophie Merlin-Cherrier own 13 hectares of prime location Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir in the village of Bué, one of the principle hamlets surrounding the old walled town of Sancerre. The soils here, caillottes and terres blanches (or Kimmeridgian Marl), deliver pointedly fruity, rich, and long-lived wines.

In addition, Thierry has just under a hectare of vines in the great vineyard of le Chêne Marchand, purchased in 1999. Chêne Marchand is one of the crown jewel vineyards of Sancerre and is the appellation's outstanding example of Caillottes terroir. If ever Sancerre were to classify its vineyards, Chêne would be a certain candidate for grand cru status. The vineyard grows on the western plateau above Bué where Thierry has two parcels, totaling only 0.84 hectare. Thierry, a fourth-generation winemaker who made his first vintage in 1982, maintains age-old traditional practices; plowing and hoeing are standard here, as is careful pruning.

### The Vineyard

Le Chêne Marchand is a single, gentle, south-facing site situated between Bué and Crézancy and is recognized as one of the potential 'Grand Cru' vineyards of the appellation. Thierry has two parcels in Chêne Marchand that total 0.84 hectares, or two acres (the surface of Chêne adds up to 30 hectares and makes up 10% of Bué's total surface of vines). The wines from Thierry's two parcels are co-fermented and aged on their lees in a single concrete tank for between 15 and 18 months, without fining and with a light filtration. It's an immensely elegant, long, and mineral Sancerre.

### Tasting Notes

The Merlin-Cherrier Sancerre Chêne Marchand is a lovely wine, with the vineyard's signature les caillottes chalkiness front and center in the wine. The bouquet is nascently complex and very refined, wafting from the glass in a mix of lime, green apple, just a touch of candied citrus peel, nuanced limestone minerality, very discreet grassiness and a floral topnote redolent of iris blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full and tightly-knit, with a good core, superb mineral drive, bright acids and fine length and grip on the nascently complex and quite elegant finish.

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