

« LE TRIEUR »

In an ongoing pursuit of quality, Luc developed the concept for « Le Trieur » in 2001. He used the first prototype of this sorting table, which was mounted directly to the berry-per-berry manual sorting table, during the 2002 harvest at Peter Michael Winery.

The following year, « Le Trieur » became an independent machine, similar to a sluice box on four springs, and operated by an off-centered cam. Using statistics that he gathered in several diverse vineyards, Luc designed the wedge-wire screen to have a ¼ inch gap between the rods.

The idea of using the wedge-wire screen first occurred to Luc as he was sorting berries by hand. He remembered an accident that had occurred to him during the harvest of 1987. He was in charge of brushing and cleaning the machine which separated solids from waste water at 'Le Val d'Or' Champagne Cellars in Avenay, France. The safety pin failed, leading to the stainless steel hood suddenly dropping on Luc's hands and cutting his right index finger to the bone. Although his scar remains to this day, it was this incident that helped Luc to conceive of a different use for the wedge-wire screen.

Removing nearly 100% of the shot berries and about 80% of the raisins, both of the extreme ends of the ripeness spectrum, « Le Trieur » proved to be an effective solution to berry sorting. A strong demand for this sorting machine immediately occurred. Within a few years, over 250 were sold to high-end wineries in the Napa Valley and Sonoma County.

To this day, « Le Trieur » is used by Morlet Family Vineyards and other ultra-premium wineries who share the same passion and commitment for quality. Luc continues to work on the development of other exclusive winemaking devices including a 'gyrobox.'



Photograph by Curt Fischer Photography