

Gilbert Picq & ses Fils

Chichée



The Wines

- *Chablis*: Normally this comes from 12 parcels and is invariably chock full of flinty seashell essence, making it a quintessential Chablis.
- *Chablis Dessus la Carrière*: The name translates as "over the quarry," for the two parcels that are reserved for this wine grow above an old quarry in a bed of pure Kimmeridgian limestone, essentially one mammoth *roche mère*, or mother rock. Both parcels were planted in the 1970s, one with a clone, the other with a *sélection massale*, and the two cover just under five acres of ground. The layer of topsoil is so thin here that there is a dead zone where nothing grows in the center of the parcels. These two parcels are always the first to be harvested by the Picqs, and the last to be bottled.
- *Chablis Vauclaire*: This is a parcel on the left bank of the Serein River, planted in 1985 and 1986 near Vosgros and Dessus la Carrière. At 1 hectare 65, or 4 acres, it's the Picq's largest appellation Chablis parcel and has, like several other villages parcels, always been vinified and aged separately before blending into the straight Chablis cuvée. Before that blending, Didier habitually held any number of tastings with friends, foremost being Jean-Louis Subtil, neighbor and great friend of the Picqs who taught at the Beaux-Arts in Paris and lived in Chichée until his death in a bike accident. Jean-Louis was a great taster and lover of wine, and he was the first to pick up on Vauclaire's quality. He came to favor it.

Didier bottled Vauclaire separately in Jean-Louis' memory for the first time with vintage 2022. The criteria is the same as for Vaudécorse: it will be bottled separately only if the vintage is both good and productive; otherwise, Vauclaire goes into the villages cuvée. And in those good and productive years, at least half of Vauclaire goes into the villages cuvée to ensure a good quantity of the base cuvée.

- *Chablis Vieilles Vignes*: This comes primarily from two hand-harvested parcels (occasionally up to two other parcels are used) of 80+ year-old-vines totaling 0.77 acres. These vines grow on the high plateau across the ravine from Vaucoupin, and just down a short distance from the Vaudécorse parcel.
- *Chablis en Vaudécorse*: One parcel of just over two acres planted in 1980 high on the hills on the Serein River's right bank. Compared to its sibling lieu-dit Vauclaire on the other side of the river, Vaudécorse is a more calcareous site. If a year is both productive and good, then this lieu-dit is bottled separately; otherwise, it goes into the Vieilles Vignes cuvée (prior to 2021, when the vines were younger, it would go into the straight Chablis cuvée in weaker vintages).

- *Chablis 1er cru Vosgros*: The Picqs have two parcels here totaling 3.5 acres. The larger of the two was planted in the 1960s; the smaller (half the size) was planted in the early 1980s, and both parcels face southwest. Vosgros is on the left bank. Its soil is brown marl limestone, and its wine, young, has a textured plumpness overlying its racy acidity. As an historical aside, the spelling of Vosgros was only codified in 1938 when the appellation of Chablis was created. Before that, there were various spellings and pronunciations, but a common one, from an old map in Didier's cellar, was Vaussegros, pronounced vauss-gross, with both s's being hard. This is how their father's generation referred to the vineyard. These days, the s's are silent.
- *Chablis 1er cru Vaucoupin*: The domaine's 1.5-acre parcel was planted on the right bank in 1989 on a terrifically steep, south-facing hillside where the winter snow is always first to melt. The soil here is pure Kimmeridgian limestone, white and layered, and the wine brims with Chablis's classic steely cut and minerality.