

CHATEAU THIVIN

Region: Beaujolais
Appellation: Côte de Brouilly
Producer: Claude Geoffray
Founded: 1877
Annual Production: 775 cases
Website: www.chateau-thivin.com



Wine lovers whose experience is limited to *Nouveau* owe it to themselves to try the other side of Beaujolais, the hillside Beaujolais, where the soils are more granitic and the terrain more rugged. The name Beaujolais may not be present on the label; instead one will find the village name, such as Brouilly, Côte de Brouilly, Morgon or Fleurie.

Château Thivin is located in the Côte de Brouilly, an ancient volcanic mound which juts unexpectedly from the Beaujeu Valley floor, about 30 miles north of Lyon.

In the heart of Côte de Brouilly, on the south-facing, crumbling granitic slopes, Claude Geoffray at Château Thivin works twenty acres of vines. The vineyards are planted entirely to Gamay noir à jus blanc, a variety of Gamay that is cultivated to stand free of wires and stakes, sturdily attached to the hillside by deep-seeking roots.

At Château Thivin, each section of the vineyard is harvested and fermented separately, to preserve the characteristic differences afforded by variations in exposure and altitude. The final wine is a selected blend of these cuvées. Traditional whole cluster fermentation is used in order to keep the characteristic fruity qualities of Gamay, after which the grapes are put into cuve by gravity without being crushed or destemmed. Each vintage spends a few months in large oak *foudres* before bottling.

“A wine can have class, but what does class taste like? Obviously I bring it up here because of Château Thivin. Class is the first word that came to mind when I began writing this. Class means there is some style. There is restraint. It cannot be vulgar and showy. There can be no cheap thrill, even if the wine is inexpensive, if you know what I mean. One writer described his favorite Beaujolais as having a sledgehammer like feel on the palate. Fine, but I think we all know that sledgehammers have impact, but no class. Chateau Thivin’s wine has class. It is our classiest Beaujolais. Ravishing, fresh gamay aroma and flavor, beautiful not in the Penthouse style, no, think instead of Lauren Bacall in her first couple of films, with a freshness that almost crackles.”

-Kermit Lynch

Appellation:
Côte de Brouilly

Varietal:
100% Gamay

Vine Age:
50 years (Avg)

Acreage:
20 acres

Soil Type:
Volcanic

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