



Jean-Pierre and his son Samuel Baron own a 20 hectare family domaine in the village of Thésée, about a 30 minute drive east of Tours, on the right-bank of the Cher River. In recent years, he has handed the vineyard and winemaking duties to his son, Samuel. Beginning with the 2010 growing season, Samuel initiated the transition of his estate to organic farming, or “*Agriculture Biologique.*” The domaine is now certified organic.

The Barons prune severely in the Fall to limit yields to a very low under-40 hectolitres per hectare and ensure healthier, riper fruit. Organic, composted fertilizer is used only when necessary. The Barons strive to prevent vine diseases and parasites before they become problematic. The topsoil is lightly tilled so as to remove weeds without disturbing the sub-soil, thereby encouraging the vine’s roots to go further down into the ground. The deeper the vine roots, the more the wine is consistent from vintage to vintage, because the vines are less affected by temperature variations in the top soil.

Samuel Baron’s Touraine Rosé comes from a one-hectare parcel of 35 year old Cabernet Franc vines in the commune of Thésée with a clay-limestone-silex soil. Samuel uses about half of his Cabernet Franc production for his Rosé (the other half is blended with Cot for his Chenonceaux cru red.) Baron destems and then directly presses the grapes. The juice is clarified by cooling and fermentation, started with native yeasts, lasts for one month at low temperature in tanks. The young Rosé ages on its lees for 3 months without malolactic fermentation, to enhance freshness. In order to use as little sulfur as possible, Baron fines with bentonite clay to remove any remaining proteins and then lightly filters his Rosé before bottling. About 200 cases are made. In 2016, Baron lost about 40% of his Cabernet Franc production due to the late April frost. Fortunately, the weather was excellent from early July until harvest. He harvested the Cabernet Franc vineyard on October 13th, about 3 weeks later than usual. The 2016 Baron Rose is a fully flavored -- red cherry and cranberry with notes of spice – and fresh Loire Rosé.