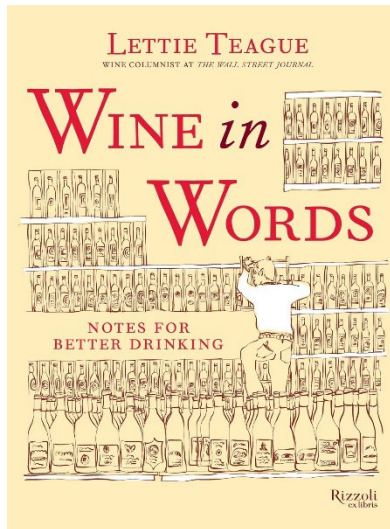




The Beauty of a (Good) Backstory

The best wines (and basketball teams) have the best backstories

[Lettie Teague](#), *Wine in Words*, Jun 23, 2026

Of all the stories about the 2026 NBA Championship New York Knicks, the backstories of the players themselves resonate with me the most: Jalen Brunson's second round draft status; Karl-Anthony Towns's profound personal loss; Landry Shamet's improbable rise from the G-league to the top. The backstories of good wines resonate deeply with me as well.

Take, for example, the Chablis I brought to a dinner with friends last week: the 2023 Domaine Gilbert Picq et Ses Fils Vauclaire Chablis (\$32). Produced by one of my favorite Chablis domaines, this wine was not only a textbook example of a terrific Chablis (beautifully balanced with racy acidity, a wonderfully savory minerality and a finish that went on and on), but it came with a poignant backstory too.

Located in the tiny Chablis village of Chichée, Domaine Gilbert Picq et Ses Fils is a family-owned domaine founded by Gilbert Picq and now run by his sons Didier and Pascal and their sister Marilyn. The Picqs' "basic" Chablis AOC is a staple in my cellar- a wine I buy year after year after year – it's that reliably good. It's also very reasonably priced although the price, as with the price of all white Burgundies, has crept up a bit. It's now around \$30 a bottle- which is still a (relative) bargain to me.

In addition to their AOC Chablis the Picq family produces other notable wines including several premier cru Chablis, an old vine (Vielles Vignes) Chablis and the Vauclaire bottling. Vauclaire is one of the 12 vineyard parcels that are blended into the Picq AOC Chablis. But

in 2022 the Picqs decided to begin bottling it separately as an homage to Didier Picq's good friend and neighbor Jean-Louis Subtil.

M. Subtil was a great taster and a great fan of Chablis from the Vauclaire parcel and when M. Subtil, who split his time between Paris and Chablis, died in a tragic bike accident, Didier Picq made the separate Vauclaire bottling in his friend's honor.



The 2023 vintage I tasted and loved will be succeeded by the 2024 vintage which will be in the market this fall according to Michael Daniels, a partner of Vintage '59 Imports. Mr. Daniels noted that the Picq family will continue to produce the Vauclaire bottling as long they believe they can do so "without compromising the quality" of the basic AOC Chablis.

As I read more about the Picq family on the Vintage '59 Imports website I discovered yet another great backstory: Didier Picq is a devoted equestrian who likes to ride his horse all over Chablis - an idea that thrilled this horse-mad journalist. And when I requested further details, Mr. Daniels responded with a picture of Kiowa, a beautiful chestnut Arabian- thereby shifting this backstory into the realm of a beautiful dream.