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Dufaitre, Beaujolais-Villages

Producer	Dufaitre
Vendor	Jenny & François Selections
Category	Wine - Still - Red
Grape variety	Gamay
Region	Burgundy, France
Subregion	Beaujolais
Appellation	Beaujolais-Villages
Alcohol by volume	11.8%

Product information

Age of Vines: 50 years old.

Vinification Method: The Beaujolais Villages is fermented in concrete tanks and normally bottled in March.

Producer information

Rémi and Laurence (his wife) Dufaitre began purchasing vines in and around the Brouilly and Cote de Brouilly crus in 2006 and began to work the land organically and harvest the grapes. Rémi began by selling his grapes to the local co-op, all the while monitoring the indigenous yeast population until he felt it was healthy enough to make his own. In 2010 he made and bottled his first vintage. When Jean Foillard tasted Rémi's wine, he immediately sought him out, recognizing the obvious talent that must be behind the wine. Jean has since taken Rémi under his wing, introducing him to his vast and diverse list of Parisian clients. Remi's wines currently have a very avid following in the bustling Paris natural wine scene as a result.

Rémi is a member of the informal group that has evolved from Kermit Lynch's "gang of four," the producers in Morgon who studied with natural-wine-pioneer Jules Chauvet (winemaker and biologist) and make natural wine (Foillard among them). This group has grown to include younger winemakers like Rémi, who are working in the same spirit. If you find yourself in Viellé-Morgon on a Sunday morning or afternoon, take care because this group is likely to envelop you and make you drink Beaujolais all day until the wee hours of the morning!

Rémi makes wines in a classic carbonic style, using whole bunches, which are carefully sorted to avoid broken grapes or rot. He adds some carbon dioxide gas to protect the grapes at the beginning of fermentation, and does not use any temperature control. He avoids foot stomping the grapes unless he sees some volatility starting to creep in. His goal is to have as little juice in the tank as possible. He also performs routine analysis to see how the yeast is performing and whether or not there is any volatility. Remi makes all his wines with the same method, thus we can really see and taste the differences between the sites, with minor differences in the elevage of each cuvée. He tastes each cuvée before bottling, and may decide to add between zero and 2 mg of sulfur, depending on how stabile he judges the wine to be.