



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY



Pierre-Henri Gadais • Saint-Fiacre of Muscadet

Pierre-Henri Gadais is fifth generation Muscadet-ian. He's the grandson of the unforgettable trailblazer Michel Gadais, who along with legendary wine importer and writer Frank Schoonmaker, first bottled Muscadet from Saint-Fiacre in the 1950s. Saint-Fiacre is an "island" of weathered granite and schist-clay soils that sits at the wishbone of the Sèvre and Maine rivers. Their vineyards, some dating back almost 100 years, bear the imprint of the ocean, stamps of lunar-like sea fossils growing old with spirited vines of Melon de Bourgogne. Muscadet is a sprawling appellation, a blanket of Melon de Bourgogne vines from the heels of the Atlantic, past the city of Nantes, and upward towards the town of Ancenis. So why Melon de Bourgogne and not Melon de Loire? The grape was born in Burgundy in the 13th century and was taken to the Loire in the 16th century where it fueled the demand of Dutch traders who sought prolific grapes for distillation. Some say the name "Muscadet" refers to the "noix de muscade" (nutmeg) that the Dutch added to their distillates, others say the name eludes to the "musk" aroma of the wine. Musky, a term that couldn't be as far from the truth when speaking about the wines of the Gadais family.

Their vast inventory of old-vines provide a filter of quality, as they meticulously pick and choose which parcels will "make the cut." One cannot typecast the plotted rows of Saint-Fiacre. From decomposed granite to the crackle and pop of schist, from warmer south-facing vines to cooler north-facing vines, the diversity of "La Cantrie," "Croix de Pierre," "Les Masses," "Vertou" and "Les Perrières" is tangible. In a region where weather can dramatically affect a house style, Gadais has managed consistency in excellence without the sneaky help of synthetic yeasts or chemicals. From the bounce of "Saint-Fiacre Sur Lie" (the eye-catching white and pink '50s throwback label), to the flavor-packed monopole, "Les Perrières," these are the best white wines that you are not drinking. If great wine is a delicious expression of history and geography, then the wines of Gadais are a timeless manual.

The Wines of Gadais

Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Sure Lie "Saint-Fiacre"

Muscadet "Les Perrières" Monopole



65 year-old Melon in the Grand Mouton site



Pierre-Henri and Subterranean Tank #8....



...Down below Pierre-Henri, there's Michel



The Church of Saint-Fiacre watching-over the vines

