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Domaine François et Julien Pinon

Eight generations of Pinons have run this estate, situated a few miles northeast of Vouvray and dating back to 1786. Since 1987, the estate has been run by François Pinon, a former child psychologist, who has been recently joined by son Julien, who previously worked as a city planner. With 15 hectares of old vines of mostly clay and flint soils in the Vallée de Cousse, the Pinons have been certified organic since 2007. "Chenin Blanc is a very fragile variety, very dependent on climate, and so we cannot do exactly what we want with it," says Julien, "The climate often makes us want to do sweeter wines. But the people want drier wines. So we're in the middle of a contradiction." In 2018, for example, Pinon's dry wines pushed the limits of sec, with 8 grams per liter of residual sugar. Still, the Pinons are among the most forward-thinking Vouvray producers and their sparkling and off-dry wines are particularly exquisite.

From Loire Chenin Blanc: Underrated No More (Jul 2020) by Jason Wilson

	(Hover for Commentary)			Tasting			Drinking	Release	Review
Vintage	Producer	Name		Notes	Score	Author	Window	Price	Date
2017	Domaine François et Julien Pinon	<u>Brut Vouvray</u>	Great example of classic Vouvray sparkling. Rides the line between dry and off-dry. Earthy, mineral, and peppery on the nose. Crisp and sharp on the palate, with flavors of lively pear, lemon curd, lots of white pepper and spice balanced by creaminess at midpalate. Aged two years on the lees. -- Jason Wilson	92	Jason Wilson	2020 - 2032	\$20.00	Jul 2020	
2015	Domaine François et Julien Pinon	<u>Brut Vouvray Non Dosé</u>	From 45-year-old vines and aged 3 years on the lees. Earth, smoke, pepper and lime zest on the nose. Piercing and angular on the palate at first, with complex flavors of lime, tangerine, spice and herb, and a creamy midpalate that glides to a long finish. A beautiful sparkling wine that will age wonderfully. -- Jason Wilson	95	Jason Wilson	2020 - 2035	Not Available	Jul 2020	
2018	Domaine François et Julien Pinon	<u>Vouvray Sec</u>	Light yellow. Bright, happy nose, honeysuckle and grapefruit zest. Turns more serious in the mouth, stony but ripe and luscious. Gregarious and easy drinking. Tests the limits of sec with 8 grams per liter residual sugar, but a lovely wine. Aged 6 months in a mix of large and small older barrels. -- Jason Wilson	90	Jason Wilson	2020 - 2033	\$29.00	Jul 2020	
2018	Domaine François et Julien Pinon	<u>Vouvray Déronnières</u>	The 50-year-old vines of the hilltop, limestone vineyard Déronnières is historically the first site to be harvested. Fleshy but bright, peach, white pepper, with juicy tangerine and honey on the palate. Definitely a kiss of sweetness – 8 grams per liter residual sugar – but it's balanced by a stinging acidity from midpalate to finish. -- Jason Wilson	89	Jason Wilson	2020 - 2033	\$35.00	Jul 2020	
2018	Domaine François et Julien Pinon	<u>Vouvray Silex Noir</u>	Pinon's demi-sec often might be termed <i>tendre</i> , with a lot of tension. But this falls on the sweeter side, a true demi-sec with 26 grams per liter residual sugar. Aromas of flavors of ripe pear and apricot and less floral than the 2017.	90	Jason Wilson	2020 - 2038	\$30.00	Jul 2020	

Lots of solid minerality throughout, though softer than 2017. Aged 6-7 months in a mix of large and small older barrels.

-- Jason Wilson