

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines From the Loire Valley

More than 350 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at www.winespectator.com/111517. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Clos du Bourg 2016 A stunner, with beautiful pear, green fig, yellow apple and quince notes that are creamy and sweet, yet seamless and refined in feel.	97	\$50
CHAMPALOU Vouvray Les Tries 2015 Offers an endless supply of orange peel, almond cream, glazed pear, peach and yellow apple fruit, all while staying lithe, pure and racy.	96	\$66 500ml
DIDIER DAGUENEAU Sancerre Le Mont Damné Chavignol 2014 Shows a mature edge, with a slightly rounded feel to the lemon curd and gooseberry gelée notes that glide through.	96	\$135
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Demi-Sec Le Haut-Lieu 2016 Delivers a beautiful display of purity and grace, with creamed Jonagold apple, star fruit, white peach and chamomile notes.	96	\$44
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Clos du Bourg Première Trie 2016 Ripe, taking a slightly more power-driven approach, with a mix of tropical mango and papaya fruit, backed by orchard fruit accents.	96	\$69
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Le Mont 2016 Bright, even exuberant in feel, with a parade of Jonagold apple, green melon, Bosc pear and quince flavors streaming through.	96	\$50
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Le Mont Première Trie 2016 Features an intense beam of glazed peach, dried apricot, fresh ginger and heather honey notes, backed by baked mirabelle plum accents.	96	\$69
CHAMPALOU Vouvray La Moelleuse 2015 Intense, with racy quince, green fig, mirabelle plum and yellow apple fruit zipping through, all while keeping an unctuous hint.	95	\$45 500ml
DIDIER DAGUENEAU Pouilly-Fumé Buisson Renard 2014 This has a rich hint, with notes of paraffin and lemon curd, but stays racy, showing honeysuckle, white asparagus, flint and sel gris flavors.	95	\$110
DIDIER DAGUENEAU Pouilly-Fumé Pur Sang 2014 Chiseled, with a pure beam of gooseberry, white asparagus and white peach flavors inlaid with light talc, chamomile and mineral accents.	95	\$110
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Demi-Sec Clos du Bourg 2016 Gorgeous, with creamy-edged nectarine, yellow and green apple, pear and quince flavors that are brightly defined from start to finish.	95	\$44
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Demi-Sec Le Mont 2016 This tilts toward the flattering side of off-dry, showing a plump feel to the core of creamed pear, white peach and yellow apple fruit.	95	\$44
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Le Haut-Lieu 2016 Gorgeous crystallized ginger, dried quince, glazed pear and warm persimmon notes are seamlessly interwoven here. Lengthy finish.	95	\$45
DOMAINE DES BAUMARD Savennières 2015 Alluring, with quince, creamed pear, verbena and green almond flavors allied to a creamy texture, all offset beautifully through the finish.	94	\$30
DOMAINE DU CLOSEL Savennières Clos du Papillon 2015 Persimmon, quince and mirabelle plum notes form the core. Streaks of verbena, chamomile and quinine give this lift and cut.	94	\$50
DOMAINE HUËT Vouvray Sec Le Mont 2016 Green plum and verbena notes lead the way for now, with a flash of quinine on the finish. This is juicy, but still a bit compact overall.	94	\$37
FRANÇOIS PINON Vouvray Cuvée Botrytis 2005 Mature, with a broad marzipan texture that glides slowly, allowing dried orange peel, date, green fig and green tea notes to loll through.	94	\$45 500ml

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CHAMPALOU Vouvray 2015 Sleek pear, green apple and green plum notes race through this white.	91	\$20
CHÉTEAU DE COULAINÉ Chinon 2015 Lively, with a mix of olive and bay leaf along the edges.	91	\$18
JEAN-MAURICE RAFFAULT Chinon 2015 Inviting, with a core of gently steeped cherry and damson plum fruit.	91	\$16
VINCENT CARÈME Vouvray Spring 2015 Friendly in feel, with layers of quince, papaya and creamed pear.	90	\$20
FRANÇOIS CAZIN Cour-Cheverny Le Petit Chambord Vendanges Manuelles 2014 High-pitched and fresh, with green fig, pippin apple and fennel notes.	90	\$19
DOMAINE DE LA COTELLERAIE St.-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil La Croisée 2015 Alluring, with singed bay leaf, pepper, cassis and bitter cherry notes.	90	\$20
DUVEAU FRÈRES Chenin Blanc Saumur 2016 Fresh, with a dry edge to the pear, yellow apple and verbena notes.	90	\$17
DOMAINE DE L'ENCHANTOIR Saumur White Terres Blanches 2015 Bright and racy, with green almond, mirabelle plum and star fruit notes.	90	\$15
BENOIT GAUTIER Vouvray 2015 Lovely, with persimmon, quince, verbena and lime notes.	90	\$16
DOMAINE DU NOZAY Sancerre 2015 Offers a chiseled feel, with flint, lime pith and fleur de sel notes.	90	\$19
DOMAINE DE PALLUS Chinon Messanges 2016 A fresh style, with high-pitched red currant and bitter cherry notes.	90	\$16
JEAN-CLAUDE & CHRISTOPHE PICHOT Vouvray Domaine Le Peu de la Moriette 2015 Offers a ripe feel, with creamed pear, ginger and quince flavors.	90	\$20
CHATEAU DE LA ROULERIE Chenin Blanc Anjou 2015 Vibrant acidity backs anise, star fruit, white peach and apple flavors.	90	\$16
DOMAINE DU SALVARD Cheverny 2016 Offers a good chiseled feel. Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay.	90	\$16
HENRI BOURGEOIS Quincy Haute Victoire 2015 Offers a good crackling feel, with chive and gooseberry notes.	89	\$18
DOMAINE DE LA CHANTELEUSERIE Bourgueil Cuvée Alouettes 2015 Fresh and racy, with bright red currant and bitter cherry notes.	89	\$16
JÉRÔME CHOBLET Grolleau Gris Vin de Pays du Val de Loire Domaine des Herbauges 2015 Pink grapefruit and peach notes are backed by a nectarine nectarine.	89	\$15
LACHETEAU Vouvray 2015 Offers lively pippin apple, green almond and green melon rind notes.	89	\$8
NICOLAS MILLET Sancerre Champ Secret 2016 Sleek, with a flinty edge to the core of lemon pith, verbena and straw.	89	\$20
CHATEAU DE LA MULONNIÈRE Chenin Blanc Anjou M de Mulonnière 2015 Plump, with bright ginger, quince and yellow apple flavors.	89	\$15
PITAUULT-LANDRY & FILS Bourgueil Domaine Les Pins Les Rochettes 2015 A bright, light-bodied red that relies on racy cherry and plum fruit.	89	\$18