

Les 5 du Vin

Banyols-Budd-Cobbold-Lalau-Vanhellemont

1er Congrès International du Chenin Blanc + La Paulée d'Anjou (30th June 2019) – tasting

LE 09/07/2019 09/07/2019 / PAR LES 5 DU VIN



*Evelyne de Pontbriand (Domaine de Closel) opens
the Chenin Blanc Congrès Monday 1st July*

1er Congrès International du Chenin Blanc: 1st- 3rd July

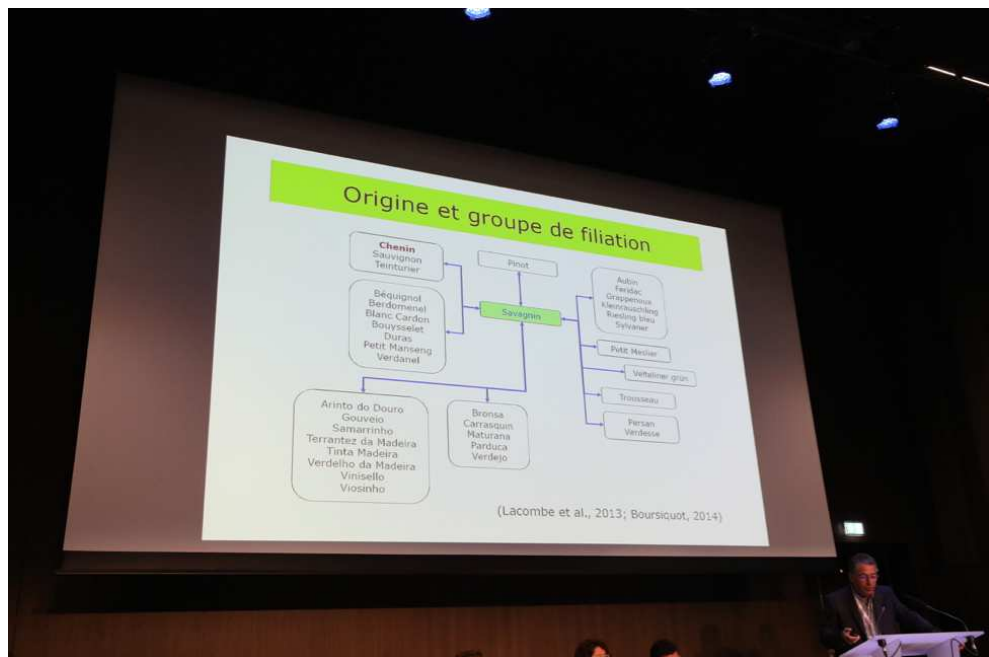
As well as a number of local producers, journalists etc. the Congrès attracted a strong contingent from South Africa with some 45 people making the long trip to Angers from the tip of Southern Africa. South Africans attending included Ken Forrester – Mr Chenin Blanc SA, Ina Smith of the Chenin Blanc Association, Irina von Holdt (Old Vines

Wine Cellars), André Morgenthal (Old Vines Wine Cellars), Marco Ventrella (KWV) and Niel Groenewald (Distell), H el ene Niewouldt (University of Stellenbosch) and Cathy van Zyl MW (writer).

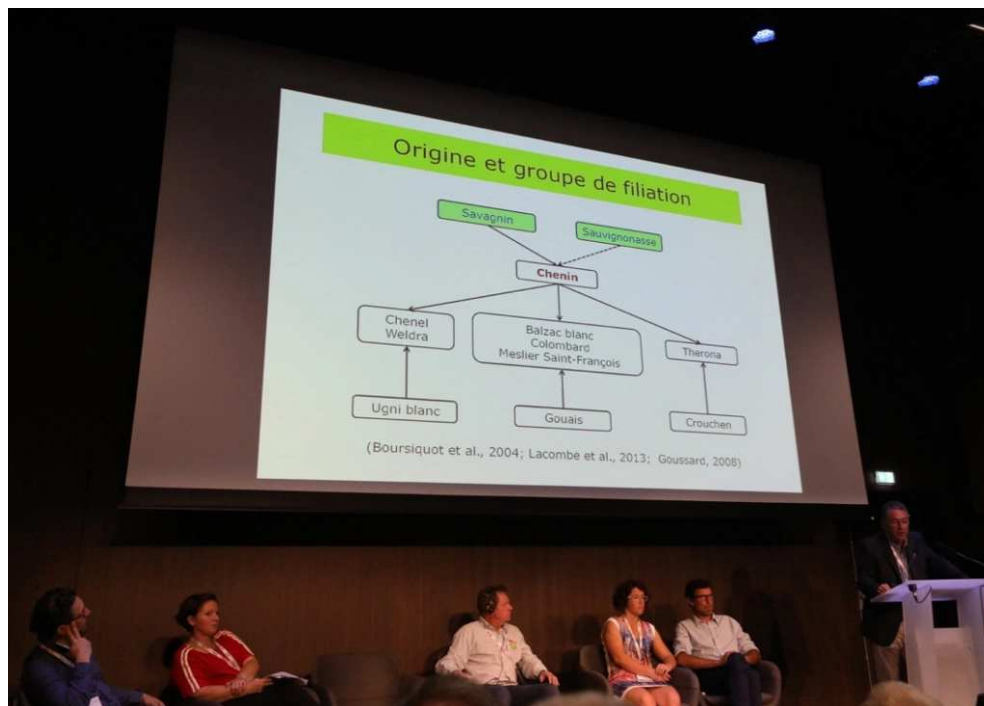
The Congr es got off to a flying start with the announcement by the first keynote speaker Jean-Michel Boursiquot that Chenin Blanc's missing parent has been identified. One of Chenin's parents has been identified for some time: the Jura grape Savagnin. Boursiquot confirmed that Sauvignonasse (<http://lescepages.free.fr/sauvignonasse.html>) is the absentee parent. It is not clear whether the the absentee or 'runaway' parent is male or female..... I guess the suspicion must be that it was the male, who proved difficult to trace.....!



*Jean-Michel Boursiquot
Professor of Amp elographie @ Montpellier
(my apologies for the rather fuzzy photo)*

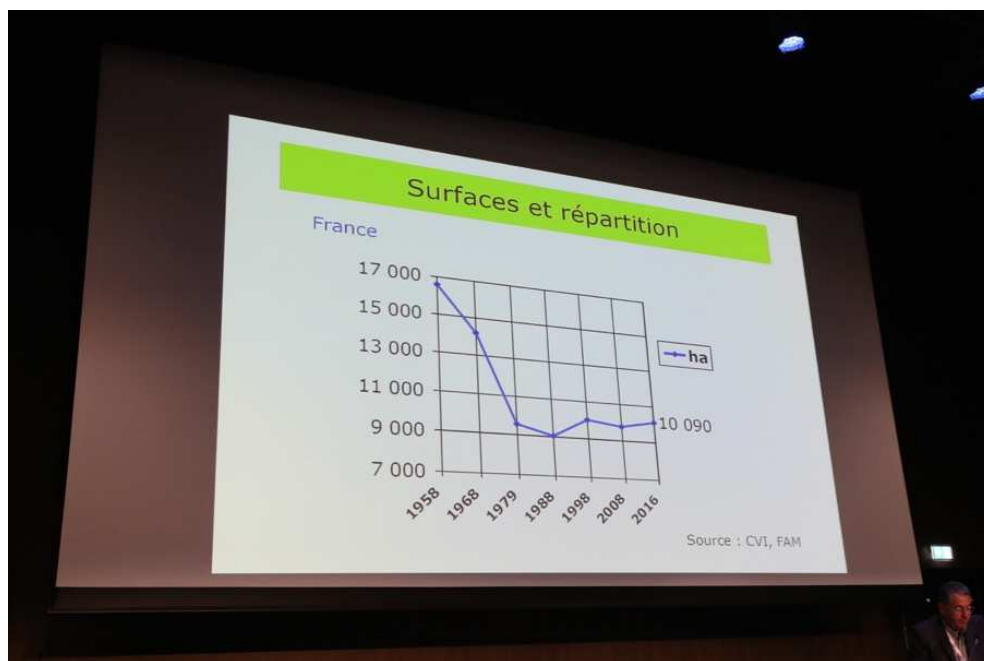


Links of Chenin to a number other varieties through one of its parents Savagnin, the Jura grape



Slide showing Chenin's links through its parents to varieties such as Ugni Blanc, Gouais and Cruchen.

The Congrès covered a number of subjects including the history of Chenin Blanc, its plantings in both France and South Africa, the effects of climate change – South Africa for the moment is more likely to be more impacted than the Loire – and a fascinating survey of the take up of sugar during *véraison* over the last five vintages – 2014 to 2018 – to be covered next week.



Chenin Blanc surfaces declined in France from 17,000 hectares in 1958 to 10,090 hectares in 2016, showing a slight recovery from a low of 9,000 hectares in 1998. South Africa continues to have the world's largest plantings of Chenin Blanc, although here, too, the area has declined from around 30,000 hectares at the end of the 20th Century when it accounted for some 35% of all South African plantings to 17,242 hectares in 2018 – 18.5% of all plantings.

There were many fascinating presentations during the Congrès, which I will cover in more detail in later posts. Over the three days there was the opportunity to taste some 355 different Chenins mainly from the Loire but also 37 from South Africa, one from Thailand and one from Switzerland.

In addition the benefit of a conference like this is the deepening of ties and the exchanges between Chenin Blanc producers in the Loire and South Africa. The next edition of this Congrès will be held in South Africa in 2021. The date has yet to be fixed but it may well tie in with the Cape Wine Show 15th-17th September.



Ken Forrester



Ina Smith with Marco Ventrella and Evelyne de Pontbriand



André Morgenthal



The South African contingent 'Drink Chenin'



Patrick Baudouin one of the key movers behind this Congrès and in the campaign to raise the awareness and image of Loire Chenin

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La Paulée d'Anjou

Sunday 30th June saw the first edition of the renovated La Paulée d'Anjou with the tasting (some excellent wines) held in the shade of the tree-lined walkway of the Coulée de Serrant and a very fine dinner, especially considering that there were over 550 diners at the

Greniers de St Jean in Angers. For the first time producers from Saumur were invited to participate. The wines shown at La Paulée are all organic or biodynamic. Overall it was undoubtedly a huge success and an example of the dynamism that Ivan Massonnat (Domaine Belargus) has brought to the region. The first Paulée d'Anjou was held in 2012. Next year's edition will be held in Saumur on Monday 22nd June 2020.

The tasting

My favourite wines from the Paulée tasting (105 wines presented):
Prices shown when these wines are still available.

2017 La Lune en Amphores, Vin de France, Mark & Martial Angeli & Bruno Ciofi, 100% Chenin Blanc, 28€ (cavistes)

2015 Les Foucardes, Vin de France, Mark & Martial Angeli & Bruno Ciofi, 100% Chenin Blanc, 34€ (cavistes)

2014 Les Gâts, Anjou, Patrick Baudouin, 100% Chenin, 40€

2017 Les Cormiers, Saumur Blanc, Château de Villeneuve, Jean-Pierre et Florence Chevallier, 100% Chenin, 21€

2017 Le Grand Clos, Saumur Champigny, Château de Villeneuve, Jean-Pierre et Florence Chevallier, 100% Cabernet Franc, 26€

2016 Rocca Nigra, Anjou Villages Brissac, Domaine de Bablut, Christophe & Antoine Daviau, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.10€

2016 Les Callardières, Savennières, Domaine du Closel, Evelyne de Pontbriand, 100% Chenin Blanc, 34.9€

2018 Montée de l'Épine, Anjou Rouge, Domaine Delesvaux, Catherine & Philippe Delesvaux, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.5€

2018 Saumur Champigny, Fabien Duveau, 100% Cabernet Franc, 12€

2017 Pierre Blanche, Anjou Blanc, Château de la Viaudière, Agnes & Pierre Antoine Giovannoni, 100% Chenin Blanc, 13.5€

2016 La Petite Cerisaie, Saumur Puy Notre Dame, Domaine Mélaric, Mélanie & Aymeric Hillaire, 100% Cabernet Franc, 20€

2017 Savennières Roche aux Moines, Domaine aux Moines, Tessa Laroche, 100% Chenin Blanc, 30€

2016 Les Genêts, Savennières, Domaine Laureau, Florence & Damien Laureau, 100% Chenin Blanc, 35€

2016 Le Bel Ouvrage, Savennières, Domaine Laureau, Florence &

Damien Laureau, 100% Chenin Blanc, 48€

2015 Jarret de Montchenin, Anjou Blanc, Château de Passavant,
Olivier Lecomte, 100% Chenin Blanc, 20.5€

2013 Clos d'Entre les Murs, Saumur Blanc, Château de Parnay,
Mathias Levron, 100% Chenin Blanc, 69€

2017 Le Clos des Mailles, Domaine Pierre Menard, Pierre Menard,
100% Chenin Blanc, 21€

2015 Le Coulée d'Aunis, Saumur Blanc, La Source du Ruault, Jean-
Noël Millon, 100% Chenin Blanc, 19€

2013 Fides, Savennières, Eric Morgat, 100% Chenin Blanc, 50€

2017 La Jarre de Juchepie, Anjou Blanc, Domaine de Juchepie, Eddy
Oosterlink, 100% Chenin, 26€

2016 Clos le Grand Beaupréau, Savennières, Château Pierre-Bise,
René Papin, 100% Chenin, 23€

2017 La Bigottière, Savennières, Domaine Richou, Didier & Damien
Richou, 100% Chenin Blanc, 20€

2017 Le Champ de la Pierre, Anjou Gamay, Domaine Richou, Didier &
Damien Richou, 100% Gamay, 13€

2018 Ronceray, Anjou Blanc, Château de Plaisance, Patricia & Guy
Rochais, 100% Chenin Blanc, 30€

2014 Les Poyeux, Saumur Champigny, Domaine Sanzay, Antoine
Sanzay, 100% Cabernet Franc

2017 Saumur Blanc, Château Yvonne, Mathieu Vallée, 100% Chenin
Blanc, 23€

2016 Anjou, Château de Suronde, Kathleen van den Berghe, 100%
Chenin Blanc, 25€



Jim Budd

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