



## MERLIN CHERRIER SANCERRE CHÊNE MARCHAND

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Vintage '59 began working with Merlin Cherrier in 1997, its first handshake contract. In 2021 Thierry Merlin handed the reins to his daughter Agathe, the 5th generation Merlin. The domaine has 32 acres spread across 30 parcels, almost all of which are in Bué.

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### VINEYARD



**Site:** Bué occupies a small pocket canyon immediately west of the hilltop town of Sancerre. The horseshoe ring of hills rising above the village is covered in vines. Chêne Marchand is Bué's unofficial *grand cru* and its crown jewel, growing on the small western plateau above the village.

**Soil:** The limestone soil here is especially rocky—*caillottes*, Oxfordian limestone's stony marl. Chêne Marchand may be Sancerre's finest example of *caillottes* terroir.

**Vines:** From two parcels of mature vines totaling two acres (out of the lieu-dit's 30).

**Varieties:** Sauvignon Blanc.

### CELLAR

**Vinification & Aging:** In recent wet years, ferments have been started with a neutral yeast and takes place both in steel and in amphora; aging is in the same vessels for 16 months with lees stirring. Bottled without filtration.

**Production:** ~ 500 cases in a normal year.

**Profile:** An elegant, long and savory rendition of Sauvignon Blanc.