

Muscadet Wine and the Domaine Pierre Luneau-Papin

Quotations

“Wine has always been for sharing, for friendship and for immediate pleasure.”
(Domaine Luneau-Papin)

“[Pierre Luneau] also spoke of the value of these wines as a collector’s item, which he found legitimate, but a little bit, let’s say sad, since wine is meant to be consumed and enjoyed and shared.” (Dr. J)

“[Pierre Luneau] also warned against publicity scams and wines being overpriced for no reason. He had great advice for students on a budget, urging them to seek out individual wine makers and caves and perhaps smaller wine dealers with more knowledge of the wines, and the ability to pre-select even wines that are perfectly affordable.” (Dr. J)

“It seems to me that the French just develop a sense for which wine goes well with what, and how to match a meal to a wine from childhood, which I think is a skill that certainly gives some spice to life.” (Dr. J)

“On their trip to Japan, Pierre and Monique Luneau met a sushi chef, [...] who believed that the Domaine Luneau-Papin Muscadets were the perfect wine to accompany his sushi creations.” (Dr. J)

“Pierre Luneau talked about funny marriages, or daring ones as well. And here, he mentioned, for example, matching oysters with a red wine. This is done often in the Arcachon region. Of course, this is a particularly painful marriage to observe for Pierre Luneau, since the Muscadet is reputed as the perfect wine to go with oysters. So Pierre Luneau laughed about how the restaurants in the Arcachon region add a small sausage to go with the oysters, to justify their choice of a red wine.” (Dr. J)

Vocabulary

Source: Merriam Webster online dictionary www.merriam-webster.com

General Vocabulary

acidity (noun): the quality, state, or degree of being acid

adore (verb): to be very fond of

appreciation (noun): a feeling or expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude

connoisseur (noun): one who understands the details, technique, or principles of an art and is competent to act as a critical judge

elitist (noun): one who is an adherent of elitism : one whose attitudes and beliefs are biased in favor of a socially elite class of people

favor (verb): to afford advantages for success to

ferment (verb): to undergo fermentation

fermentation (noun): an enzymatically controlled anaerobic breakdown of an energy-rich compound (such as a carbohydrate to carbon dioxide and alcohol or to an organic acid)

fond (adjective): cherished with great affection

intricate (adjective): having many complexly interrelating parts or elements

mullet (noun): any of a family (Mugilidae) of chiefly marine bony fishes with an elongate rather stout body

nostalgic (adjective): longing for or thinking fondly of a past time or condition

paternal (adjective): related through one's father

pipette (noun): a small piece of apparatus which typically consists of a narrow tube into which fluid is drawn by suction (as for dispensing or measurement) and retained by closing the upper end

Riesling (noun): a white wine that ranges from dry to very sweet and is made from a single variety of grape originally grown in Germany

sommelier (noun): a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service : a wine steward

vineyard (noun): a planting of grapevines **zest (noun):** an enjoyably exciting quality

Discussion Questions

1) What did you know about Muscadet before listening to this episode? Have you ever had a glass of Muscadet? If yes, when and where? If not, will you now?

2) How carefully do you match your wine to your meal?

3) Do you think that using a screw cap can alter a wine's quality and taste noticeably? Do you prefer wines bottled with an actual cork?

4) How essential are wineries to southern European cultures?

5) Would you buy your wine from a smaller wine dealer who could give you better advice and service, even if it meant that the wine cost more than at the supermarket?

6) Do you think it is problematic for Europeans to purchase wine from Australia or California, when they have the option to buy locally? Vice versa, is it problematic for

Australians or Americans to buy European wines, when they have wines available from their regions?