

## THE "BELARGUS" DOMAIN COMPLETES ITS COLLECTION OF GREAT TERROIRS OF ANJOU

*Six months after taking over Jo Pithon's estate,  
Ivan Massonnat moves into Savennières and completes his team.*

### FROM PITHON-PAILLÉ TO "BELARGUS"

By acquiring the Pithon-Paillé estate, Ivan Massonnat realized his wine lover dream, and laid the foundations of an ambitious project: to build an exceptional vineyard on the most remarkable terroirs of Anjou to produce great Chenin Blanc wines in Biodynamics.

Ivan Massonnat is now finalizing the land perimeter of his estate, settling in the village of Savennières: he is taking over a new set of vines and acquiring an exceptional hillside terroir (the *Clos des Ruchères*). He will now exploit nearly 3 hectares on the highly sought-after appellation of Savennières. Attached to the Clos, a charming 1900-style house will be transformed into a new reception area. With an underground cellar (an extremely rare feature for this region of schist), this house will become the new home for ageing all the cuvées of Savennières.

The new estate, now fully constituted, will be called **BELARGUS**, in homage to the rarest cuvée produced by Jo Pithon ("*Belargus des Treilles*"). This is also the name of a little blue butterfly, very rare at this latitude but present on the *Coteau des Treilles*, which aims to embody a universal message: the beauty and fragility of Nature.



### A COLLECTION OF GREAT TERROIRS OF ANJOU

With this latest acquisition, the Belargus Domain reaches its final size of 26 hectares, and is now organized around 3 exceptional terroirs:

- The ***Coteau des Treilles (Monopoly)***, jewel of the Pithon-Paillé estate: a 3-hectare hillside facing South, abandoned after the war because of its steep slopes (30 to 70%). It is an island of biodiversity, located within an area classified as "Regional Nature Reserve".
- The ***Quarts de Chaume (Great Growth)***: 10 hectares in one piece (representing a quarter of this micro-appellation, the only one to be *Grand Cru* classified in the entire Loire Valley), including the historic plots of the appellation: "*Les Quarts*" and "*Les Rouères*" notably.
- The ***Clos des Ruchères (Savennières)***, object of the current purchase: 45 ares of an abrupt hillside, enclosed by walls and implanted on magnificent purple schists. Deforested and planted only ten years ago, it is contiguous to the "*Roche-aux-Moines*" appellation area.

## "START-UP" SPIRIT AND BURGUNDY VISION

It is with the same energy that Ivan Massonnat has formed a young and passionate team, now totaling 7 people, all of whom have built their experience with reference domains.

The young winemaker, Adrien Moreau (24), is the son of a Loire Valley farmer. An agronomist engineer and an oenologist by training, he has built his experience in renowned estates (Cheval Blanc, Haut-Brion, Harlan Estate, Roederer). Fully invested by his side, Jo Python continues to advise the Domain and will share his long winemaking experience (40 vintages) and his intimate knowledge of the terroirs of Anjou.

On the vineyard side, the head of culture previously in place, Geoffroi Cocard (27) was joined by three other people. Among them, Amaury Chartier (29), formerly with the Languedoc's Roc d'Anglade estate, will be entirely dedicated to the *Coteau des Treilles*, with the mission of working it "like a garden". This team will benefit from the support of Guy Bossard, pioneer of Biodynamics in France and former owner of Domaine de l'Ecu in Muscadet (certified organic since 1972).

The Belargus team, combining youth and experience, had the chance to bond around the 2018 vintage, already announced as exceptional.

The team will follow the Burgundy vision dear to Ivan Massonnat: to express the quintessence of terroirs, through the prism of single plots, thanks to living soils and a protected biodiversity. A vast restructuring and investment plan has been launched, focused on the vineyard (notably plant material) and the precision at each step of the winemaking process. The Belargus Domain aims to be quickly 100% certified in Biodynamics.

## PITHON-PAILLE REMAINS

Alongside the Belargus Domain's owned vineyard, will remain the Pithon-Paillé "*artisan négoce*" created by Jo Python 10 years ago. The goal is to complete the Belargus range with the best Loire Valley terroirs, e.g. in the Bourgueil, Saumur-Champigny, Chinon or Crémant de Loire appellations. Both ranges will be distinct and will eventually address complementary markets.

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