



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY

Domaine de Nerleux • Saumur-Champigny

Amélie Neau is a ninth generation vigneron and daughter of Régis Neau, who grew-up in the wonderland town of Saint-Cyr-en-Bourg. The Neau family property is 50 hectares and will charm you with its 17th and 18th century buildings made from the local yellowish limestone rock, tuffeau jaune. The same rock (part of Loire's greater Turonian plateau) is the foundation of their vineyards, most notably their two monopoles, Clos des Châtains and Les Loups Noirs, which have been the stronghold of the Domaine since their restoration in the 1930s and 1940s. If you look up Nerleux on Google Maps, then you'll notice that they are sandwiched between two VIP estates. They have been approached, many times, to sell their land, but they are stubborn in their old-school ways. Their soils have never touched a synthetic chemical or fertilizer; that's nine generations of organic, and their discipline in the vineyard matches their logic in the cellar. They are advocates of natural yeasts and favor cement, steel, and demi-muids over new oak... pure Cabernet Franc goodness.

Crémant de Loire Rosé "La Folie des Loups"

"The madness of the wolves" is a not so mad, but a convivial sparkling wine of Cabernet Franc. The grapes are sourced from two vineyards that are specific to making this wine. The new release, based on the 2020 vintage was made in INOX steel, followed by second fermentation in the bottle and a tiny dosage at the end. Nerleux' Rosé Crémant de Loire is a smartly easy wine by-the-glass that practically guarantees the response, "I'll have another please."

Amélie Neau perhaps describes the wine best: "The colour has the delicacy of raspberry and the colour of Loire salmon. The effervescence forms a delicate creamy cord. The nose is persistent, the red and black fruits (raspberry, strawberry, blackcurrant) bring a very nice fruity freshness. On the palate, the impression is velvety, even unctuous, as the sparkling fine bubbles excite the satisfied palate of the taster. Of all my wines, I find I drink my Rosé Crémant de Loire most often."

