

Dégustations | plénières | masterclass | visites

Tastings | conference | masterclass | vineyard visits

## Programme | Program



Taste the diversity of Chenin  
one grape, an infinity of expressions

**6th - 9th July, 2025**

**Vignobles de Loire, France**

**Angers, Fontevraud, Vouvray**

[www.chenincelebration.com](http://www.chenincelebration.com)



@chenin celebration

**#FANDECHENIN**

Vins de Loire



**VINS DE**  
**Loire**

# PROGRAM

	Saturday, July 5th	Sunday, July 6th THE PLANT	Monday, July 7th THE PLACE	Tuesday, July 8th THE PERSONALITY	Wednesday, July 9th
MORNING		8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Registration	Welcome Coffee	8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Welcome and Setup	Additional visits.  More information at the end of February
		Welcome Coffee			
		9:00 AM - 9:20 AM Opening Ceremony	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Unlocking Genetic Diversity	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Constructing Identity	
		9:30 AM - 10:45 PM Cultivating Sustainability			
		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
		11:15 AM - 12:30 PM Unravelling Geology	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Balancing Flavours: The Subtle Art of Aging	11h - 12h30 Master class : Tasting Chenins in Pairing with Plant-Based Cuisine	
	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch		
AFTERNOON		2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Travel	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Vineyard Tours of Anjou-Saumur: Explore the Riches of the Terroirs of Anjou-Saumur through Immersive Visits!	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Vineyard Tours of Vouvray and Amboise: Explore the Riches of the Terroirs of Touraine through Immersive Visits!	
		3:45 PM - 4:30 PM Launch of the Global Chenin Observatory			
	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Pre-registration	4:30 PM - 7:00 PM Free Tasting of Chenin Blanc from Around the World  Visit Fontevraud Abbey	5 tour itineraries:  Visit 1: The Secrets of Aging Visit 2: Old Vines in the Heart of Saumur Vineyard Visit 3: Travel Back in Time with Sweet Chenin Blanc Visit 4: The Taste of Terroirs in Savennières and the Layon Valley Visit 5: The Sparkling World of Loire Bubbles!	5 tour itineraries:  Visit 1: Château de Valmer Visit 2: Château de Montcontour Visit 3: Domaine Bredif Visit 4: Domaine Huet Visit 5: Amboise, Chenin at the Heart of the Valley of the Kings	
EVENING	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Welcome Cocktail	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Great Evening of Chenin Blanc	Travel to Vouvray	7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Closing Evening	
		10:30 PM - 12:00 AM Travel	Free Evening		

Discover the diversity and richness of Chenin Blanc through unique conferences, tastings, and masterclasses. Three days to explore this exceptional grape variety in iconic locations. An unforgettable experience awaits you!

## Saturday July 5th 2025

**18h30/19h : registration**

**19h/21h : Welcome cocktail**

*Location to be specified*



# Sunday, July 6th, 2025



**THE PLANT:** The first day will focus on analyzing the specifics of Chenin Blanc, an iconic grape variety from the Loire Valley, with a particularly significant presence in South Africa, where it is the dominant variety.

**8:00-8:30 AM:** Welcome and registration at ESA – Ecole Supérieure des Agricultures – 55 rue Rabelais in Angers

**8:30-9:00 AM:** Welcome coffee

**9:00-9:20 AM:**  
Opening of the Chenin Celebration event.

**9:30-10:45 AM:**

### **The Taste of the Future: Cultivating Responsible Viticulture**

In this opening session, accompanied by a selection of Chenin Blanc wines from around the world, speakers will explore the crucial challenges that Chenin Blanc faces in the context of global climate change. The adaptability of this grape variety to environmental changes will be at the heart of discussions, along with the search for innovative agricultural practices that respect ecosystems. An essential conversation for imagining the future of viticulture through the lens of collective commitment and resilience.

#### **Speakers :**

*Michelle Bouffard : WSET educator certify, DipWSET, sommelier certify, Founder of the Tasting Climate Change. Writer, journalist, speaker, instructor, consultant.*

*Etienne Neethling : Teacher and researcher of viticulture and oenology  
Winemakers of Chenin Blanc from Argentina, South Africa, and France.*

**10:45-11:15 AM:** Break

**11:15 AM-12:30 PM:**

### **The Taste of Origins: Delving into the Geology of Terroirs**

Discover what lies beneath your feet, where everything begins for exceptional wines! This session invites you on a captivating journey into the soils that shape the unique character of Chenin Blanc. With a focus on the metamorphic and sedimentary soils of the Loire vineyard, you will understand how geology influences the typicity of the wines.

Experts will also unveil the concept of natural terroir units, an innovative approach to refining viticultural practices and revealing the subtleties of each plot. The experience will conclude with a carefully selected tasting of dry Loire wines to savor the intimate relationship between terroir and flavor.

**Speakers :**

*Adrew Jefford : British journalist, radio presenter and wine critic  
Other speakers are coming soon*

**12:30-2:00 PM: Lunch at ESA**

**2:00-3:30 PM: Departure for the Abbey of Fontevraud**

**3:45-4:30 PM: Launch of the Global Chenin Blanc Observatory**

Don't miss this historic moment for Chenin Blanc! Interloire, the interprofessional organization of Loire Wines, will exclusively unveil the results of the Global Chenin Blanc Observatory. Representing the third-largest French wine-producing region of AOP wines, the Loire is at the heart of global production of this iconic grape variety. This observatory offers a comprehensive analysis of key data: production, consumption, trends, and future opportunities. Immerse yourself in a unique global vision that will redefine your understanding of Chenin Blanc and its role on the international stage. An unmissable appointment for professionals to better understand and explore the future of this exceptional grape variety !

**Speaker :**

*Fanny Gautier : Manager of the economy and research department at InterLoire, the interprofessional organization for Loire wines.*

**4:30-7:00 PM: Free Tasting of Chenin Blanc wines from around the World**



In this historically rich location, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure, you are invited to partake in a unique free tasting experience. Explore nearly 300 Chenin Blanc wines from around the world, showcasing the richness and diversity of this iconic grape variety: dry, sweet, and sparkling wines. Discover exceptional terroirs and the craftsmanship of winemakers, all within the timeless and majestic atmosphere of this millennium-old abbey. A magical meeting between heritage

and wine!

During this afternoon, we also offer guided tours of the Abbey of Fontevraud (1-hour tour upon registration when booking tickets): Let yourself be guided through one of Europe's largest monastic complexes, a place full of mystery and beauty, where heritage, architecture, and legends converge.

**7:00-10:00 PM: Great Evening of Chenin Blanc**

This friendly and joyful evening celebrates Chenin in all its forms, with music and flavors from international gastronomy. Discover how this exceptional grape enhances cuisines from around the world and enjoy a moment of sharing and discovery that promises to be unforgettable. A unique opportunity to celebrate Chenin Blanc in a festive and warm atmosphere!

# Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**THE PLACE :** The second day is dedicated to the places and various local factors that shape the different expressions of Chenin Blanc, a grape variety that is highly sensitive to its environment and growing conditions.



**8:30-9:00 AM: Welcome Coffee at ESA – Ecole Supérieure des Agricultures – 55 rue Rabelais in Angers**

**9:00-10:30 AM:**

## **The Taste of Heritage: Exploring Genetic Richness**

This masterclass will reveal the incredible genetic diversity of grape varieties, with a particular focus on the clonal variation of Chenin Blanc. Discussions will highlight the importance of old vines, not only as living witnesses of a unique epigenetic memory but also as a response to growing environmental challenges. The South African initiative for old vines will be showcased, illustrating how the selection of heritage clones can help strengthen vineyard resilience against climate pressures. The economic aspects of old vines will also be explored, offering perspectives for winemakers to protect and value this rare genetic heritage. The session will conclude with an inspiring tasting of South African wines.

### **Speakers :**

*Alder Yarrow : Wine writer and fonder of [vinography.com](http://vinography.com)*

*Patrice This : Leads a team focused on (UMR AGAP) Diversity, Adaptation and improvement of the vine at INRAE*

*Rosa Kruger : Fonder of the South Africa projet « Old vine Project »  
Winemakers of Chenin Blanc from South Africa*

**10:30-11:00 AM: Coffee Break**

## **11:00 AM-12:30 PM: The Taste of Balance: The Subtle Art of Aging**

Dive into the fascinating world of aging, a crucial step where every decision shapes the final expression of the wine. This masterclass will reveal the secrets to preserving primary aromas while allowing Chenin Blanc to develop complex secondary flavors.

Guided by experts, you will learn how a minimalist and intuitive approach can elevate the unique qualities of a vintage or terroir. The focus will be on the pivotal role of aging containers in the maturation process, unlocking the full potential of Chenin Blanc, marked by its purity and vibrant

acidity.

To enrich this exploration, an exclusive tasting of four wines will illustrate the impact of aging choices.

**Speakers :**

*Jamie Goode : Wine journalist and author*

*Gabriel Lepousez : Neurobiologist specializing in sensory perception and brain plasticity*

*Other winemakers of Chenin Blanc from around the world*

**OR / Choice**

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM – Masterclass: The Taste of the Vegetable World: Pairing Chenins with Plant-Based Cuisine**

Explore the harmony between Chenin Blanc wines and plant-based cuisine during a unique masterclass in Angers, the city of plants! In an open-air kitchen, discover how the aromas and textures of Chenin Blanc wines pair perfectly with refined vegetable dishes. Taste surprising pairings that reveal the diversity of the grape variety and the richness of plant-based gastronomy. This unmissable tasting experience is a must for wine lovers and enthusiasts of plant-based cuisine.

This Masterclass will be hosted by Pascal Favre d'Anne, a Michelin-starred chef from Angers. Limited to 40 people. Additional price of €24.

**12:30-2:00 PM: Lunch at ESA**

**2:00 PM: Departures for Vineyard Visits in Anjou-Saumur**

Explore the richness of the Anjou-Saumur terroirs through immersive tours! Enjoy one of the five thematic visits, each designed to help you discover the diversity of the region's vineyard terroirs. Each tour invites you to deepen your knowledge through on-site visits and unique tastings.

- **Visit 1: The Secrets of Aging**

Step into the heart of Anjou wineries to explore different aging techniques and how they influence the character and aromas of Chenin. This immersive visit will introduce you to various methods, experimented both in France and abroad. The afternoon will conclude with a tasting comparing Chenin Blanc wines from different aging processes, offering a unique sensory experience.

*Information about the visited wineries will be provided soon.*

- **Visit 2: Old Vines in the Heart of Saumur Vineyard**



Be amazed by the Clos d'Entre les Murs at Château de Parnay. Explore a one-of-a-kind site with its exceptional architecture blending Chenin Blanc grapes and Tuffeau stone. Continue the journey at Domaine de Rocheville, where Virginie Gondrain will reveal the treasures of the Global Chenin Blanc Conservatory in Montreuil-Bellay, a guardian of invaluable viticultural heritage. Conclude this experience

with an exclusive tasting of Chenin Blanc from old vines, on the majestic terrace of the estate.

- **Visit 3: A Journey Through Time with Sweet Chenin Blanc wines**

Embark on a unique visit dedicated to sweet wines, where you will learn how the climate shapes these liquid treasures. Explore the specifics of their production while tasting old vintages, accompanied by insights into the weather conditions of their era. An unprecedented experience blending history, terroir, and exceptional flavors! Information about the visited wineries will be provided soon

- **Visit 4: The Taste of Terroirs in Savennières and the Layon Valley**



Head to Tessa Laroche’s estate in the heart of the Savennières appellation to discover the exceptional characteristics of the Roche aux Moines, a unique terroir in the Loire. Learn how these terroirs influence wine production, before continuing the tour in the Layon Valley with an enriching meeting with Fabrice Redois, a geologist, to deepen your understanding of this exceptional terroir. A sensory immersion in one of the region’s most beautiful vineyards!

- **Visit 5: The Sparkling World of Loire’s Fine Bubbles!**

Embark on an unmissable visit to one of the legendary places of Crémant de Loire production. Several meters underground, explore the troglodyte cellars of one of the great producers of Crémant de Loire, where you’ll discover the fascinating process behind the creation of Loire’s sparkling wines. Participate in a disgorging workshop for an authentic experience, before concluding the visit with an exclusive tasting of the finest wines with producers and historic “Maisons”. A bubbly and convivial immersion not to be missed!



**5:30-6:00 PM**

Transfer to Vouvray.

**Free evening**



# Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**THE PERSONALITY:** The third day is dedicated to the individual and collective identities of Chenin blanc, aiming to support and promote this grape variety on the international stage.

**8:30-9:00 am:** Welcome coffee and registration at Domaine Hôtel-Noble in Vernou Sur Brenne

## **9:00-10:30 am: The Taste of Singularity: Revealing the Identity of Chenin**

Why does Chenin Blanc captivate wine lovers around the world? This session celebrates the richness and diversity of this versatile grape, capable of shining in dry, sparkling, or sweet forms. A true ambassador of the terroirs where it is grown, Chenin Blanc offers a wide range of expressions that position it as a leading contender for conquering international markets. Discussions will explore collective marketing strategies aimed at amplifying its global presence, while highlighting the importance of local identity in promoting the grape variety. A carefully selected tasting will accompany this reflection, showcasing the many facets of Chenin Blanc and offering insights into better communicating its uniqueness to consumers and professionals.

### **Speakers :**

*Gilian Handelman : Vice-president at Jackson Family Wines, A Californian winery*

*Nathalie Spielman : Founder and director of the MSc Wine & Gastronomy à NEOMA Business School, Reims. And Master of Wine.*

*Other winemakers of Chenin Blanc from around the world*

## **10:30-11:00 am: Coffee Break**

## **11:00 am-12:30 pm: History and Masterclass on Vouvray**

Philippe Brisebarre, winemaker from Vouvray and president of the INAO (National Institute of Origin and Quality), will open this tasting by presenting the history of the appellation. Then, a masterclass will showcase the four facets of Vouvray wines, highlighting the different styles of Chenin Blanc wines (sparkling, dry, demi-sec, and sweet).

### **Speaker :**

*Christine Marsiglio : Director of Education and Master of Wine.*

**12:30 pm-2:00 pm: Lunch Break at Domaine Hôtel-Noble**

**2:00-5:30 pm: Departure for Optional Visits**

### **Visit 1: Château de Valmer**

Step into the heart of the Château de Valmer, perched on a rocky promontory overlooking the Brenne valley, in the Vouvray AOC region. This 300-hectare estate unveils an exceptional vineyard, Renaissance terraced gardens, cultivated lands, and forests with centuries-old trees. Enjoy a hot air balloon ride to admire these breathtaking

landscapes from above. A unique experience blending history, nature, and flavors, not to be missed!



### **Visit 2: Château de Montcontour**

Experience something special at Château Montcontour! Admire the breathtaking view of Tours and the Loire from its terraces, discover the vaulted wine cellar like a cathedral, and explore the troglodyte museum housing over 3,000 ancient objects. Conclude with a tasting of the best cuvées, guided by the sommeliers. A perfect immersion into history, wine, and panorama!

### **Visit 3: Domaine Bredif**

Embark on a unique experience at Maison Brédif! Discover the history of this estate founded in 1893 by visiting its ancient troglodyte cellars, among the largest in the region, housing rare vintages. Extend the wonder with a tasting of Vouvray (both sparkling and still) aboard a traditional boat on the Loire River. A full immersion into heritage, nature, and exceptional flavors.



### **Visit 4: Domaine Huet**

Dive into the heart of the prestigious Domaine Huet, a pioneer of biodynamics in France. Explore its cellars and learn about its 30 hectares of Chenin Blanc grapes spread across three legendary plots: Haut-Lieu, Mont, and Clos du Bourg. A tasting will allow you to appreciate authentic wines, revealing the richness and uniqueness of Vouvray's terroirs. An experience blending craftsmanship, nature, and passion!

### **Visit 5: Touraine Amboise, Chenin at the Heart of the Valley of the Kings**

The winemakers of the AOC Touraine Amboise invite you to a unique immersion in their vineyards. After a visit to the syndicate vines to discover the terroir and viticulture practices,

head to the prestigious Château d'Amboise. In this historic setting, enjoy a tasting of the wines of the AOC Touraine Amboise with the winemakers, who will share their expertise and the richness of their cuvées. A meeting of heritage, terroir, and passion.

**7:00 pm - 11:00 pm: Closing Event at Domaine Hôtel-Noble**

Join us for a final evening of conviviality at the beautiful Domaine Hôtel-Noble in Vernou-sur-Brenne. Enjoy a delicious barbecue and discover exceptional Chenin Blanc wines from around the world. A warm and festive atmosphere, perfect to wrap up the event on a high note before we bid farewell.

Wine professionals or enthusiasts: if you are not participating in the full Chenin Blanc International Celebration event, you can still join this exceptional evening by reserving your place, offered at a special rate for an unforgettable experience.

# Wednesday, July 9 2025

**Extend the experience with additional visits to other iconic Chenin Blanc vineyards in the Loire Valley. A unique opportunity to explore even more terroirs and flavors.**

## Visit 1 - Chenin in Red Wine Territory

Because the world of wine will never cease to surprise us, come and discover Chenin Blanc new expression in terroirs traditionally dominated by red wines.

Between exceptional terroirs and the passion of winemakers, we will traverse landscapes shaped by the Loire, Vienne, and Indre rivers, true markers of typicity.



The discovery?

Tasting Chenin Blanc in appellations that are far more renowned for their reds. Have you ever tasted a Chinon Blanc?

Everything will be revealed about the birth and rebirth of Chenin Blanc appellations in Touraine!

The journey will begin in Chinon, where history and wine heritage meet, with a session hosted by Leslie Brochot @maitresdaccords. We will discuss Chenin Blanc from every angle: why we love it, how it expresses itself on the terroirs of Touraine, and much more. You will taste the appellation wines of Chinon and Azay-le-Rideau, as well as the future Bourgueil appellation (currently under recognition by the INAO).

What's next?

A bucolic lunch around a "four à fouées" (a traditional Touraine dish) in the remarkable vineyards of Azay-le-Rideau, alongside the winemakers.

In short, we look forward to welcoming you for a day full of exploration, to experience the full diversity and authenticity of Chenin Blanc in Touraine!

## Visit 2 - Discovering Chenin Blanc in the Loir Valley: Terroir, Forest, and Underground Heritage

Immerse yourself in the hidden vineyards of Jasnières and Coteaux du Loir appellations during a day dedicated to Chenin Blanc and its unique environment.

The visit will begin at the brand new Maison du Tourisme et du Vignoble, where winemakers will share their passion for these exceptional terroirs. A guided tasting will showcase the diverse expressions of Chenin Blanc on these Loire soils.

Next, we will explore the Bercé Forest at Carnuta, the House of Man and the Forest, an immersive tourist site dedicated to the world of the forest. A mediator and a winemaker

will reveal the influence of these ancient oaks, whose wood shapes some of the barrels used for aging local wines. A tasting of wines aged in Bercé oak barrels will illustrate this unique connection between the forest and the vineyard.



After a countryside lunch in the heart of the forest, we will discover an iconic site: the Bacchus cellar at Domaine Lelais. Dug into a 16th-century former quarry, this troglodyte cellar tells the winemaking history of the Loir Valley. A magical place where underground galleries bear witness to craftsmanship passed down through generations.

A sensory and historical journey not to be missed for all Chenin Blanc and terroir enthusiasts.

## Visit 3 - Dive into Chenin Blanc through the sparkling wines of Saumur



Discover sparkling Chenin Blanc through an exclusive tour of the great Maisons of Saumur. An exciting immersion in the heart of **Crémant de Loire and Saumur appellations**, where tradition, terroir, and expertise come together to reveal the elegance and diversity of this iconic grape variety.

Program:

Morning:

- **Visit to the Maison Louis de Grenelle:**

A family-owned and independent Maison founded in 1859, Louis de Grenelle is a jewel of Saumur's heritage, specializing in the production of sparkling wines using the traditional method. Immerse yourself in history by exploring its spectacular cellars, dug in the 15th century 12 meters underground, where more than 4 million bottles age in tuffeau stone.

- **Lunch at Ackerman:**

Enjoy a convivial moment in an exceptional location! Founded in 1811, Maison Ackerman, a pioneer of Loire's sparkling wines, invites you to an immersive wine tourism experience in the heart of its impressive troglodytic cellars. Discover its interactive "Voyage to the Center of the Bubble" for a unique sensory exploration.

Afternoon:

- Visit to the great sparkling wines Maisons of Saumur:
- Langlois-Chateau
- Bouvet Ladubay
- Veuve Amiot

Let yourself be charmed by the elegance and diversity of Chenin Blanc sparkling wines in these iconic Maisons. A sparkling journey that promises discoveries as enriching as they are delightful!

This day is added a charge of 144€- registration on our web site