Claude smiles warmly as he fills a delicate glass with Thibaut-Jouannet sparkling wine, the golden bubbles a sea of shining gems celebrating their emergence into the open air. Claude lifts his glass and slowly sips the wine’s radiant fragrance—notes of apple, white peach and hazelnut.

This vibrant sparkling wine is one of many being produced by Thibaut-Jouannet Winery, a partnership between esteemed French winemakers Claude Thibaut and Manuel Jouannet based just outside of Charlottesville. While each classically trained in the art of winemaking in France’s Champagne region from a young age, Claude and Manuel united behind the vision of creating an original sparkling wine together. Drawn to the Virginia countryside, they found the rolling hills of Charlottesville to be the ideal landscape to bring their vision to fruition.

The Thibaut-Jouannet label is elegantly abbreviated in English, a sweet reference to Charlottesville’s beloved Thomas Jefferson, lover of winemaking and all things French. Following in Jefferson’s footsteps, Claude and Manuel’s labors of love and passion for outstanding wine has yielded an impressive collection of critically acclaimed sparkling wines—Blanc de Chardonnay, Virginia Rosé, and Virginia Xora Brut.

The grapes used by Claude and Manuel are locally grown, ensuring that each bottle perfectly captures the sweet, floral spirit of the Charlottesville countryside. Couples seeking an authentic farm-to-table wedding experience will go “voilà, la la!” for locally crafted Thibaut-Jouannet sparkling wines. Couples will also be delighted by the joy that the joyful, effervescent notes and French elegance perfectly complement the day of ultimate celebration.

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