

2012 Dom. Le Capitaine “Les Aumones” Chenin Blanc VOUVRAY AOC, Loire Valley, France



The wines from the northwestern French region of Vouvray are made from Chenin Blanc and, unless you are a fan of South African wines, you may only think of it as another of those semi-sweet things that has a hard time hitting the spot. Superbly made Chenin like this, however, can indeed be rich and well-defined and show an intriguing complexity.

We like Chenin Blanc mostly because the wines are intensely aromatic. Somehow, the best can at once be evocative of fresh turned earth in spring, wildflower meadows in the summer, and the generous harvest of the early fall.

Fresh and fruity like green apples and quince, and floral like honeysuckle, this wine is crisp and a well-deserved reward for anyone deciding to take a shot outside the Big Four white varieties.

Recommended pairings: Crab Cakes in Sweet Mustard Sauce and Chili Oil

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Salmon and Leek-Citrus Risotto with Garlic-Ginger Jus