



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY

DOMAINE DE
NERLEUX



Domaine de Nerleux • Saumur-Champigny

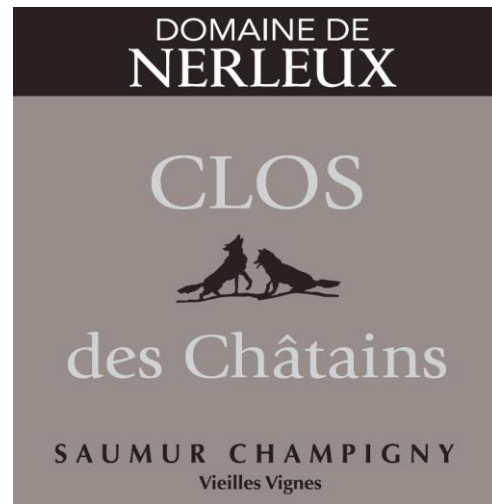
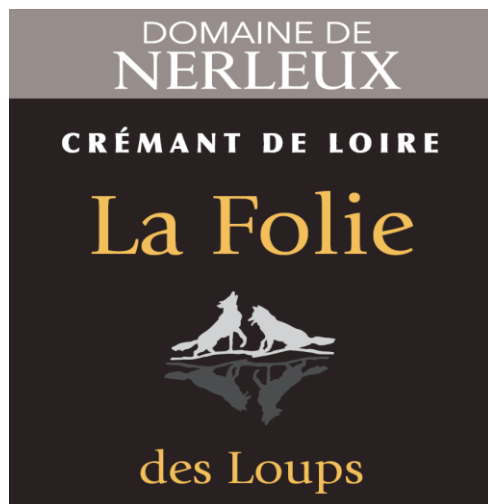
Guided by the delightful and talented Amélie Neau, daughter to a living legend, Régis Neau, and found in the petite Alice-in-Wonderland village of St-Cyr-en-Bourg. Don't worry when you visit; we'll send you the coordinates. The domaine is surrounded by history, and, of course, two monopole vineyards held by the Neau family for nine generations, coveted sites indeed. Clos des Châtains and Les Loups Noirs are cultivated and harvested by hand, and untouched by anything not *biologique*. No sacks of nitrogen fertilizer, no herbicides, nothing of the sort. Visiting the cellars, you find that this care carries over to their vinification. They use cement and enamel-lined vats, as well as INOX stainless steel tanks. Quality is in plain view at Domaine de Nerleux. New oak? Sorry, there is none. Demi-muids? Yes, and they really are incredible to see.

And what about the location of the domaine? Well, it is located in one of the Loire's most heralded appellations: Saumur-Champigny. Saumur-Champigny is not to be confused with the much larger appellation and city of the same name to the north called Saumur. Saumur-Champigny can only be produced from the vineyards of eight villages surrounding and including St-Cyr-en-Bourg. St-Cyr-en-Boug sits atop a broad hilltop in the Loire's Turonian plateau with soils of the famous *jaune tuffe* (yellow limestone), which is thick with ample chunks of the rock. Think Châteauneuf-du-Pape. From St-Cyr-en-Bourg, we focus further onto the vineyards of Domaine de Nerleux at the historic center of the commune and appellation. They are the Clos des Châtains vineyard, which is a whopping 5 hectares/12 acres and was planted in 1953; and the tiny, but beloved, Loups Noirs, "Black Wolves," which is a mere 2.5 hectares in size and was planted in 1933. Curiously, the Champigny of Saumur-Champigny comes from a Latin phrase, "campus igni", or "field of fire", and dates back to Henry IV. It is probably a reference to the hard limestone of the vineyards, which is heat-retentive and able to produce riper grapes than the surrounding appellations. Remember this when you visit. It is truly a place to see and experience.

The Wines of Domaine de Nerleux

Crémant de Loire Rosé "La Folie des Loups"

"Clos des Châtains" Vieilles Vignes Saumur-Champigny





Nerleux's enamel fermenting vats



Entering the village of St-Cyr-en-Bourg



*Regis and his daughter Amelie;
we could use more of these wonderful people!*



The chapel within Clos Chatains



Standing within the Loups Noir vineyard