



Wine Committee Tutored Tasting

Beaujolais Wines

2 July 2026 6.30pm



Gamay grapes

Speakers: Alistair Cliff & Charles Watkins

Beaujolais

VINEYARDS



12 Beaujolais Appellations

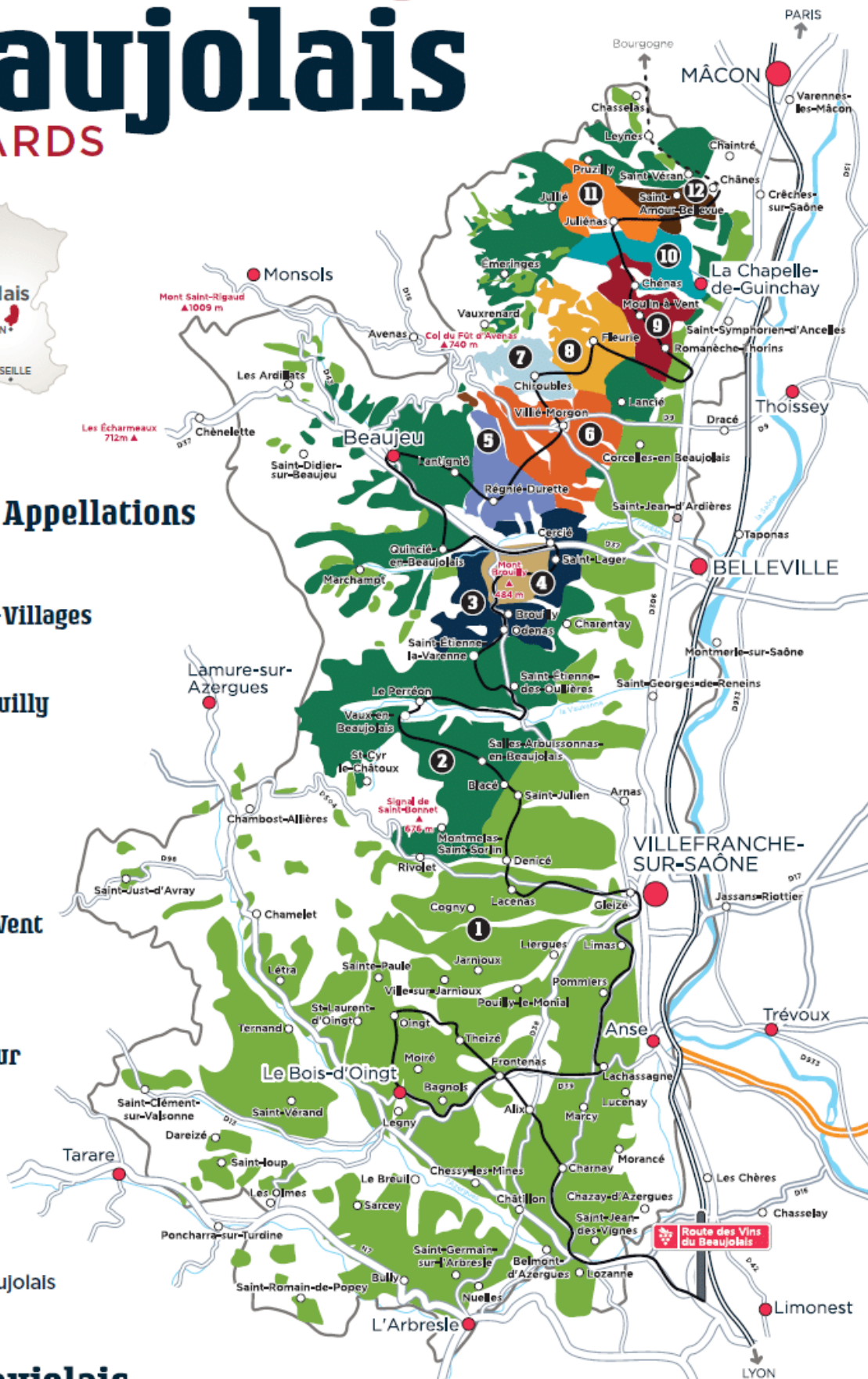
- 1 Beaujolais
- 2 Beaujolais-Villages
- 3 Brouilly
- 4 Côte de Brouilly
- 5 Régnié
- 6 Morgon
- 7 Chiroubles
- 8 Fleurie
- 9 Moulin-à-Vent
- 10 Chénas
- 11 Juliéna
- 12 Saint-Amour



Discover the Beaujolais
soil map.



Beaujolais
NOUVELLE GÉNÉRATION
INTER BEAUJOLAIS



The Grape and Region

The grape which is most strongly associated with the Beaujolais region is Gamay, although other grapes such as Chardonnay are also grown. Jancis Robinson noted in 1999 that it was the 'red grape variety solely responsible for the distinctive, and unjustifiably unfashionable, wines of Beaujolais. The reputation of Beaujolais had been battered in the late 1970s and 1980s by the international popularity of Beaujolais Nouveau.

There are many different clones of Gamay, and the 'real' one is sometimes called Gamay Noir à Jus Blanc, to emphasise its pale flesh. Red-fleshed versions have been widely grown in the Loire and other regions. The vine buds, flowers and ripens early and is frequently affected by late frosts.

The Beaujolais region lies to the west of the Saône and stretches 34 miles south from Mâcon down towards Lyons. It produces almost as much wine as the remainder of Burgundy. The higher quality wines are produced to the north of the region. Wines from the communes in the area marked in dark green on the map can be named Beaujolais Villages. The highest quality wines come from the ten Beaujolais Crus, closest to Mâcon and not far from Pouilly-Fuissé. Here the underlying rock is granite with a mixture of many different topsoils. We are showing wines from five Beaujolais Crus: Chiroubles, Fleurie, Côte de Brouilly, Morgon and Moulin-à-Vent.

In terms of vintages, Hugh Johnson notes for 2016: 'Large crop of juicy wines, unless hailed (Fleurie)', 2017: 'Large crop but hideous hail, esp. Fleurie and Moulin-à-Vent', 2018: 'Hot summer, another one of the big beasts', 2019: 'Hot dry summer, gorgeously juicy and satisfying wines', 2020: 'promising quality', 2021: 'Frost and dreadfully wet summer', 2022: 'Small harvest, good quality', 2023: 'Looks promising'.

WINES

1. Beaujolais Blanc Roche Noire, Domaine Lathuilière Gravallon, 2024 (ABV 12.5%)

It is often forgotten that the Chardonnay grape is grown in Beaujolais. This Beaujolais Blanc is made on the small Domaine Lathuilière Gravallon in Villié-Morgon. The estate has reintroduced traditional and sustainable vineyard management practices. The Roche Noire cuvée comes from Chardonnay planted on granite soils with a limestone influence. The 2024 Beaujolais Blanc Roche Noire is a good example of this overlooked white wine.

2. GAM Beaujolais-Villages, Domaine Lathuilière Gravallon, 2023 (ABV 13%)

The 15 hectares of vines now managed by Cedric Lathuilière and his wife Cathy Gravallon have been managed by the Gravallon family for five generations. They no longer use chemical fertilisers or herbicides and over the last 3 years, on the least steep slopes, have started to use shallow ploughing. Much of the work in the vineyard is manual due to the steep slopes. The harvest is manual with strict sorting criteria to ensure that only the best fruit is harvested. This wine is 100% Gamay.

3. Chiroubles, Domaine Lafarge Vial, 2016 (ABV 12.5%)

Chiroubles is the highest Beaujolais Cru. It benefits from a cooler climate than the others and has granite-rich soils. The area's steep slopes and sunny exposures contribute to optimal ripening. Domaine Lafarge-Vial is a small 4.1 ha estate located in Fleurie, Beaujolais has been run by Frédéric and Chantal Lafarge since 2014. The plot

of Gamay for Domaine Lafarge-Vial Chiroubles is a small 0.35 ha vineyard facing south and southeast. The vines were planted in 1960 and are cultivated organically and biodynamically, but have yet to receive certification. Around 15-20% of the whole bunches are vatted and the rest are destemmed and crushed. Fermentation takes place with native yeasts in cement tanks. The wine is aged for a year in old 228 and 350 litre barrels.

4. Fleurie, Joie du Palais, Domaine Lafarge Vial, 2022 (ABV 13%)

Domaine Lafarge-Vial is a small 4.1 ha winery located in Fleurie and has been run by Frédéric and Chantal Lafarge since 2014. The Joie du Palais vineyard, situated near La Madone, is exceptionally steep (a 40-50% gradient) and is planted with 65-year-old Gamay vines. This is great *terroir* but very hard to work, Frédéric says. It is worked by horse at the top, but lower down requires the use of a winch. This wine will keep well into the 2030s.

5. Côte de Brouilly, Domaine Lafarge Vial, 2016 (ABV 12.5%)

The vines grow in the volcanic and granite soils on the slopes of Mont Brouilly and are definitely worth ageing. The Côte de Brouilly produces structured, concentrated wines primarily from Gamay grapes. Domaine Lafarge-Vial, a small 4.1 ha winery located in Fleurie, Beaujolais has been run by Frédéric and Chantal Lafarge since 2014. They retain their well-known domaine at Volnay in the Cote de Beaune and the slight delay in ripeness levels between Volnay and Beaujolais allows them to be present for the harvest at both places.

6. Morgon, Côte du Py, Javernières, Domaine Jean Louis Desvignes, 2023 (ABV 13.5%)

Domaine Louis Claude Desvignes is based in the town of Villié-Morgon. Today it is run by siblings Louis-Benoît and Claude-Emmanuelle Desvignes – the eighth generation of their family to make wine in Beaujolais. It is well known for producing concentrated, age-worthy Morgon wines, which gain complexity with bottle age. This wine is made from organically grown Gamay grapes from vines planted in 1931. It is matured for 10 months in concrete eggs. This Morgon is recommended for drinking from 2026 until 2036

7. Moulin-à-Vent, Olivier Merlin, 2020 (ABV 14%)

This wine is made by Olivier and his wife Corinne who began his career by renting 4.5 hectares in 1987 from René Gaillard, of Domaine du Vieux Saint-Sorlin, who was retiring. Since then, Olivier has been buying property and adding new vineyards in stages. He added some property in Moulin-à-Vent in 2000. This wine is made with Gamay grapes from four parcels of old vines. Whole bunches are used, with very gentle extraction, and it is raised in large oak foudre. It is a subtle wine with a dry finish.

Members and Guests:

Dr John Ballard
Dr David Beckingham
Guest of Archie Breare
Archie Breare
Stephen Brooker
Susan Brooker
Professor Kathleen Burk
Dr Stephen Cannon-Brookes
Timothy Clarke
Alistair Cliff
Guest of Scott Dickson
Scott Dickson
Matthew Durdy
Benjamin Edwards
David Edwards
James Edwards
Brigadier Peter Fabricius
Clarissa Farr
Dr Martin Farr
Dr Mark Fenton
Jonathan Ferrer
Guest of Dr Oliver Foster
Dr Oliver Foster
Simon Gill
Professor Barbara Goff
William Golightly
Adam Goodbody
James Hall
Angus Hamilton
Dr Brian Hargreaves
Lucinda Harris

Matthew Hodson
Jane Irving
Professor John Irving
Michael Jary
Kate Jennings
Guest of Mohit Joshi
Mohit Joshi
Nicholas Khan
Irina Kim
Guest of Dr Mark Kinirons
Dr Mark Kinirons
Professor Christopher Marks
Professor Alexander Oliver
Jenny Oliver
Dr Cliver Potter
Guest of Dr Clive Potter
Guest of Martin Priestley
Martin Priestley
Dr Rodney Rivers
Guest of Mark Rowlands
Mark Rowlands
Dr Michael Simpson
Nicholas Smedley
Anthony Stobart
Ian Tollett
Brian Turner
Lady (Jennifer) Viggers
Professor Charles Watkins
Professor Robert Zimmer