

# LES EQUILIBRISTES 'LE JOUFFLU' VIN DE FRANCE ROUGE



Grolleau and Pineau d'Aunis. *Le Joufflu*, (which means chubby,) proves that Grolleau is every bit as outstanding as Cabernet-Franc and reveals the great terroir of the Loire. Lovely fruity aromatics. Bright flavors of raspberry and strawberry with a touch of leather. Brilliant acidity. Lighter to medium bodied, fresh and delicious. Pairs well with salmon or roast chicken. Organic.

The vineyard is at the top of a hillside in the Anjou district of the western Loire Valley. The soil is made up of sand on black shale. The vineyards are tilled; organic farming. The grapes are harvested by hand and destemmed. Fermented with indigenous yeasts, minimal extraction, and short vatting (7 days). Aged 2/3 in cement vats, 1/3 in two-year-old barrels. From winemakers Alexis and Dominique from Domaine du Prieuré, Village of Saint Lambert-du-Lattay.

*Les Equibristes* (Tightrope Walkers) are François de Monval and Florent Girou. François is a wine merchant and restaurant owner in Paris, and Florent is a winegrower and consulting oenologist in the Dordogne. They aim to produce one of a kind, quirky cuvees from small estates all across France. Their central focus is to fashion wines that possess *équilibre* (balance). Les Equibristes have a simple set of rules they follow in winemaking: great terroir, indigenous grape varieties, organic winemaking practices, indigenous yeasts, minimal sulphur, minimal intervention in the cellar and complete synergy with the winegrower. The results are simply stunning. Each year, they purchase a select amount of grapes from which they produce terroir driven, organic cuvees that express a clear identity and sense of place. It's a collaborative process, from choosing the site to final bottling.

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## Tasting Note:

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## Shelf Talker:

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