

CHINON: L'ARPENTY

Style

Red, Dry

Region

Loire

Wine Maker

Francis Desbourdes

Appellation

Chinon, in the central Loire valley on the south bank of the Loire

Cépage

100% Cabernet Franc

Tasting Note

Youthful and fruity with a welcome absence of hard tannins. The ripe raspberry flavours blend with cool mineral notes.

Serve

Lightly chilled, it is a versatile with a range of foods but, traditionally, with goat's cheese.

Cellarage

Drinks well young and responds to short-term ageing.

Vinification

Grapes are fully de-stalked before a two week alcoholic fermentation. The wine is then stored off its lees in subterranean tanks before a late spring (end of April) bottling.

History

Chinon has a rich viticultural history. Cabernet Franc is rumoured to have been introduced from Bordeaux by Cardinal Richelieu in 1631. Its fame was further enhanced by the writer François Rabelais who was born near Chinon and often wrote of the region.

There are extensive plantings in Chinon and production tends to be polarised between large négociants and (very small) smallholders. Monsieur Desbourdes is typical of the latter having taken over the vineyard from his late father Raymond.

