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One of the Loire's most lauded producers, Florent Baumard has courted controversy by pursuing his own ideas and challenging the status quo.

In a deeply traditional region, Florent's early adoption of screwcaps and different vine trellising systems marked him out as the enfant terrible of Savennières. His mantra now encompasses a belief in the individuality of each vintage, believing it should be made with minimal intervention to allow the wine to reflect its vintage and unique character. His Savennières from the famous vineyards of Clos St Yves and Clos du Papillon are rich, yet with a balance and elegance that are unrivalled. His top cuvée of 'Trie Speciale' is only made in very exceptional vintages when grape quality is optimal. It is a wine full of paradox, honeyed and yet dry, rounded and yet firm. The rich fruit, tremendous weight and concentration ensure that it is a thoroughly memorable experience.

Viticulture

The Baumard approach to viticulture is a notable one, and it does make it easy to spot the Baumard vines in any given appellation. They are trained in a fashion Baumard describe as vignes hautes et larges (sometimes abbreviated to VHL); the larges refers to the distance between the vines, a remarkable 3 metres between the rows and 0.8 metres between each vine, whereas the hautes refers to the high trellising system employed, taking the vines to a height of more than 2 metres, the object being to obtain a large surface area of foliage. During the vegetative period they see limited leaf-thinning along their base, but otherwise there is little intervention at this time, not even topping-off of the upper shoots as they reach for the sky above. Between the rows, the soil is alternatively ploughed and grassed over, a methodology the Baumards have been following for well over 40 years. The harvest is manual, and the fruit transported in small plastic cages to minimise damage.

Highlights

- Minimal intervention winemaking and viticulture.
- His top cuvée of 'Trie Speciale' is only made in very exceptional vintages when grape quality is optimal.
- Wines of exceptional weight and power yet classy and very memorable.

The wines from Florent Baumard's domaine have become the world's best-known ambassadors for their respective appellations.

Robert Parkers Wine Buying Guide #7

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**Domaine des Baumard,
Cremant de Loire, Carte
Turquoise, Loire, France**

Product code: 1158



**Domaine des Baumard,
Crémant de Loire Rosé,
Carte Corail, Loire,
France**

Product code: 1162



**Domaine des Baumard,
Savennières Clos St
Yves, Loire, France,
2019**

Product code: 1151



**Domaine des Baumard,
Savennières Clos St
Yves, Loire, France,
2020**

Product code: 1151



**Domaine des Baumard,
Savennières, Clos du
Papillon, Loire, France,
2007**

Product code: 1153



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Find Us

Head Office:

7 Beechfield Road,
Willowyard Estate,
Beith KA15 1LN

T: 01505 506060

London Office:

Unit 2 Elm Court
Royal Oak Yard
Bermondsey Street
London SE1 3TP

T: 0207 9390770

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