

Bernard Laporte

Loire

Founded in 1850 in the heart of the prestigious Sancerre appellation, Domaine Laporte is renowned for its quality. Located in the Loire Valley 200 km (125 miles) south of Paris, the Sancerre vineyards cover approximately 2,300 ha (5,700 acres).

A Unique Vineyard

The great pride of Laporte is the *Domaine du Rochoy*. Located in the commune of Bannay, the Domaine is a single 25-acre slope, unique in the region of Sancerre. It was, in the past, a Roman-Gallo quarry called "Rochetum." Situated at the edge of the Catonis Villa, overhanging the Loire River, the sun soaked flinty slopes absorb heat during the day and warm the vineyard during the night. This enables the grapes to ripen early, resulting in an exceptional white Sancerre which is rich and well-balanced, with a fine, flinty tang.

Winemaking Practices

The primary grape produced is Sauvignon Blanc, which grows well in the flinty soil called Cailloux, named after the area. After racking at a low temperature, the wine ferments for ten days in stainless steel tanks at temperatures ranging from 15° to 20°C (59° to 68°F). No malolactic fermentation is employed. The wine is matured on its fine lees for five months and is then vacuum-bottled, exclusively in dark tinted bottles. Only high quality natural corks are used. The wine undergoes additional maturation for at least one month in the bottle before being offered for sale.

