



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

PATRICK BOTTEX

Country: France

Region: Savoie

Appellation(s): Vin du Bugey

Producer: Patrick Bottex

Founded: 1991

Annual Production: 4,000 cases

Farming: Lutte Raisonnée

Website:

<http://cerdon-bottex.pagesperso-orange.fr/>



Bugey is one of the best-kept secrets of France. As a geographical crossroads between the Savoie, the Jura, Burgundy, and the Rhône, it is one of the few regions where one can see both palm trees and snow within eyeshot. It is adjacent to the Savoie on its western side, located in between Lyon, Grenoble, and Geneva. The wines of Bugey were first cultivated here by the Romans and were later resuscitated by the medieval monks. Still, the region had to wait until 2009 before receiving its own A.O.C. status. Today, Cerdon is considered one of three *crus* within the appellation of Bugey, and the only one whose entire production consists of sparkling wine.

In La Cueille, one of seven high-altitude hamlets surrounding the historic medieval town of Ponsin, Patrick and Catherine Bottex are farming the limestone slopes above the Ain River. They have been working five hectares of land since 1991 and produce only a small quantity of their beautiful, intriguing sparkling wine. As a former part of the Duchy of Burgundy, it stands to reason that several Burgundian grape varieties have found a home here—not the least of which is Gamay. The Bottex's blend consists of ninety percent Gamay and ten percent of the native Poulsard. They bottle this low-alcohol wine using the *méthode ancestrale*, a rare technique that experts believe predates the *méthode champenoise*. The wine first goes through a primary fermentation in *cuve*, but is then bottled before all of the residual sugar has converted to alcohol. After going through a secondary fermentation in the bottle for at least two months, the wine is ready—Champagne's *dosage* is not permitted! The resulting wine is delightfully refreshing with bright fruit, a beautiful rosé hue, and a touch of sweetness.

Kermit had never heard of Bugey until Marcel Lapierre uncorked a beauty at one of his after-tasting parties. His best memory of drinking it, however, was from an ice chest at a hamburger barbecue on a beach in Hawaii. From Bugey to Waimanolo!



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PATRICK BOTTEX (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Vin du Bugey-Cerdon “La Cueille”	80% Gamay 20% Poulsard	Planted between 1960 and 2010	Clay, Limestone	5.66 ha

* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

- Grapes are harvested by hand
- Fermentation is natural
- The wine is bottled half-way through fermentation
- After approximately 2 months, fermentation has stopped
- The wine is then re-corked and is ready to drink