



THE GRAPE ESCAPE

# FÊTE DU BEAUJOLAIS 2023

THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> TO SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**“No sun – no moon!  
No morn – no noon –  
No dawn – no dusk –  
No proper time of day –  
November!”**

For poet Thomas Hood the penultimate month of the year was the most depressing. With its dark days and damp weather, we can all sometimes feel like November has little to recommend it. Luckily, we have Beaujolais Nouveau day to cheer us up.

Every third Thursday in November, we join thousands of winemakers and wine lovers to celebrate the end of harvest by toasting the vintage with the very first of it's wines. The vin de primeur, bottled just 6 to 8 weeks after harvest, is bright and fresh with fruity flavours. It is meant to be drunk immediately on release and we are OK with that!

However, there is so much more to Beaujolais than Nouveau. Although the region is just 34 miles long and 9 miles wide, it is home to 10 Crus, each with their own distinct personality. And whilst of course the Gamay grape reigns supreme, the rarer white wines are also worth getting to know.

## **GAMAY GUIDE @ £40**

**TRY ALL 15 OF OUR WINES FROM BEAUJOLAIS  
(15 x 50ml, can be spread over the week)**

## **INDIVIDUAL WINE FLIGHTS @ £15**

**THREE FLIGHTS OF FIVES WINES TO CHOOSE FROM (SEE OVER)**

**INDIVIDUAL GLASSES AS PRICED**

## **BEAUJOLAIS WINE FLIGHTS**

### **FLIGHT A (NOUVEAUS & ODDITIES):**

*Château de Vaux Crémant de Vaux NV*  
*Château Thivin 'Clos de Rochebonne' Beaujolais-Villages Blanc 2020*  
*Jean-Michel Dupré 'Glou-Glou' Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2023*  
*Château de Vaux Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2023*  
*Jean-Claude Lapalu Beaujolais-Villages 2022*

### **FLIGHT B (NORTHERN CRUS):**

*Domain Laurent Perrachon St. Amour 'la Gagere' 2020*  
*Domain Laurent Perrachon 'le Mouilles' Juliéнас 2018*  
*Domaine Thillardon Chénas 'Vibrations' 2022*  
*Famille Guerin Moulin a Vent 'Les Thorins' 2020*  
*Château de la Chaize Fleurie 'Clos de la Chapelle des Bois' 2020*

### **FLIGHT C (SOUTHERN CRUS):**

*Domaine Gilles Paris Chiroubles 2019*  
*Jean-Paul et Charly Thévenet Morgon 2021*  
*Domaine de la Plaigne Régnié 2021*  
*Château de Pavé Brouilly 2020*  
*Château Thivin Côte de Brouilly 'Les Sept Vignes' 2021*

**WINE FLIGHTS @ £15**  
**(5 x 50ml each)**

## BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

BN is the first wine of the latest vintage to be released in France to celebrate the end of the harvest and (hopefully!) a job well done. Nouveau is a fun and fruity drink, usually made from young vines. The grapes are picked towards the end of August/beginning of September and fermented using carbonic maceration; whole grapes are fermented under a cover of carbon dioxide before crushing. Conventional alcoholic fermentation involves crushing the grapes to free the juice and pulp from the skin with yeast serving to convert sugar into alcohol. Carbonic maceration ferments most of the juice while it is still inside the grape, although grapes at the bottom of the vessel are crushed by gravity and undergo conventional fermentation. The resulting wine is fruity and very low in tannins; it is ready to drink quickly but lacks the structure for long-term ageing.

### 1. Jean-Michel Dupré 'Glou-Glou' Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2023 Glass £5      Bottle £28

Jean-Michel Dupré and daughter Cindy are the fifth and sixth generations of winemakers to work the family estate from their cellars on the outskirts of Beaujeu. The Dupré ethic is to work naturally with minimum intervention to emphasise the vibrant pure fruit character of their Beaujolais.

### 2. Château de Vaux Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2023 Glass £5      Bottle £28

The twelve-hectare domaine is operated using eco-friendly and sustainable viticultural methods. Our good pal Chris Piper joined winemaker Yannick de Vermont at Château de Vaux for the 2021 after Château de Grandmont was sold (where Chris had made the wines since 2001).

## CRÉMANT

Crémant refers to sparkling wine made in the 'Méthode Traditionelle' outside of Champagne. Winemakers use the grapes from the region to make a sparkling wine which, more often than not, represents great value for money. There is no actual AOC Crémant de Beaujolais, so wines made in this manner in the region are labelled as Crémant de Bourgogne.

### 3. Château de Vaux Crémant de Bourgogne NV Glass £7

A new wine from Yannick, who decided to make his own sparkling wine after working with Chris Piper, who used to make a fantastic fizz at Château de Grandmont. This is 100% Chardonnay from grapes close to the Brouilly region – zippy and lifted with the slightest hint of brioche.

## BEAUJOLAIS-VILLAGES BLANC

Beaujolais Blanc white wines are produced in Beaujolais from the Chardonnay grape variety. They make up only about two percent of the region's production. A Beaujolais Blanc is typically light and fresh, and most of the wines are not designed for long ageing, unlike their white Burgundian counterparts.

Beaujolais appellation laws state that white wine grape varieties must make up no more than 15 percent of any one vineyard, effectively limiting the quantities of white wine that can be made here. Around 480 of the 3000 vineyards in Beaujolais are planted with rows of Chardonnay.

### 4. Château Thivin 'Clos de Rochebonne' Beaujolais-Villages Blanc 2020 Glass £8

This 16th-century walled vineyard is made up of the famous "golden stones" of this south Beaujolais region. It was historically attached to the Château de Rochebonne standing at the summit of the village of Theizé. The soil is clay/limestone from the Jurassic era, which is the preferred terroir for Chardonnay.

## BEAUJOLAIS-VILLAGES

Beaujolais Villages is an appellation made up of 38 villages in the north of Beaujolais. The hilly terrain and granite soil here is considered superior to that of the flatter lands in the south of Beaujolais. As a result, Beaujolais Villages wines are of a higher quality than those of the straight Beaujolais appellation. Most wines at this level are made using semi-carbonic maceration, known here as maceration traditionnelle.

The Beaujolais Villages appellation accounts for around a quarter of the Beaujolais region's total annual output. Most of this is red wine, with just small amounts of white and rosé wine produced. The appellation law has slightly different rules surrounding vinification and permitted yields than the more generic Beaujolais appellation. This gives rise to a slightly fuller-bodied, more concentrated style of wine. Most Beaujolais Villages wines are made for immediate consumption. However, some of the best examples can be cellared for up to five years.

### 5. Jean-Claude Lapalu Beaujolais-Villages 2022

Glass £7

Located in Saint-Étienne la Varenne, Jean-Claude Lapalu's domaine was born in 1996 when he bought it. Previously, this son and grandson of a winegrower had been selling grapes to the Cave Coopérative since he moved to Brouilly in 1982, until 1995. Since acquiring his own plots, Jean-Claude Lapalu has vinified 12 hectares of vines, planted with Gamay grapes in the Beaujolais Village, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly appellations.

## THE 10 CRUS OF BEAUJOLAIS

The region's highest-quality wines are those of the ten Beaujolais 'crus' – ten vineyard areas long recognized as the finest in the area. Each of these ten (from north to south - Saint-Amour, Julienas, Chenas, Moulin-a-Vent, Fleurie, Chiroubles, Morgon, Regnie, Brouilly, and Cote de Brouilly) has its own appellation title.

**SAINT-AMOUR** is Beaujolais' most northerly appellation, best-known for its light and easy-drinking wines dominated by bright red fruit flavours. Soils here are a bit varied, comprised of a mix of granite, clay, schist, and limestone. Wines from Saint-Amour generally show their best within a year or two after harvest. Unsurprisingly, a significant amount of Saint-Amour bottle sales take place around Valentine's Day (approximately 20-25% of annual production!)

### 6. Domain Laurent Perrachon St. Amour 'la Gagere' 2020

£7    £25    £36

Pursuing the work of their ancestors producing wines the traditional way the Perrachon family are masters at crafting greatness from the Gamay grape. This wine is from a small parcel of 70 year old vines on a very rocky soil, on the most northern part of the Saint Amour appellation, overlooking the village of Saint-Véran. This is a sensual and delicate wine with a great personality.

Below Saint-Amour sits JULIÉNAS, named after the ancient Roman leader, Julius Caesar. These wines have been admired since Roman times, known for their sturdier and slightly more tannic profiles. Because of this tannic structure and hearty backbone, wines from Julié纳斯 are some of the more age-worthy bottles to come out of Beaujolais. Expect wines with abundant notes of dark berries, violets, and hints of baking spice, balanced by gritty tannins and vibrant acidity.

#### **7. Domain Laurent Perrachon 'le Mouilles' Julié纳斯 2021**

**Glass £8**

Laurent Perrachon and his wife, Martine, run this impeccable 23-hectare family domaine, now with the help of their two older sons, Adrien and Maxime. These are traditionally made, serious wines with great terroir integrity, from vines that are an average of 45 to 60 years old. Long fermentations and indigenous yeasts are par for the course.

CHÉNAS gets its name from the word *chêne*, which means 'oak tree' in French. Despite being the smallest cru in Beaujolais, wines coming out of Chénas are full-bodied and fierce, known for their spicy, floral, and dark-fruited flavours. Here, grapes grow on just one square mile of slopes, cultivated by about 100 growers. During the 1700s, wines from Chénas were abundantly exported to Paris and held with high regard, as they were a favourite of Louis XIII.

#### **8. Domaine Thillardon Chénas 'Vibrations' 2022**

**Glass £9**

Thillardon's wines are regarded as the best in Chénas due to the attention to detail at every point by brothers Paul-Henri and Charles. They own 12 hectares of biodynamically farmed vines (10 in Chénas), planted in only the very best terroirs. These Gamay grapes come from granitic soil, vinified using whole cluster carbonic maceration followed by 8 months of ageing - 50% in old large-format oak, 50% in concrete tanks.

Wines from MOULIN-A-VENT are deemed some of the sturdiest and most age-worthy bottles in all of Beaujolais. Despite their solid structure, these bottles are surprisingly never too tannic, maintaining an approachable flavour profile in their youth. Juice tends to show a relatively opaque hue in the glass, leading to complex flavours of ripe dark berries, crushed red flowers, undergrowth, and game. Moulin-à-Vent vineyards are also some of the highest planted in all of Beaujolais, reaching altitudes of up to 1,280 feet. Soils are comprised of pink granite, and in just two square miles, over 4 million bottles are produced annually. The region is also home to an historical windmill monument from which the appellation derives its name.

#### **9. Famille Guerin Moulin a Vent 'Les Thorins' 2020**

**Glass £8**

Elisa Guérin delivers a fresh new vision for Moulin-à-Vent and a reminder of how noble a grape Gamay can be. Elisa crafts not only joyous wines for early drinking—full of violet, cherry and wilted roses—but also intense-yet-harmonious, ageworthy wines with notes of undergrowth and steeped black tea that provide tannin and structure. This wine is made from 60 year-old vines, fermented using semi-carbonic maceration with native yeasts, with the fermentation lasting 15 days. The wines is aged for 9 months, 80% in concrete tanks, 20% in older barriques from Burgundy.

As an appellation, FLEURIE boasts one of Beaujolais' highest concentrations of world-renowned producers, scoring it a relatively high regard amongst industry and consumers alike. Wines from Fleurie are known for their floral element (hence the appellation's name– fleur means flower in French.) Here, pink granite soils create healthy and juicy fruit, much of which is farmed organically. Expect sophisticated and silky bottles noted with violet, rose petal, and red fruit flavours.

#### **10. Château de la Chaize Fleurie 'Clos de la Chapelle des Bois' 2019**

**Glass £8**

Château de la Chaize acquired the Chapelle des Bois vineyard following the death of Fernand Verpoix in 2018. Christophe Gruy and his nephew, Boris (who is the head winemaker) have built a reputation as one of the outstanding estates in Fleurie, vinifying each of their parcels separately to express the terroir as best they can.

Of all 10 crus, the vineyards of CHIROUBLES sit the highest. Soaring vineyard altitudes lead to the region's lowest temperatures, meaning that these clusters are some of the last to be harvested in the region. Although the wines are wildly complex, bottles from Chiroubles are meant to be consumed relatively young. Notes of iris, strawberry, and crunchy red fruit flavours are most prevalent; expect delicate, ready-to-pop wines that are perfect for evening aperitifs. Chiroubles is also known for having some of the most punishingly steep and difficult to farm slopes, which may be a reason few producers venture towards this cru.

#### **11. Domaine Gilles Paris Chiroubles 2019**

**Glass £7**

Gilles was born in Quincié-en-Beaujolais. In 1990 he started in Chiroubles he cultivated the vines belonging to his inlaws, which were destined for the local cooperative. In 2005 he decided to change direction and bottle his own wines. Today Gilles has 8 hectares of Beaujolais in Chiroubles, Fleurie and Morgon; each plot is grown in a sustainable agriculture way (respect for the terroir, and he uses only natural yeast in the cellar.

**MORGON** is the second-largest cru in Beaujolais, just after Brouilly. Like Fleurie, Morgon is home to an array of high-quality producers, including all of the original 'Gang of Four'\* vigneron. Wines are best-known for their full-bodied and meaty flavour profiles, marked by cherry, iron, and wet stone notes. These bottles show their best when served alongside equally hearty food and are standout candidates for long-term cellar aging.

#### **12. Jean-Paul et Charly Thévenet Morgon 2021**

**£8    £30    £42**

From dynamic father-son duo Jean-Paul and Charly Thevenet, this cru Beaujolais is bursting with juicy red fruits and blackberry compote. What appears at first to be easy drinking rounds out with spices, herbs and a surprising complexity that perfectly complements a wine so light on its feet.

*\*GANG OF FOUR In the 1980s, more than 50% of Beaujolais' output was Nouveau, with many winemakers sacrificing their best grapes to get the wine out by the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November to capitalise on the (then) Nouveau phenomenon. Four winemakers (Jean-Paul Thévenet, Guy Breton, Jean Foillard and Marcel Lapierre) said enough was enough and turned to tradition to produce high quality, terroir-driven wines they could be proud to call Beaujolais. Their natural winemaking methods hinged on several non-negotiables: old vines; organic or biodynamic farming principles; strict sorting of the grapes; minimal use of sulphur dioxide; no chaptalisation; and no filtration.*

**RÉGNIÉ's mineral-laden, pink granite soils comprise just one small square mile, but produce some of the region's most interesting wines. Vineyards are mostly cultivated on rolling hillsides, many of which sit over 1,000 feet above sea level. Régnié is the youngest of the 10 crus, officially receiving its AOC status back in 1988. Aromatic and bright, these wines tend to show flavors of raspberry and red currant. These bottles mature relatively early and generally show their best when consumed within five years of harvest.**

### **13. Domaine de la Plaigne Régnié 2021**

**Glass £6**

Domaine de la Plaigne has been owned and run by Gilles and Cécile Roux since 1991. The estate is based in the village of Regnie-Durette and comprises of 9 hectares of Régnié and 2 hectares of Beaujolais-Villages vines. The hand-harvested Gamay vines cultivated by the estate grow on sandy granitic soil and their average age is 40 years. Light and fruity, this superb Beaujolais-Villages bears all the hallmarks of the Roux wines: great depth of fruit and concentration thereby avoiding the boiled fruit clichés.

**BROUILLY covers a whopping 20% of Beaujolais' entire area and is split into six communes. The region's soils are broken down into two major types: pink granite and limestone-marl. Wines from Brouilly show a gorgeous ruby hue in the glass, with varied yet all-around fruit-forward flavour profiles dominating the bottles. Light and easy-drinking, wines from Brouilly are your typical Parisian 'bistro' wines. Over 8 million bottles are produced in Brouilly every year**

### **14. Château de Pavé Brouilly 2020**

**Glass £6**

Originally established in 1631 by Antoine Brac, this three hectare vineyard is perfectly situated at the foot of the Côte de Brouilly. The vines are cultivated using the 'eco-friendly' methods, yields are kept impressively low and there is minimal intervention in the winery, allowing the exceptional terroir to show through. This was Chris Piper's last vintage at Pavé after the Brac family decided it was time to sell up.

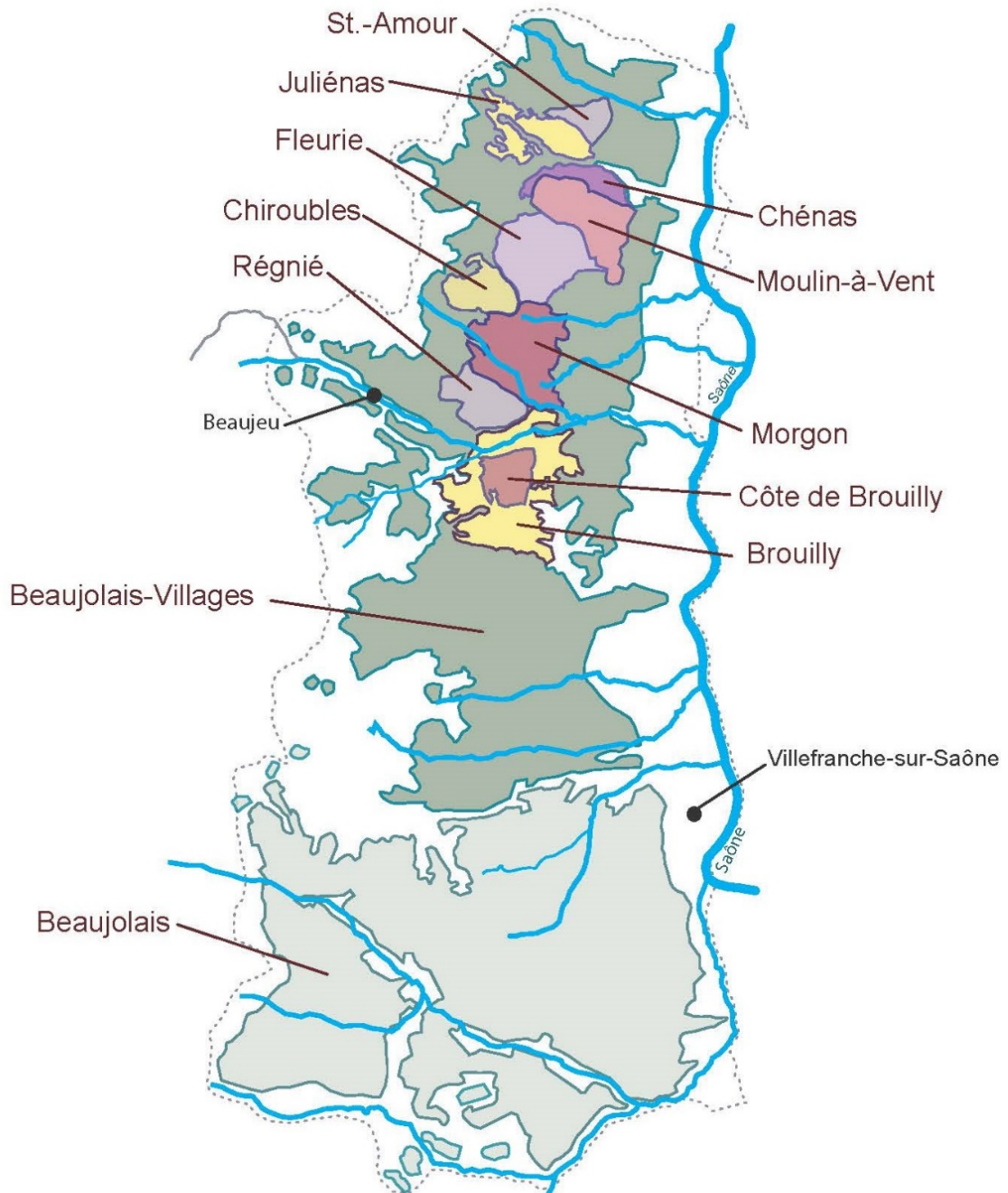
**CÔTE DE BROUILLY sits within the larger Brouilly appellation. Vineyards are mostly located on the regional hillsides, where fruit tends to ripen a little better. Structured and ageworthy, these wines tend to be meatier and cellar-friendly, showing flavours of dark berries and wet stones. However, one of the Côte de Brouilly's biggest issues is soil erosion. Local vigneronns have been working together for decades to create drainage facilities to release excess water from the appellation's soaked slopes. The region's soils are also marked by high levels of diorite, a hard volcanic rock, which gives the wines a distinctly noticeable flavour.**

### **15. Château Thivin Côte de Brouilly 'Les Sept Vignes' 2021**

**Glass £8**

Château Thivin is one of the benchmark Beaujolais producers and one of the oldest. This wine is made from old vines, traditional whole-cluster fermentation and aged in very large old oak barrels which results in a dense and beautifully aromatic range of wines with great structure. 'Les Sept Vignes' is a blend of the estate's holdings in the Cote De Brouilly. As far as Beaujolais goes this is a pretty serious and concentrated wine. It's silky smooth and full of cherries and black fruits, with a stoney minerality and a spicy finish.

# Wine Regions of Beaujolais



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