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By [Matthew Jukes](#) 06/04/2015 [0 comments](#)
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*2013 Beaujolais Blanc, Clos de Rochebonne,
Château Thivin, Burgundy, France (£14.57,
Christopher Piper Wines,
01404*

814139, christopherpiperwines.co.uk).

Last week's beautiful red ([2013 Beaujolais L'Ancien](#), Les Pierres Dorées, Jean-Paul Brun, £10.50, The Wine Society) came from the southerly Pierres Dorées region of Beaujolais.

The famous golden stone from which this region takes its name was used to build the walls which surround Clos de Rochebonne, a 16th-century vineyard.

White Beaujolais is a rarity – only 1% of wines made are white. They are only made when the soils are perfect – and in the case of Rochebonne they are not only perfect, they are celestially beautiful. This chardonnay is fermented and aged over fine lees for eight months in older oak barrels.

The trick here is to impart the faintest touch of oak while retaining the aromatic purity of the grapes. If you think you are a long way south in Burgundy and only slightly north of the Rhône and its heady viogniers, marsannes and roussannes, this will tell you what to expect in this wine.

I rank Château Thivin as one of the “100 Most Iconic Wine Estates” in my latest book. The wine is only under £15 because no one has ever heard of it.

• *Matthew Jukes is a winner of the International Wine & Spirit Competition's Communicator of the Year (matthewjukes.com).*