

Ribera del Duero, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

**AB** In Bordeaux right now, the primeurs are coming up. The malo-lactics there have been done and dusted for some time now, and the selections for the blends have been carefully completed. How are your wines of the 2015 vintage evolving?

**Bertrand Sourdais** The malo-lactic in Chinon hasn't started yet. In Ribera del Duero, Antidoto is finished, Dominio de Es Soria Old Vines is done too, but not yet La Diva. There's no hurry, I'm not presenting any of my wines en primeur. But of course I'm keeping a close eye on them and taste them on a regular basis.



Bertrand Sourdais

**AB** Given that the weather pattern in Chinon and Ribera del Duero was relatively comparable during the 2015 growing season, have you noticed any similar tasting characteristics in your different wines?

**Bertrand Sourdais** What Chinon and Ribera del Duero, and also Bordeaux, have in common in 2015 is low acidity. So much so that my Domaine de Pallus in Chinon is delicious to taste now, even though the malo-lactic hasn't been done yet. It's amazingly well balanced.

**AB** Tannins were an issue prior to the harvest both in Bordeaux and Ribera del Duero. What's your view?

**Bertrand Sourdais** In all 3 regions my wines have soft, fine tannins. This, with low acidity makes already very attractive wines. At the same time they're stable and balanced.

**AB** Of all the different wines you have produced in 2015, which one has brought you the most satisfaction?

**Bertrand Sourdais** Domaine du Pallus.

**AB** Why's that?

**Bertrand Sourdais** Because we took a gamble and harvested early at the end of September. And it paid off!

**AB** In what way?

**Bertrand Sourdais** It enabled us to make Cabernet Franc that really tastes of a Cabernet Franc from the Loire. The terroir comes through.

**AB** Were there any surprises for you in your 2015s?

**Bertrand Sourdais** Pleasant surprises, yes. The amazing quality of my Chinon grand crus, La Rougerie and La Croix Boissée, and then my top Ribera "La Diva". Watch out for that one! I can't wait for it to finish its malo...

**AB** Do you think that the 2015 vintage will prove to be one of the greats, or just a very good one?

**Bertrand Sourdais** It's too early for me to say. When some of your wines haven't yet finished their malo it's difficult to say with confidence.

**AB** What do you sense about this vintage? Is there anything which makes you think it won't be one of the top ones? Is there something missing?

**Bertrand Sourdais** From an analytical point of view it lacks a bit of acidity, but that's just numbers. Time will tell if this is really missing in the wine.

**AB** Is high alcohol an issue?

**Bertrand Sourdais** We had to take it into account and manage it. By gambling and harvesting early in Chinon, we also succeeded in bringing in balanced alcohol levels typical of the Loire. We finished at 12.4°.

**AB** In Bordeaux, 14.5° was common in 2015. Were degrees perhaps higher in Ribera?

**Bertrand Sourdais** The average alcoholic degree in our Riberas was also 14.5, while our rosé was 13°.

**AB** Both in Bordeaux and Ribera del Duero, there are comparisons of the 2015 vintage with the 2009, although in Bordeaux many growers believe that it also has elements of 2010 or 2005, while in Ribera there is mention of the 2011 too. What's your opinion?

**Bertrand Sourdais** I agree that there are similarities with the 2009. However, I get the impression that there's a touch more density, tenderness and soul in the 2015. Perhaps there's also a bit more firmness.

**AB** Can you give me one word to describe the 2015s that you produced in different regions?

**First, your Chinon reds:**

**Bertrand Sourdais** millimetre definition (that's two words!)

**AB** Ribera del Duero:

**Bertrand Sourdais** Charm

**AB** Your Spanish rosés:

**Bertrand Sourdais** Precise