

LES DÉBUTS

POUILLY-FUMÉ

Francis Blanchet

DOMAINE FRANCIS BLANCHET

Pouilly-Fumé 'Les Débuts'

The appellation of Pouilly-Fumé sits across the river from the hills of Sancerre, in the eastern Loire Valley. Sauvignon Blanc here is characterized by an unmistakable smoky, flinty aroma—indeed, fumé means “smoked” in French. Long before “silex” was made into a brand name, it was simply the term used to describe the type of soil found in the best vineyards in the Loire. Francis Blanchet has been bottling wine from 100% silex vineyards, as well as separating out other terroirs to bottle as single-soil wines, since the early 1990s. His efforts show just how special this area is for great Sauvignon Blanc wines.

WINERY: Domaine Francis Blanchet

WINEMAKER: Francis Blanchet

ESTABLISHED: 1900s

REGION: FRANCE • Loire Valley • Pouilly-sur-Loire

APPELLATION: Pouilly-Fumé AOC

BLEND: 100% Sauvignon Blanc

VINEYARDS: A selection of fruit from estate vineyards, with each plot defined by a distinct soil type: Kimmeridgian (chalky) marl; clay and flint stone; and a mix of limestone with fossil-rich marl.

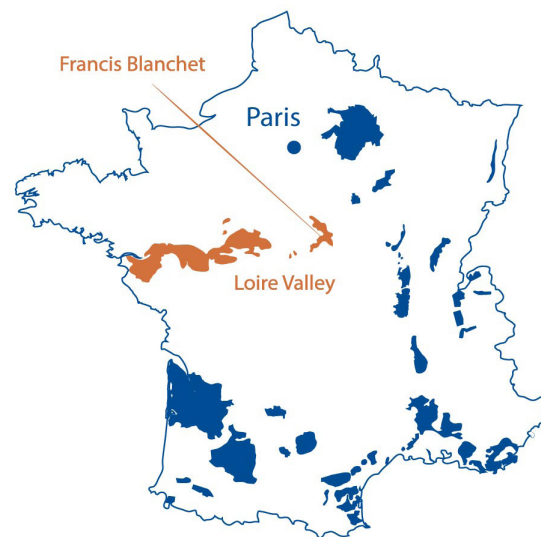
AGE OF VINES: 25 years, on average

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Pressed full cluster; fermented and aged on fine lees in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of white flowers, crushed sea shells, lemon rind, white fruit. Fresh and clean, with white fruits and citrus notes

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: As an aperitif; with fresh shellfish (oysters on the half shell) or roasted chicken with fresh herbs

NOTES: In French, “the beginnings” references a style of wine that Pouilly-sur-Loire winemakers used to traditionally make, combining fruit from all their various terroirs to craft a single wine. (Blanchet now crafts mostly single-vineyard or single-terroir selections.)



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