

Domaine Vincent Carême

Vouvray

Vincent Carême is one of the rare Vouvray vine growers who tries to renew, without revolutionizing, the style of this rather conservative appellation. A highly talented young producer known for his exquisitely balanced wines, this rising star is the embodiment of a long awaited renewal of Vouvray wines and a hope for the AOC's future.

The "Flying Winemaker"

Carême's approach to wine making is inspired by both tradition (he is the son of Vouvray grape growers) and a spirit of adventure. In addition to having four

vintages in South Africa under his belt, Carême has been providing training and technical support to Thailand's Château de Loei, located 460 km northeast of Bangkok, since 2002.

Because of the grape's natural affinity for spicy Thai cuisine, Château Loei focuses on producing a variety of Chenin Blanc-based wines, an area in which Carême has no small amount of expertise.

The "Professor"

Carême's work in Thailand exemplifies his commitment to keeping his perspective fresh by sharing it with others. His tender age notwithstanding, Carême is rightfully called "Professor." It's not just that he actually teaches at the wine production secondary school in Amboise, just east of Tours on the left bank of the Loire, the man has an uncanny ability to make the

most arcane mystery of grape growing crystal clear, for the benefit of professionals as well as the general public.

The Vineyards

Founded in 1999 with essentially rented vineyards, Carême's holdings currently comprise 15 hectares in AOC Vouvray, one of the most fascinating appellations in all of France. Though its soil is only about 18 inches thick, the vineyards of Vouvray are supported by a thick layer of limestone tufa whose properties are evident in Carême's wine. Vincent's vines are planted on the edge of the plate, the

wine made and preserved in cellars dug in an abrupt cliff.

The Wines

Carême has opted to do a longer élevage than what is usually the

practice in Vouvray. The result is wines that are more immediately rich and textured, while retaining a balance and purity of fruit. Vincent knows how to make wine, but he also knows how to work the vineyards. His goal, to enhance the cultivation of the vineyard to produce the best possible grapes, hardly seems newsworthy. Yet it's this philosophy, so often taken for granted, which guides the production of such purely expressive wines. The spontaneity and transparency of Carême's cuvées are a testament not only to his solid expertise but the care he lavishes on his vines.

