

SÉBASTIEN BESSON Chenas



REGION/ ORIGIN	Beaujolais Chenas AOC	WINEMAKER	Sébastien Besson
VINTAGE	2018	WINERY ESTABLISHED	2016
VARIETALS	100% Gamay	VINEYARD(S)	Estate fruit (7ha)
ALCOHOL	14.2%	AGE OF VINEYARD(S)	35 years old
FERMENTATION	Concrete & Stainless Indigenous yeasts	SOIL TYPE	Granite
AGING	6 months	ELEVATION	300 meters
AGING VESSEL	Concrete tank	FARMING METHODS	Organic
FILTER/FINING	Diatomaceous Earth No fining	TOTAL PRODUCTION	10,000 bottles
TOTAL SULFUR/ RS	35 mg/l 1 g/l	HARVEST TIME	September

Besson is a new extension from the four-generation estate Domaine du Penlois. The ability to start with estate fruit nestled within some of the top Cru of Beaujolais is not only rare, but also incredible.

There is a very exciting renaissance that has been happening in the Beaujolais region of France, and at its core is a new generation of winemakers that have learned everything they know from their progenitors. To pair with that unparalleled guidance, there is a youthful energy and worldly view that is taking the wines and the region to new heights. *Sébastien Besson* is now the fourth generation of the family to take the helm at Domaine du Penlois, which originated in the 1920's by his great-grandfather Benoît, situated on a small hill called Lancié (nestled in between Morgon, Fleurie, and Moulin-à-Vent). Sébastien's father, Maxence, took over in 1977 and accrued more and more Cru vineyards in the region, giving the Domaine 30 hectares in total. While making the sustainably farmed Domaine wines with his father, Sébastien began an eponymous project in 2016. He converted small granite-rich plots on the property to strict organic farming, spanning not only portions of their Village Appellation sites, but parcels of three Crus as well (a total of 7 hectares). With natural fermentations and aging in concrete vats, and a small sulfur addition before bottling, the wines of Sébastien Besson are pure, driven, and remarkable expressions of top Beaujolais.

*Respect for the land, the grapes, and the entire process, is my top priority...
Because without these things, I have nothing – Sébastien Besson*

The 2018 *Chenas* is a well-structured example of bush vine Gamay that grows on the intense granite soils of the Cru. When the grapes reach their ideal balance between sugar and acidity, they are hand harvested and brought to the cellar in Lancié. Natural fermentation in both stainless and cement takes place with whole clusters, until they are gently pressed after a couple of weeks, returned to their vessel to complete fermenting, and then aged in concrete for about 6 months. A light sulfur addition was made before bottling, and then after 5 months in bottle, the wine was released to market. A robustly pretty nose of red berries and flowers shoots forth from the dark hued juice in the glass, and leads to a well-structured, yet crunchy freshness in the mouth. The length and finesse in this wine are absolutely delicious, with ample acidity, bright fruit, floral hints, and stone.