

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

June 2012

Burgundy Bonus Issue

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THE 2010 BURGUNDY VINTAGE: A SECOND ROUND OF MAGICAL WINES



I arrived in Burgundy again during the second week of March this year to start off my month-long tasting trip with another ten days in the Côte d'Or and Chablis to handicap the beautifully refined 2010 vintage. For the most part the trip went as planned, but my bad karma at Domaine de la Romanée-Conti once again came into play, as *Chef de Cave* Bernard Noblet had decided on the Friday before my visit to start bottling the 2010s and they were not available for tasting when I arrived. That one hurt! We tasted the 2011s in malo- why I am not sure- and then were sent packing with a cursory look at the 2009 Corton from DRC and a lesser vintage of La Tâche. A well-spent ninety minutes it certainly was not. But, happily, the stars were better aligned everywhere else I went during my Burgundy leg of the trip and I was very happy to have the opportunity to further dip my beak in this marvelous vintage. As I stated in Issue 36, 2010 is a marvelous vintage for both red and white Burgundy, and while not everyone was able to completely capture the magical potential of the vintage, there are a very high number of domaines who have made wines to rival their 2005s and eclipse every other previous vintage of the last twenty years. The purity, precision of *terroir* translation and sappy intensity from the low yields will make the very finest 2010s amongst the greatest red and white Burgundies of our

generation, and it is a vintage that is not to be missed by those who value the wines of this region for their unparalleled elegance and perfumed complexity.

I started my trip to Burgundy the week before the bi-annual large tasting series of Les Grands Jours, which was to commence the week after my arrival. As it is a very busy time for *vignerons*, I thought it might make sense to come and taste primarily ahead of the large-scale tastings, so that I could spend a bit more time in the cellars at each visit. Consequently, I only participated in the first two days of Les Grands Jours the following week, as I still needed to get over to Germany and Champagne prior to arriving in Bordeaux at the end of the month for the *En Primeur* tastings at the end of the month and the first month of April. The following notes are arranged geographically from north to south, with the domaines that I visited during the week before Les Grands Jours listed in the first section and the wines tasted during my two days of attendance at Les Grands Jours listed in the second section of this report. I have also included notes here on a couple of domaines' whose wines were tasted back here in the states, including a pair of superb new (to me) Volnay estates, Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay and Domaine des Vignes. For Domaine Glantenay and also Domaine Joseph Roty, the notes here are on their outstanding 2009s, rather than their 2010s, as I had not previously tasted the 2009s and the 2010s were not yet ready to be shown. I have not included in this piece any of the vintage background information that was reported on in depth in Issue 36. For new subscribers who have not seen Issue 36 and would like a copy, simply email me (john@viewfromthecellar.com) and I will be happy to send it along.

As is usual these days, the tasting notes and projected windows of peak drinkability for the white wines listed below do not take into account premature oxidation, which is seemingly no closer to a solution than it was ten years ago. Believe me, this is not for a lack of trying on the part of the Burgundians, who would do anything within their power to solve this problem and get white Burgundy back to the days when top wines in top vintages demanded a good decade to fully blossom and then drank beautifully for a couple of decades out from that point forward. I have not kept apprised of the current research project being undertaken by the BIVB in regards to premature oxidation, but like white Burgundy lovers the world over, I dearly hope that the current project will realize some success. As most folks will already be all too well aware of, premox takes at least five or six years out from the vintage to start to rear its ugly head, so any studies will have a minimum of that time period before they can start to bear fruit, and it takes several years after that threshold before any meaningful conclusions can be drawn. Keep in mind that the five or six year "tipping point" for premox seems to be somewhat temperature sensitive, and bottles that are stored at perfect temperatures from day one (as presumably all these bottles will have been) often take a few years longer to reach the same point of development as bottles that are subjected to the vagaries of crossing from one side of the Atlantic Ocean to the other. The last that I had heard was that the BIVB's current research project was using wines from the 2004 white Burgundy vintage, so there is hope that we may soon start to hear something about that experiment that might lead to solving, or at least mitigating some of the problems associated with premox. In the meantime, I continue to write tasting notes on dry white wines as if premature oxidation will not be part of the equation, but keep in mind that this is still emphatically not the case, and the sad likelihood is that most of the longest-lived and brilliant wines from the 2010 white Burgundy vintage will not reach their peaks of maturity.

Domaine Visited between March 12th and March 16th:

Marsannay-la-Côte

Domaine Bart (Marsannay-la-Côte)

All the Domaine Bart 2010s had been bottled at the time of my March visit, with the exception of the Fixin “les Hervelets” and the two grand crus here. As the bottling had been recent, I did not taste the full range of the fine lineup of Marsannays here, but a representative selection on this visit. The 2010 Bourgogne rouge and Marsannay Rosé were reported on in Issue 35, so I saw no reason to ask to open bottles of these again for this report. This is one of my favorite domaines in all of the Côte d’Or for great quality at the lower end of the appellation food chain and the 2010s from Domaine Bart are exemplary bottles. The two grand crus are truly magical as well in this great vintage and as good as one will find from their two exalted terroirs.

2010 Marsannay “les Finottes”- Domaine Bart

The 2010 les Finottes had been bottled three weeks prior to my visit, but was still showing pretty well for so soon after the *mise*. The wine is raised half in stainless steel tank and half in one to five year-old barrels, so as to preserve this cuvée’s early accessibility. The bouquet is a fine blend of black cherries, coffee bean, woodsmoke and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, suave and silky on the attack, with a good core, modest tannins and good length and grip on the still slightly agitated finish. This will be a good bottle for early drinking. 2012-2025+. **87-88+**.

2010 Marsannay “Longerois”- Domaine Bart

The 2010 Longerois was raised in twenty percent new wood in this vintage and was showing very well indeed. The bright and beautifully focused nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cassis, black cherries, a nice touch of meatiness, dark soil tones and espresso. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and tangy, with good mid-palate depth, modest tannins and very fine length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. Good juice. 2012-2025+. **88+**.

2010 Marsannay “Echézots”- Domaine Bart

The 2010 Marsannay “Echézots” from Domaine Bart is excellent and has to be one of the great steals of the vintage. This vineyard lies in a “Combe” and hence is one of the cooler *climats* in the village, and Monsieur Bart notes that this is always the last parcel picked from amongst the domaine’s holdings. The deep nose offers up a “cooler” fruit profile of dark berries, cassis, espresso, grilled meat, dark soil tones and a touch of cedar from its twenty percent new wood *demi-muids* (600 liter barrels). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core of fruit, a touch of tannin to resolve and a long, tangy finish that closes with fine grip and focus. Good juice here. 2014-2030. **89+**.

2010 Marsannay “Champs Salomon”- Domaine Bart

The Champs Salomon from Domaine Bart is one of the reference point wines in produced in Marsannay and the new vintage is excellent. The 2010 is a very classy wine on both the nose and palate, delivering a complex bouquet of black cherries, cassis, grilled meat, a touch of bonfire, lovely soil tones and a gentle base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a black fruity personality tied to superb transparency. The finish is long, shows great backend minerality and is modestly tannic, with tangy acids and

lovely focus and grip. This is really a high class bottle of red Burgundy and a bargain at its price. 2014-2030. **91.**

2010 Fixin- Domaine Bart

The 2010 Fixin *villages* from Domaine Bart was also showing very well at the time of my visit, offering up a deep and complex nose of dark berries, cassis, black soil tones, espresso and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, nicely delineated and tangy, with some chewy tannin to wait out and very good length and grip on the soil-driven finish. This may not have quite the same polish and inherent complexity as the top Marsannay bottlings, but it too is a lovely wine in the making. 2014-2030. **89+.**

2010 Fixin “les Hervelets”- Domaine Bart

The 2010 les Hervelets from the Bart family is a young and structured wine that shows excellent potential. The bouquet is a fine mélange of cassis, dark berries, French roast, black minerality, a touch of game and incipient notes of bonfires in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved in profile, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, firm tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This will be excellent in the fullness of time. 2016-2035. **91+.**

2010 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Bart

Domaine Bart’s parcel of Bonnes-Mares lies directly above that of the Comte de Vogüé on the slope, and consequently, this wine is almost entirely *terres blanches*. These fine old vines were raised this year in fifty percent new wood in 2010. The superb and utterly classic nose soars from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, a touch of gamebird, a very complex base of soil, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a structured personality, a superb core of sappy fruit, ripe tannins, excellent focus and balance and a very, very long, youthful finish. This had been racked three weeks prior to my visit in preparation for bottling around Easter, and may be even better than it was showing while I was at the domaine- and, believe me, it was not showing badly at all! A superb Bonnes-Mares. 2022-2075. **94+.**

2010 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Bart

The Domaine Bart Clos de Bèze had also been racked three weeks prior to my visit, but it too was showing very well indeed. The superb and utterly refined nose soars from the glass in a mélange of cassis, dark berries, coffee bean, grilled meat, black minerality, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke and a nice touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully transparent, with a sappy core of black fruit, laser-like focus, ripe, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and youthful finish. A superb wine. 2022-2075. **95.**

Gevrey-Chambertin

Maison Pierre Bourée (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The Pierre Bourée white wines from the 2010 vintage were already bottled and most were pre-sold when I arrived here in March, so I contented myself with tasting a few of the 2011s for the whites (most still in the tail end of malo or having just finished up) and then settled in to taste through a pretty wide range of the 2010s here. As folks who have visited the Bourée cellars will attest, it is pretty rare here not to encounter some wines in various period of reduction prior to bottling, as the Vallet family prefers to keep rackings to a minimal number and let the wines evolve as they see fit (within a reasonable limit) during the latter stages of the

elevage and just rack prior to bottling. As the 2010s were to be bottled a few weeks after my visit, some of the wines were obviously in a state of reduction and showing a need for a bit of aeration, but the ones that were on form were so lovely that it is not difficult to extrapolate for the entire range here. Monsieur Louis Vallet, who has seen many, many harvests at Maison Pierre Bourée is very, very content with the style and quality of the 2010 vintage- both red and white- and ranks them right up there with some of the very finest vintages of his long career. Several of the reds reported on below I had tasted last July during my visit and was very happy to see the wines evolving very much along the lines I had hoped for at that time. This “old school” domaine continues to turn out some very impressive and age-worthy examples of both red and white Burgundy and they very much deserve a wider audience. They have to offer some of the very best values to be found in the entire Côte d’Or.

2010 Vins Rouges

2010 Santenay “Gravains”- Maison Pierre Bourée

I have consistently enjoyed the Gravains from Pierre Bourée since the 2005 vintage and the 2010 version is another very stylish wine. The pretty and red fruity nose offers up scents of cherries, strawberries, coffee, a touch of venison, iron-like soil tones and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with a good core, lovely soil inflection and a long, modestly tannic and “nobly rustic” finish. This is great bang for the buck! 2015-2025+. **88.**

2010 Pommard- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Pommard AC is going to be a fine example of the vintage, with the broad shoulders of Pommard dovetailing beautifully with the inherent elegance of 2010. The deep and youthful bouquet jumps from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, a touch of gamebird, lovely soil tones and nice touch of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, well-balanced and nascently complex, with a fine core, ripe tannins and very fine length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. Fine juice. 2016-2035+. **89+.**

2010 Beaune “Epenottes”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Beaune “Epenottes” is evolving even better than I had hoped from my tasting last July and was showing outstanding potential in March. The deep, complex and meaty nose offers up a fine mélange of black cherries, plums, a nice touch of grilled venison, woodsmoke, a beautifully complex base of soil and a nice topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very long, with a sappy core of fruit, outstanding soil inflection, ripe tannins and a long, tangy finish. A beautiful bottle of Beaune in the making that shows its proximity to Pommard in its depth and meaty character, but is also very elegant at the same time. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2010 Corton “Renardes”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Bourée Corton “Renardes” may be labeled simply at Corton *tout court*, as that is how it is stamped on the barrels in the cellar, but it will be the sole Corton from Maison Bourée in 2010, so whichever way it is labeled, it will be worth a special effort to find, as this is a beautiful wine in the making. In March, it was showing all of the inherent potential I found in it last July, jumping from the glass in a deep and complex blend of cherries, strawberries, orange zest, incipient notes of *sous bois*, coffee, gamebirds and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with a soil-driven personality, ripe, suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the beautifully focused, deep and intensely-flavored finish. Quintessential young Corton! 2022-2065+. **94.**

2010 Côte de Nuits Villages- Maison Pierre Bourée

I really love the style and shape of the best wines from Brochon that I tasted in the 2010 vintage, as this Côte de Nuits Villages from Maison Pierre Bourée is superb and a great value. The deep, complex and meaty nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, grilled meat, raw cocoa, spices and a classy base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with lovely focus and balance, very suave tannins and outstanding complexity on the long and elegant finish. This is high class juice and again, a really stunning value! 2015-2035. **90.**

2010 Fixin “la Croix Blanche”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Fixin “la Croix Blanche” from Maison Pierre Bourée is very fine indeed, offering up a complex, red fruity bouquet of cherries, orange zest, lovely minerality, coffee and a touch of cinnamon in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with very good intensity of flavor, modest tannins and sneaky length and grip on the complex finish. Good juice and a very elegant rendition of Fixin. 2015-2035. **89+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Pierre Bourée

The heart and soul of Maison Pierre Bourée is their fine lineup of Gevrey bottlings and the *villages* this year is lovely. The deep and complex nose offers up a lovely, red fruity mélange of cherries, strawberries, spices, a gentle dollop of meatiness, a fine base of soil and a bit of cinnamon in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and intensely flavored, with supple tannins, tangy acids and a long, transparent finish. High class AC. 2016-2035. **90.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos de la Justice”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The flagship Clos de la Justice cuvée has turned out splendidly in 2010. The vibrant and classic bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, plums, grilled meat, coffee, lovely soil tones, a touch of woodsmoke and a nice spicy topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a fine core, supple tannins and very good balance on the long, transparent and classy finish. A lovely bottle of Gevrey and clearly of premier cru quality this year. 2017-2040. **92+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Pierre Bourée Champeaux is a fine example of this top-notch vineyard, soaring from the glass in a complex and very pure aromatic blend of cherries, strawberries, cinnamon, a touch of gamebird, a beautiful base of dusty minerality, coffee and a bit of mustard seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with lovely complexity, fine mid-palate depth and outstanding backend energy on the ripely tannic, tangy and soil-driven finish. A beautiful wine. 2018-2040+. **93+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Maison Pierre Bourée

The 2010 Cazetiers was a touch reduced and in need of a racking, but its quality was pretty evident on both the nose and palate. Underneath the touch of reduction is a complex and transparent bouquet of cherries, plums, grilled meat, fine soil tones, coffee, mustard seed and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and shows off lovely soil inflection, with moderate, ripe tannins, tangy acids and excellent length and grip on the focused finish. This will be excellent. 2018-2040+. **92-93+.**

2010 Charmes-Chambertin- Maison Pierre Bourée

This is a brilliant bottle of Charmes-Chambertin in the making. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, grilled meat, herb tones, coffee, a very complex base of soil, vinesmoke and a nice touch of cinnamon in the upper register. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nascently complex, with a sappy core of fruit, superb focus and grip and a very long, well-balanced and tangy finish that closes with suave tannins and beautiful precision. Gorgeous Charmes. 2020-2060. **94.**

2010 Chambertin- Maison Pierre Bourée

Last July I thought that the 2010 Chambertin from Pierre Bourée was stunning and one of the greatest young wines I have ever had the pleasure to taste from the domaine, and nothing has changed in the interim. If one is looking for a reasonably priced (at least in relative terms) and profound young bottle of Chambertin, one could do worse than this superb wine. The utterly classic nose soars from the glass in a blaze of plums, cherries, raw cocoa, grilled meat, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a profound base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complete, with a great core of sappy fruit, stunning soil inflection, ripe, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused, youthful and transparent finish. A great young Chambertin! 2022-2075. **96.**

Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The 2010 vintage marks the first lineup of wines to be “officially” overseen by the two Burguet brothers, Eric and Jean-Luc as heads of Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils. The two brothers have been integral players behind the scenes here for several years in anticipation of their father, Alain Burguet’s passing the baton at the estate, and this has been formally adopted in the 2010 vintage. Both brothers are warm and congenial hosts, and it is quite clear that the great direction this domaine has taken since Alain Burguet’s first vintage in 1972 is not in danger of any dramatic shifts now that Eric and Jean-Luc have taken the reins of the estate. The 2010s chez Burguet were very late to finish malolactic fermentation (always a good sign for the ultimate quality of the wines), with the Clos de Bèze still only about eighty percent completed at the time of my visit in early March of this year. Additionally, both the Chambolle-Musigny and the Gevrey “Champeaux” were still out of sorts from either late malos or a bit reduced and in need of racking (my notes do not make clear which was the case, and now, two thousand wines further on down the road of this long trip, I cannot recall which it was) and were not available for tasting during my visit. However, the range of 2010s here that I did taste were outstanding and clearly demonstrated that this consistently excellent domaine has not missed the opportunity to make brilliant wines in this once in a lifetime vintage, and these will be wines that are well worth seeking out in 2010. I was also able to taste a new bottling of Meursault that the domaine will unveil in 2011, from the lieu à dit of “Sous la Velle”, and which I have appended to the tasting notes after the 2010 reds. It will be a fine new addition to the lineup.

2010 Bourgogne “les Pincés Vin”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2010 Bourgogne from Domaine Burguet is really a lovely and very stylish wine. The complex and impressively refined nose (particularly for the appellation) offers up scents of cherries, red plums, a complex base of soil and a nice topnote of Gevrey spices. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and pure on the attack, with pretty good mid-palate depth, tangy acids and lovely length and grip on the nascently complex finish. This will take a year or two for its secondary elements to emerge and will be a lovely example of its level. 2013-2025. **88.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cuvée Symphonie”- Domaine Alain Burguet

The “Cuvée Symphonie” is the new name of the former “Cuvée Tradition”, as Alain Burguet’s sons, have decided to change the name of this bottling. I would suspect that the new name reflects the blending of several of the former *lieux à dits* (such as La Justice, Evocelles and

Place des Lois) into a more complex and harmonious single cuvée. Symphonie was the name favored by Jean-Luc, while Eric was lobbying for “Fusion” for this bottling, and apparently several visitors to the domaine over the last six months have been queried about which was the preferred moniker for this bottling, with the larger number of votes going to Symphonie. In any event, the wine is excellent, offering up a fine blend of cherries, blood orange, coffee, raw cocoa, fine soil tones and a floral topnote redolent of roses. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and intensely flavored, with lovely purity, modest tannins and a long, tangy finish. A lovely *villages*. 2014-2035. **90+**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Mes Favorites”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2010 old vine cuvée of Mes Favorites is outstanding, jumping from the glass in a complex and quite red fruity mélange of cherries, blood orange, raw cocoa, complex minerality, mustard seed and a deft framing of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe, suave tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very long, tangy and beautifully-balanced finish. A superb bottle of 2010 Gevrey! 2017-2040. **92+**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Rouge Dessus”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2010 Vosne premier cru of Rouge Dessus was simply singing at the time of my visit, delivering a pure and very precise bouquet of red and black cherries, a nice touch of plumminess, cocoa, a lovely base of soil and a dollop of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with great purity and focus, lovely mid-plate depth and excellent balance on the very long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. This is a really a dynamite example of the vintage, with all of the inherent elegance and intensity of flavor of the best 2010s on display. 2017-2040. **93**.

2010 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2010 Clos de Bèze from Domaine Burguet had only finished up about eighty percent of its malo at the time of my visit, so I have scored the wine in a range, but I fully expect it to eventually place at the high end, as this is an exceptional wine in the making. The deep, pure and nascently complex nose offers up scents of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, mustard seed, complex soil tones and a nice, discreet touch of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very pure on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, bright, tangy acids, great transparency and simply stunning length and grip on the laser-like and impeccably balanced finish. 2022-2075. **94-97**.

2011 Meursault “Sous la Velle”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

There are only three barrels of the new Sous la Velle bottling from the Burguet brothers, and as the 2011 had finished up its malo and was showing well, I saw no reason not to include a note on the wine in this report. All three barrels are new this year for the wine (as the domaine had not suitable barrels for a white wine in the cellars), but in the future the plan is to only renew one barrel out of three for this wine. The 2011 Sous la Velle is lovely, offering up a very pure and classy nose of pear, passion fruit, fresh almonds, chalky soil tones, a touch of vanillin oak and a topnote of lime blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very classy, with a good core of fruit, fine focus, vibrant acids and a long, bright and beautifully balanced finish. Fine juice. 2012-2020. **91**.

Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy (Gevrey-Chambertin)

I had tasted three of the domaine's wines during the "Salon de Gevrey" during the weekend of Les Trois Glorieuses last November- the Gevrey "Vieilles Vignes", premier cru "la Perrière" and the Mazis-Chambertin, and I was very pleased to be able to schedule a full visit to Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy during my March visit to taste through the entire range of 2010s. The entire range of 2010s had been bottled up in December of 2011, as Monsieur Harmand likes to bottle on the earlier side (as for example, at Maison Joseph Drouhin) to preserve the purity of the fruit and the transparency down to the terroir in the finished wines. If anything, the three wines that I had tasted last November were showing even better in March, as the room where the Salon de Gevrey was held at the Hotel de la Poste in Beaune was a bit on the warm side and the wines displayed even better aromatic purity at cellar temperature. I have been very impressed with the quality of the wines from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy since I was first introduced to them a year or two ago, as their inherently elegant style I find resonates very well with what I cherish most in red Burgundy. This is a very, very impressive range of 2010s!

2010 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2010 Bourgogne rouge is a very good example of its appellation, offering up a pretty nose of red and black cherries, a touch of Gevrey meatiness, mustard seed, woodsmoke and a good base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and quite long, with pretty good depth, a touch of tannin and good length and grip on the succulent finish. Good juice. 2012-2020. **86+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The basic bottling of Gevrey *villages* from Monsieur Harmand has turned out beautifully in 2010, wafting from the glass in a classy and quite spicy blend of cherries, blood orange, mustard seed, coffee, a touch of venison, cedar and a superb base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish pure and nicely sappy at the core, with fine transparency, modest tannins and a long, poised and tangy finish. This will drink well with a few years of bottle age and should keep quite well indeed. 2016-2035+. **89+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "en Jouise"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The en Jouise cuvée from Monsieur Harmand is produced from sixty year-old vines and is an excellent *lieu à dit* bottling. The vineyard lies along the same band as Clos Prieur-Bas, and a bit further into the village, of La Brunelle. The 2010 en Jouise is excellent, offering up a superb nose of cherries, red currants, coffee, fresh herb tones, a superb signature of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a fine core of fruit, suave tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. High class juice, I would give the 2010 En Jouise from Harmand-Geoffroy four or five years to fully blossom, and then drink it with great enjoyment over the ensuing twenty-five years or so. 2017-2040+. **90.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2010 Vieilles Vignes bottling was showing even better during this visit than it did at the Salon in November, offering up a nose of red and black cherries, a touch of blood orange, coffee, mustard seed, a great base of soil and a deft touch of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and tangy, with lovely mid-palate depth, ripe and well-measured tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. A lovely example. 2018-2045. **90+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

As I noted when reviewing the lovely 2008 Clos Prieur here, the domaine's holdings in this vineyard lie both in the upper, premier cru section and also in the lower, Clos Prieur Bas

section that is only entitled to *villages* status. As the domaine's vines in the lower section are eighty-five years of age, Monsieur Harmand prefers to make a single cuvée from the two sections and be content with a superb Gevrey *villages* bottling. The 2010 is excellent, offering up scents of red and black cherries, grilled meat, coffee bean, a complex base of soil, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with lovely transparency, ripe tannins and a very long, focused and tangy finish. Just a lovely, lovely bottle of Gevrey. 2019-2045. **91.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "la Bousière"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The tiny, Monopole premier cru of la Bousière reminds me quite strongly of Jean-Marie Fourier's bottling of les Goulots, as it shares a very pretty, red fruity purity on both the nose and palate with that bottling. The 2010 is a really fine example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a fine mélange of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, coffee, a touch of gamebird, chalky soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a very good core of red fruit, lovely soil inflection, bright, bouncy acidity and excellent focus and balance on the moderately tannic and classy finish. This is a beautiful middleweight in the making! 2022-2055. **92.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "la Perrière"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2010 la Perrière from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy was again showing beautifully in March (as it had in November at the Salon de Gevrey). The deep and very refined nose delivers a fine blend of red and black cherries, a touch of red currant, coffee, mustard seed, lovely soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with a fine core, lovely transparency, refined tannins and a long, tangy and quite reserved finish. Good juice by any measure. 2020-2060. **92+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaux St. Jacques"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2010 Lavaux St. Jacques from Monsieur Harmand is also outstanding, delivering a very red fruity bouquet of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, venison, complex soil nuances, mustard seed and a judicious touch of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and balance, tangy acids, moderate tannins and excellent grip on the very long, youthful and soil-driven finish. This will be outstanding, but it will need a minimum of eight to ten years to really blossom. 2020-2060. **92+.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

Champeaux is one of my absolute favorite premier crus in Gevrey and the 2010 version from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy is outstanding. The deep, very pure and nascently complex nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, a gentle touch of grilled meat, coffee, stunningly complex soil tones, orange zest, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe tannins and impeccable focus and balance on the very long, young and classy finish. The great amplitude of Champeaux is very much in evidence in this supremely elegant rendition. 2020-2060+. **93+.**

2010 Mazis-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

As is the case with the other two wines from the domaine that I tasted at the Salon de Gevrey last November, the 2010 Mazis-Chambertin from the domaine was showing even greater potential in March. The deep, complex and utterly superb nose delivers a fine mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meat, woodsmoke, a great base of dark, Gevrey minerality, espresso, mustard seed and a nice framing of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a fine core of fruit, ripe, fine-grained tannins, bright acids, excellent

focus and grip and a very, very long, primary and transparent finish. A stunning young Mazis. 2025-2075. **95.**

2001 Mazis-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

Monsieur Harmand very generously supplied a bottle of 2001 Mazis-Chambertin as an example of how his wines evolve with bottle age and I was delighted to see that the superb quality of the 2008s and 2010s here is no recent occurrence. The superb nose on the 2001 Mazis offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, grilled meats, incipient notes of black truffles, dark soil tones, fresh herbs and a nice touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with tangy acids, moderate tannins and excellent length and grip on the classy finish. This is a superb example of the 2001 vintage that is still at good five years away from primetime drinking. 2017-2045. **93.**

Domaine Joseph Roty (Gevrey-Chambertin)

As is typical at Domaine Roty, I was shown the finished 2009s during my March visit, rather than the 2010s out of barrel. The domaine has long preferred to show the wines at their completion, after their recovery from the mise, rather than show barrel samples, and consequently, they are always one vintage behind everyone else that I report on regularly. Not that this is a problem by any means, as the 2009s that Philippe Roty had ready for tasting in March were stunning and some of the freshest and purest examples of the vintage that I have tasted. What I found most remarkable was that while several recently tasted 2009s have seemed to my palate to have gotten a bit top-heavy as they move out from the bottling, the Roty '09s were spot on fresh and pure, with the fruit amplitude of the vintage never straying over the line into overripe aromatics or flavors. As a good friend of mine who was tasting with me during this visit at chez Roty commented, "I do not generally like the style of the 2009 reds at all, but if they all tasted as good as these Roty wines, I might reconsider my position on the vintage!" The 2009s here are a superb range of wines, with striking transparency and soil-driven personalities up and down the appellation hierarchy, and with none of the wines venturing over the line into blowsiness or simple, plump fruitiness. The percentage of new wood being used chez Roty is being reined in a bit in the last few vintages and the wines seem better today than they have ever been in the history of this fine estate! And, it is not only at the high end of the range that one's interest should lie chez Roty, as there are some absolutely stellar Marsannays in the cellar this year, and the Gevrey lieux à dit bottlings are stunning in 2009. Philippe Roty was quite preoccupied at the time of our visit with a situation of fraud that had recently popped up with their wines, as someone had re-labeled a lot of one of their top Marsannay bottlings as Griotte-Chambertin and was circulating the wine around the US. I cannot recall exactly, but I think the wine in question was being sold as 2005 Griotte, so one needs to be on their guard if that wine shows up in secondary markets at an aggressively low price. I am sure that the Marsannay is excellent in the bottle, but when one is paying for Griotte-Chambertin in a top vintage, no matter how good the Marsannay in question turns out to be, it is still going to sting.

2009 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Joseph Roty

The Roty family's bottling of Bourgogne Blanc is comprised of eighty percent pinot blanc planted in Marsannay and twenty percent chardonnay planted in Gevrey. The 2009 is quite light on its feet for the vintage, offering up scents of quince, lime peel, chalky soil tones and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and bouncy, with sneaky length and good mid-palate stuffing. Not overly complex, but good juice. 2012-2016+. **85.**

2009 Marsannay Blanc- Domaine Joseph Roty

I find the Marsannay Blanc from Domaine Roty to be a fascinating combination of chardonnay and *terres rouges* soil tones, which one seldom encounters. It is clearly a wine that takes a few years to blossom, and even in the forward white wine vintage of 2009, this will be the case with this wine. The youthful nose is a blend of lemon peel, crab apple, beeswax and plenty of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and very soil-driven, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids and a long, still very primary finish. I would give this wine at least a year or two in bottle to allow it to blossom. It really shows a lot of personality in its unique style. 2013-2020. **86+**.

2009 Marsannay Rosé- Domaine Joseph Roty

The 2009 Marsannay Rosé from Domaine Roty is lovely, offering up a fine bouquet of white cherries, quince, chalky soil tones, orange peel and white flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and quite broad-shouldered in this vintage, with a good core and fine length and grip on the bright and bouncy finish. As is customary with this wine, it will age pretty well in 2009 and I would be inclined to give it a year's worth of bottle age to allow its secondary layers to emerge. Good juice. 2012-2016+. **87**.



Philippe Roty in the family's old vine parcel of La Brunelle- which happens to lie right outside the cellar door.

2009 Bourgogne Grande Ordinaire- Domaine Joseph Roty

The BGO bottling from the Roty family is always one hundred percent pinot noir and really is a superb value year in and year out for those looking for a lot of meaty Gevrey-like character in a middleweight at a great price. The 2009 is quite good, offering up a very pretty and meaty nose of red and black cherries, grilled meats, coffee bean and a nice touch of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and lively, with very respectable mid-palate depth and a touch of tannin perking up the tangy finish. A fine everyday red Burg. 2012-2020. 86.

2009 Bourgogne “Pressoniers”- Domaine Joseph Roty

I have always had a warm spot in my heart for the Roty Pressoniers bottling, which ages very well and shows off a lot of character year in and year out. The 2009 is excellent, jumping from the glass in a classy aromatic blend of cassis, black cherries, a touch of grilled meat, coffee bean, lovely soil tones and just a whisper of oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and complex, with a good core, moderate tannins and a long, bright and vibrant finish. This is really a lovely bottle of Bourgogne rouge. 2014-2025+. 88.

2009 Marsannay- Domaine Joseph Roty

The Marsannay *villages* from the Domaine Roty is excellent in 2009, offering up a lovely blend of the succulent fruit of the vintage and the lovely soil tones of this underrated commune. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a lovely mix of black cherries, grilled meat, a touch of coffee bean, fine soil tones and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and quite minerally, with a good core, tangy acids, moderate tannins and impressive length and grip on the focused finish. A lovely bottle of Marsannay. 2015-2025+. 88+.

2009 Marsannay “les Quartiers”- Domaine Philippe Roty

The les Quartiers bottling comes from Philippe Roty’s own vines, from a parcel that lies on chalky soils on the Fixin border in the southern end of Marsannay. The vines here are closing in on fifty years of age, and the in 2009 the wine is excellent, offering up a fine nose of red and black cherries, grilled meat, complex minerality, coffee, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively pure on the attack, with good structure and mid-palate depth, tangy acids and a long, ripely tannic and classy finish. This is very fine this year and will age very well indeed. 2016-2030+. 89+.

2009 Marsannay “Champs Ste. Etienne”- Domaine Philippe Roty

The vineyard of Champs Ste. Etienne lies just up slope from Champ Salomon and is one of the top vineyards in the village. The soils here are all *terres rouges*. The 2009 version from Philippe Roty is superb, offering up an excellent and classy nose of plums, black cherries, grilled meat, raw cocoa, a superb base of soil tones, mustard seed and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure, with a fine core of fruit, superb focus, tangy acids and a long, ripely tannic and perfectly balanced finish. This is one of four truly dynamite bottlings of 2009 Marsannay in the Roty cellars this year, and if one is lamenting the fact that red Burgundy has gotten so expensive in the tonier villages, then take a look at these outstanding 2009 Marsannays! 2017-2035+. 90+.

2009 Marsannay “Ouzeloy”- Domaine Joseph Roty

For many years the Roty Ouzeloy was my “go to” wine in the village and I have bought and drunk cases of this wine with great pleasure in many previous vintages. The 2009 Ouzeloy is excellent, offering up a deep and nicely reserved bouquet of black cherries, cassis, grilled meat, coffee bean, a touch of iodine, lovely soil tones and spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and ripely tannic, with a superb core of fruit, fine focus and a very long,

youthful finish. This will need several years to blossom, but it too will be an outstanding wine and a great value. 2017-2040. **90+**.

2009 Marsannay “Boivin” - Domaine Joseph Roty

The Rotys have nice old vines in Boivin- sixty to seventy years of age, and these old vines have made a superb wine in this vintage. The 2009 Boivin is exceptional, delivering a deep, complex and very classy nose of plums, dark chocolate, black cherries, a touch of venison, coffee bean, dark soils and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, outstanding focus and balance, ripe, well-measured tannins and excellent length and grip on the classy and still fairly primary finish. Picking between these four top Marsannay *lieux à dits* is going to be very difficult in the 2009 vintage, as Philippe Roty has made some brilliant examples. 2017-2040. **91**.

2009 Marsannay “Clos de Jeu”- Domaine Joseph Roty

The Clos de Jeu is widely considered one of the very best *climats* in Marsannay and these sixty year-old vines have really excelled in 2009. This is a great Marsannay in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, venison, a great base of soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, great focus and transparency, ripe tannins and outstanding grip on the very long and perfectly balanced finish. Marsannay simply does not get any better than this superb wine! 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2009 Côte de Nuits Villages “Queue de Hareng”- Domaine Philippe Roty

This parcel of vines lies in the village of Brochon, right on the border of the fine vineyard of Evocelles (which is, of course, entitled to be sold as Gevrey *villages*), and they are also quite strategically located as lying right next door to Philippe Roty’s house. The nose on the 2009 Queue de Hareng is lovely, wafting from the glass in a fine mélange of black cherries, a touch of plum, grilled meat, raw cocoa, black minerality and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the classy finish. I really like the purity and vibrancy of this bottling this year. 2014-2025. **89**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty

The 2009 Gevrey AC from Domaine Roty is a touch more opulent than the last few wines in the lineup, offering up a ripe and generous nose of black cherries, plums, chocolate, gentle meatiness and a nice framing of smoky new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety, with a plump core of fruit, moderate tannins and a long, complex finish. This seems just a touch more fruit-driven than the best examples of Marsannay, but will provide a lot of early and quite enjoyable drinking. Good juice. 2014-2030. **88**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champs Chenys”- Domaine Joseph Roty

The Domaine Roty bottling of Champs Chenys is lovely in 2009, offering up a deep and seductive nose of black cherries, plums, venison, coffee, a fine base of soil, mustard seed and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with lovely complexity and mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the quite soil-driven finish. I very much like the combination here in 2009 of plump, pure fruit and superb soil definition. A very classy Gevrey AC. 2017-2040. **90+**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champs Chenys” V.V.- Domaine Philippe Roty

Philippe Roty’s personal parcel of Champs Chenys is even older vines than the domaine’s parcel, having been planted in 1934 and now closing in on their ninetieth birthday. As I reported last year (when discussing the 2008), this parcel lies right at the top of the slope in

Champs Chenys, right on the border with Charmes-Chambertin and contiguous with one of Denis Bachelet's very oldest parcels of vines in Charmes- a pretty good location! The 2009 version is flat out stunning, soaring from the glass in a very pure mélange of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, grilled meat, woodsmoke, a deft base of nutty new oak and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with excellent focus and balance, suave, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the poised and youthful finish. This is great juice. 2018-2040. **92+**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “la Brunelle”- Domaine Joseph Roty

The 2009 la Brunelle from Domaine Roty is also outstanding, as these vines celebrated their fifty-third birthday in '09 by producing a truly superb bottle. The vibrant and very pure nose soars from the glass in a blaze of cassis, plums, dark chocolate, woodsmoke, gamebirds, beautifully transparent soil tones and a nice touch of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very suave on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, great elegance and focus, and a long, ripely tannic and classy finish. This is a beautiful wine in the making. 2019-2050. **92+**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Prieur”- Domaine Joseph Roty

Like all of the Gevrey *lieux à dits* at Domaine Roty this year, the 2009 Clos Prieur shows off extraordinary transparency and mineral drive for this rather fruit-defined vintage. The superb nose offers up a very complex mélange of cassis, sweet dark berries, Gevrey black minerality, coffee bean, woodsmoke, incipient notes of game and a nice touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven, with a rock solid core of fruit, suave, ripe tannins, tangy acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and very pure finish. This will be a dynamite bottle in seven or eight years' time. 2019-2050. **92+**.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Fontenys”- Domaine Joseph Roty

The old vines in Fontenys can often produce a rather dense style of wine when young, but this has not been the case with this lovely 2008 and 2009 versions *chez* Roty. The wine offers up an impressive degree of transparency on both the nose and palate, with the bouquet providing lovely aromatic fireworks of plums, black cherries, coffee, grilled meat, fresh herb tones, a very clear base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, impressive soil drive, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Perhaps these last two vintages are the best young examples of Roty Fontenys I have ever had the pleasure to taste! 2022-2075. **93**.

2009 Mazy-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty

Not surprisingly, the three Roty grand crus are spectacular in 2009. The Mazy-Chambertin delivers a stunning nose of cassis, black cherries, grilled meat, woodsmoke, a profound base of black minerality, mustard seed and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and magical, with a rock solid core of fruit, superb purity and focus, ripe, well-integrated tannins and stunning length and grip on the youthful and perfectly balanced finish. Great juice. 2025-2100. **95+**.

2009 Griottes-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty

The 2009 Griottes-Chambertin from Domaine Roty is another stunning wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, grilled meats, coffee bean, a glorious base of chalky soil tones, woodsmoke, cedar and a classy topnote of spices. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, a lovely sense of reserve on the attack and great mineral drive on the backend. The finish is very, very long,

laser-like and ripely tannic. A brilliant wine in the making. I might have a very, very slight preference to the even more transparent version of this wine in 2008, but it is still too early for making any definitive judgments in that regard. 2022-2100. **95+**.

2009 Charmes-Chambertin “Trés Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Roty

The 2009 Roty Charmes is also strikingly pure and refined in this vintage that tends towards more buxom wines, as it delivers a brilliant aromatic mélange of cassis, black cherries, dark chocolate, grilled meat, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure and plush on the attack, with rock solid mid-palate depth, ripe, very suave tannins and stunning length and grip on the vibrant, focused and very young finish. Again, the jury is still out on whether this or the magical 2008 Charmes will ultimately reach the highest peak, but they are two legendary vintages of Roty Charmes! This will be another stunning 2009 from Philippe Roty. 2025-2100. **96+**.

Morey St. Denis

Domaine Taupenot-Merme (Morey St. Denis)

This was my very first visit with Romain Taupenot of Domaine Taupenot-Merme and I was very impressed with the range of 2010s that I sampled in March. The domaine has been fully biodynamique since the 2001 vintage, and its thirteen hectares of vines scattered amongst some of the top crus of the Côte de Nuits (and a couple of very serious Côte de Beaune as well) have been farmed organically since the days of Romain's father. This is a very serious domaine that I have been quite remiss in not visiting previously, as the wines are made in a very lovely style, with a six to eight day pre-fermentation maceration (or cold soak), one hundred percent destemming and a very rational percentage of new wood translating into some lovely examples of the 2010 vintage. Romain Taupenot typically uses fifteen percent new wood for the village wines, fifteen to twenty-five percent for the premier crus and never more than forty percent for the grand crus. The entire range of 2010s had been bottled in February of 2012, so the wines may still have been a bit on the shy side from the mise at the time of my mid-March visit. I very much liked the style and shape of these 2010s and am looking forward to visiting this fine domaine regularly in the future.

2010 Auxey-Duresses “Premier Cru”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

This is really a lovely wine in the making, offering up a bright and stylish nose of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with very good mid-palate depth, nice structure, fine focus and very good length and grip on the moderately tannic finish. I would certainly tuck this lovely Auxey away for another four or five years of bottle age and allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. Good juice. 2016-2035. **88+**.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The Taupenot family's Chambolle AC parcels lie primarily in the vineyard of Les Bussièrès, which is a continuation across the border of Christophe Roumier's Morey “Clos de la Bussière” premier cru. The vines here average forty years of age. The 2010 Chambolle *villages* was still a tad tight from its recent bottling and was still showing a touch of its stems, but a bit of coaxing displays a fine bouquet of black cherries, a touch of dark berry, espresso, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil and a deft touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and fairly tightly-knit, with a good core, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the nascently complex finish. 2017-2040. **89+**.

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2010 Gevrey *villages* from Domaine Taupenot-Merme is really quite lovely, jumping from the glass in a very classy blend of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of coffee bean, also a touch of youthful stems, lovely, dark Gevrey soil tones, and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite long, with a sappy core of black fruit, lovely soil signature, tangy acids and fine focus on the long, moderately tannic finish. This is a lovely example of Gevrey AC. 2017-2040. **89+**.

2010 Morey St. Denis “la Riotte”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The tiny premier cru of la Riotte is located beautifully right in the heart of the band of premiers in Morey, alongside les Millandes and right below Clos St. Denis. Romain Taupenot has fifty-five year old vines to work with here. The nose on the 2010 la Riotte is excellent, offering up a sappy and complex mélange of black cherries, dark berries, coffee bean, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and a very stylish framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core of sappy fruit, lovely focus and balance, suave, fine-grained tannins and lovely bounce on the poised and nascently complex, long finish. This is a fine bottle of Morey premier cru in the making. 2019-2050. **91+**.

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “Bel Air”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The domaine’s parcel in the premier cru of Bel Air are thirty years of age, and these vines in their prime have turned out a very fine example of the 2010 vintage. The very classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of black cherries, dark plums, a touch of grilled meat, woodsmoke, dark chocolate, fine soil tones and a very stylish touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and elegant, with a sappy core, lovely minerality, refined tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and dancing finish. Really a lovely wine. 2019-2045+. **92.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The domaine’s parcel in les Pruliers were replanted in the mid-1970s and now average thirty-five to forty years of age. This wine has turned out beautifully in 2010, offering up a sappy bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, a touch of fresh nutmeg, a bit of bonfire and a very sophisticated base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure on the attack, with a very suave personality for a young Pruliers. The finish is long, ripely tannic and beautifully balanced, with fine focus and the vintage’s great sense of elegance very much in evidence on the backend. High class juice. 2020-2060. **92+**.

2010 Corton “Rognet”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The Taupenot parcel in Rognet was also replanted in the mid-1970s and the vines are in their prime. The 2010 Rognet was showing excellent potential at the time of my visit, delivering a deep and classy nose of red and black cherries, coffee bean, bonfires, incipient notes of game, a beautiful base of stony soil tones and a dollop of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, superb soil inflection, ripe, well-measured tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and perfectly focused finish. This is a superb wine in the making. 2022-2060. **93+**.

2010 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

As the domaine’s parcels in Charmes and Mazoyères are quite different in age (thirty years for the Charmes and fifty years of age for the Mazoyères), the two wines are bottled separately. The 2010 Charmes is excellent, soaring from the glass in a complex and very classy nose of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, bitter chocolate, a fine base of soil, a touch of game and a lovely framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very

classy, with a silky core of fruit, ripe, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the nascently complex and very pure finish. A beautiful example of Charmes. 2022-2075. **93+**.

2010 Mazoyères-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2010 Mazoyères-Chambertin from Domaine Taupenot-Merme is also outstanding, offering up a very deep and refined bouquet (particularly for young Mazoyères) of sweet dark berries, grilled meat, a touch of eucalyptus, espresso, currant leaf, woodsmoke and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite reserved, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent focus and balance, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the poised and still quite primary finish. One can easily appreciate how different the personalities are of this and the Charmes, and it is quite sensible to not blend the two wines. A dynamite, young Mazoyères-Chambertin. 2022-2075. **94**.

2010 St. Romain- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The domaine makes one white wine, a St. Romain blanc that had been bottled just three weeks before my visit. The wine was showing quite well, offering up a very pretty nose of apple, white peach, lovely, chalky soil tones, a bit of citrus peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and juicy, with a good core, fine focus and impressive backend cut and grip on the bright and quite long finish. Good juice here. 2012-2020. **89+**.

Chambolle-Musigny

Domaine Ghislaine Barthod (Chambolle-Musigny)

Having been ill with food poisoning back in November on the day I was supposed to visit Domaine Barthod, I was very happy to catch all of Ghislaine Barthod's 2010s still in cask and not yet in the early preparations for bottling. As should come as no surprise, Madame Barthod has made absolutely stunning wines in this vintage and they will be worth a very special search to secure for the cellar. At the time of my visit, Ghislaine was worrying about the upcoming week's Les Grands Jours tasting, as the low yields of 2010 made it very hard for vignerons to show the new vintage at the tastings without cutting into allocations for clients, as there is simply not a whole lot of wine to go around in this great vintage. At Domaine Barthod, yields were down on average between twenty-five to thirty percent in 2010. I suggested a mini-vertical of one of the premier crus might be a nice way to show off the domaine's wines at the Les Grand Jours event (and thus, only cut into one cru's allocation in 2010), but Madame Barthod reasoned that the folks at the tastings were going to be most interested in tasting 2010s, and she dutifully showed a small range of her 2010s the following week in Gilly. The malolactic fermentations here were quite late, with the Veroilles only finishing in November of 2011. These are brilliantly refined and perfumed 2010s that perfectly capture the essence of Chambolle-Musigny. There is a purity and an inner core of sappiness from the low yields in this vintage, coupled to just brilliant transparency and fidelity to their underlying terroirs that make these some of the most exciting wines to be found in this magical vintage. Do not miss them!

2010 Bourgogne "Bons Batons"- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

I love Ghislaine Barthod's Bourgogne bottling and the 2010 is yet another fine effort. The very pure and sappy nose offers up a mélange of cherries, pomegranate, a nice dollop of raw cocoa and a quite good base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, round and nicely structured, with a good core, lovely purity and just a bit of tannin on the long and classy finish. This will need a couple of years to blossom (as is the case for most good Bourgogne

bottlings) and should drink nicely for the following twelve to fifteen years. Good juice. 2015-2030+. **87.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2010 Barthod Chambolle AC is one of the most beautiful village wines that one is likely to find in this superb vintage. The deep and very refined nose delivers a classic Chambolle blend of red and black cherries, violets, cocoa, complex soil tones and a touch of pomegranate. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and utterly suave, with a sappy core of fruit, modest tannins, bright, tangy acids and beautiful focus and grip on the long and dancing finish. A beautiful wine. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The Combottes 2010 is a very pretty wine that will drink well from a fairly early age, but I would be inclined to give this a good six or seven years of cellaring to really allow the wine’s secondary layers of complexity to emerge fully. The perfumed and classy nose offers up scents of cherries, strawberries, lovely minerality, roses and a touch of raw cocoa. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very transparent, with a sappy core of red fruit, modest tannins and a long, tangy and nascently complex finish. This is a very lovely wine of impressive intensity of flavor and lovely soil tones. 2019-2045+. **91.**



Ghislaine Barthod outside of her domaine- the vineyard behind her is the premier cru of Feusselottes.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “Chatelots”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

Madame Barthod’s 2010 Chatelots is a beautiful wine in the making, jumping from the glass in a deep and sappy blend of plums, red and black cherries, raw cocoa, lovely soil tones, a dollop of vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with beautiful focus and balance, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the reserved and still quite primary finish. Whereas the 2010 Combottes will deliver early drinking for those that are a bit impatient (with only more complexity sacrificed), the more structured Chatelots is really going to demand some bottle age. But, it will be a gorgeous bottle of Chambolle with some patience. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “Beaux Bruns”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2010 Barthod Beaux Bruns is simply stunning this year, with great complexity on both the nose and palate. The stunning, black fruity bouquet delivers a very pure mélange of black cherries, dark plums, a touch of currant leaf, dark chocolate, violets, complex soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and simply laser-like in its focus, with a great core of sappy fruit, bright, zesty acids, excellent focus and very impressive backend energy on the ripely tannic, almost velvety finish. This too will need some time in the cellar, but the 2010 Beaux Bruns from Ghislaine Barthod is very, very special indeed—perhaps the greatest example of this cru *chez* Barthod that I have ever tasted. 2022-2055. **94.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2010 les Baudes from Domaine Barthod is also a brilliant wine in the making. The superb, complex and sappy nose soars from the glass in a mix of black cherries, a touch of cassis, very complex soil tones, woodsmoke, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very pure and sappy in the mid-palate, with superb balance and precision, a great signature of soil and outstanding length and grip on the tangy, pure finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and great soil drive. Choosing a favorite between this, the Beaux Bruns and the utterly seductive Gruenchers is nearly impossible, as all three wines are beautiful! 2022-2060. **94.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

I noticed that in its second vintage in the Barthod lineup, the Gruenchers has moved up to a more exalted position, as it is now served following the Beaux Bruns and the Baudes. These fifty-plus year-old vines only arrived in the Barthod stable right before harvest last year, so there was no possibility to oversee any of the viticulture here in 2009, but Ghislaine has been farming these for a full year now and the inherent potential of this parcel is very, very much in evidence with this great 2010 Gruenchers. The beautifully refined and sumptuous nose offers up scents of black cherries, blood orange, raw cocoa, a touch of nuttiness, wonderfully complex soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and velvety on the attack, with stunning transparency, a great core, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and still quite primary finish. This is going to be a great, great wine. 2022-2055. **94.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2010 Charmes from Ghislaine Barthod is also stunning, soaring from the glass in a reserved and very pure mélange of black cherries, pomegranate, violets, a beautiful base of soil and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy, with lovely focus and balance, ripe, fine-grained tannins and a very long, suave and still quite primary finish. A great bottle in the making, but again, patience will be required to capture this wine at its zenith of complexity. 2022-2060+. **94+.**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” - Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2010 les Fuées is simply one of the greatest wines that Ghislaine Barthod has ever crafted in her fine, fine career. The stunningly complex and pure nose delivers a blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, kaleidoscopic minerality, a touch of currant leaf, vanillin oak, violets and a gentle topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and primary, with outstanding mid-palate depth, laser-like focus, great transparency and a very long, very tangy and magical finish. Gorgeous juice. 2024-2075. **95+**.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Veroilles”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

Despite the malo having only finished up four months before my visit, the 2010 Veroilles was showing very well indeed at the time of my visit. This premier cru lies right above Bonnes-Mares and often shows a bit of the same, broad-shouldered character of its more famous neighbor. The 2010 from Madame Barthod delivers a fine bouquet of black cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, incipient notes of forest floor, violets, cocoa and a beautiful base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with ripe tannins, fine focus and a long, youthful and quite masculine finish. 2020-2060. **93+**.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

Ghislaine Barthod may have no grand crus in her lineup, but at least in the 2010 vintage, the les Fuées and les Cras seem to have taken matters into their own hands and produced wines of grand cru quality. The reserved and utterly stunning 2010 Cras offers up a beautiful mélange of sappy red and black cherries, plums, pomegranate, raw cocoa, brilliant minerality, smoke, currant leaf and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with the sappy core ensconced in a fairly reserved format. The tannins are substantial, but ripe and very well-integrated into the wine, with bright, tangy acids and simply stunning length and grip on the vibrant and youthful finish. A great, great wine in the making. 2022-2075. **96**.

Domaine Louis Boillot (Chambolle-Musigny)

Louis Boillot has followed up his very successful and supremely elegant 2009s with a stunning range of 2010s- some of the very best wines I tasted on this most recent trip! Due to the extremely short crop in 2010, there will be no Fixin villages bottled in this vintage, as Monsieur Boillot has decided to make one larger cuvée of Côte de Nuits Villages that has incorporated in the Fixin as well. As Louis Boillot has such a lovely spread of vineyards in both the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits, it is hard to say that one set of wines is stronger than the other in this outstanding vintage, but I have to say that the inherent elegance and transparency of the 2010 vintage has really worked its magic on the collection of Volnays and particularly, Pommards in the Boillot cellars this year. 2010 is clearly the finest young vintage that I have ever had the pleasure to taste from Louis Boillot, and it is high time that Burgundy lovers started to take more notice of just how outstanding the Boillot wines are these days. To give some idea of just how high I hold the Boillot wines these days, I would have to say that after Domaine Lafarge, these are the best Volnays to be found in the village today. And the great Volnays here are not the only source of fireworks! Monsieur Boillot is clearly at the top of his game at the present time and he has not missed out on the historic opportunity that was presented by the 2010 vintage.

2010 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2010 Côte de Nuits Villages from Louis Boillot is utterly refined and will be a stellar bargain for those intrepid enough to pay attention to this more modest appellation. The superb and classy nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cassis, black cherries, violets, grilled meat, black minerality and just a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the bright and bouncy finish. This is very high class juice for a Côte de Nuits Villages! 2013-2025+. **89+**.

2010 Beaune “Epenotes”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2010 Beaune “Epenotes” was showing very well indeed at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a blend of black cherries, a nice touch of plum, lovely soil tones, gamebirds, coffee bean and a discreet touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure, with lovely mid-palate depth, ripe, refined tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. Just a beautiful bottle of Beaune in the making, with the inherent elegance of the vintage giving this often “sturdier” *terroir* a lovely veneer of refinement. 2016-2040. **90+**.

2010 Pommard- Domaine Louis Boillot

Louis Boillot makes a great range of Pommards, and his 2010 *villages* bottling is not to be overlooked in the race to latch onto either of the premier crus this year! There is only a single barrel of this wine in 2010, as yields were infinitesimal, but it is a truly exceptional bottle of Pommard AC. The nose is superb, offering up scents of red and black cherries, a touch of grilled meat, exceptional minerality, raw cocoa and just a whisper of vanilla (from a two wine barrel). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very transparent, with outstanding focus, moderate tannins, tangy acids and excellent length and grip on the very refined finish. This will take a good five years to start to blossom and should provide outstanding drinking for the following two to three decades. Great AC! 2017-2040. **91+**.

2010 Volnay “les Grands Poisots”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The les Grands Poisots is the Volnay village wine from Louis Boillot and it too is lovely this year. The deep, pure and nascently complex nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cassis, black cherries, espresso, violets and a beautiful base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a sappy core of black fruit, tangy acids, suave tannins and excellent focus and balance on the long and soil-driven finish. Lovely juice. 2017-2040. **91**.

2010 Volnay “les Angles”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2010 Volnay “les Angles” is exceptional, but it will demand some time in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to blossom. The deep, reserved and stunning nose offers up a lovely mélange of black cherries, pomegranate, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, a touch of youthful currant leaf and a beautiful base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, laser-like focus, great balance and a very long, tangy finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and outstanding grip. Just a classic Volnay in the making. 2020-2060+. **93**.

2010 Volnay “les Brouillards”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2010 les Brouillards is another outstanding example of the vintage, as these sixty year-old vines have really excelled. The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a fine mix of red and black cherries, a touch of blood orange, woodsmoke, stunningly pure minerality, fresh herbs, gamebirds and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, reserved and

shows off beautiful complexity out of the blocks, with a sappy core of fruit, stunning soil inflection and excellent length and grip on the ripely tannic finish. Great juice. 2020-2060+. **93+**.

2010 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Louis Boillot

Louis Boillot’s 2010 Caillerets is a brilliant young wine. The stunning nose delivers a superb mélange of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, coffee, gamebirds, a touch of blood orange, a wonderfully complex base of soil and a faint whiff of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, reserved and brilliantly complex, with a sappy core of fruit, suave tannins, tangy acids and great length and grip on the transparent and beautifully delineated finish. Brilliant Caillerets. 2022-2075. **94+**.

2010 Pommard “les Fremiers”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The seventy year-old vines in Fremiers have had no difficulty capitalizing on the inherent potential found in the 2010 vintage, as this is simply a superb bottle in the making. The bouquet is a very pure and refined blend of pomegranate, a touch of blueberry, beautifully complex soil tones, raw cocoa, vinesmoke and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure on the attack, with a very soil-driven personality, excellent mid-palate depth, firm, refined tannins, tangy acids and great length and grip on the focused finish. This is a classic young Pommard in the making that is very, very long on elegance and refinement in this exceptional vintage. It had no problems following up the three brilliant Volnay premier crus in our tasting! 2022-2075+. **93+**.

2010 Pommard “la Croix Noire”- Domaine Louis Boillot

It is beginning to become my opinion that this tiny jewel of a vineyard in the center of Pommard is the greatest, little-known *terroir* in the entire Côte de Beaune. The 2010 from Monsieur Boillot is stunning, soaring from the glass in a totally refined mélange of cherries, red currants, a touch of blood orange, woodsmoke, a beautifully complex base of soil, fresh herbs and just a hint of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with stunning transparency, tangy acids, suave, fine-grained tannins and incomparable elegance for a young Pommard on the very, very long and focused finish. A great, great wine in the making. 2020-2075+. **95**.

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Louis Boillot

As brilliant as are the fireworks from the Côte de Beaune in the Boillot cellars this year, the wines from the Côte de Nuits have no problems keeping pace! The 2010 Gevrey *villages* is a beautiful wine, offering up a lovely and quite complex blend of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a great base of soil, woodsmoke and a whiff of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure, with lovely intensity of flavor, a sappy core of fruit, velvety tannins and a long, tangy finish. Just a lovely wine that will only need a year or two in the cellar to really start to hit on all cylinders. 2014-2035. **90**.

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Evocelles”- Domaine Louis Boillot

Monsieur Boillot reports that the sixty year-old vines in Evocelles produced a lot of really tiny berries in 2010 (fully seventy percent of the harvest was in very small berries from his parcel), which tends to really concentrate the flavors of the resulting wine. This is a great wine in the making- clearly of premier cru quality, despite the wine only being officially a *villages*. The stunning nose offers up a lovely blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, a touch of cocoa, black minerality, violets and a bit of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very sappy at the core, with lovely intensity of flavor, great transparency, fine-grained tannins and absolutely superb length and grip on the dancing finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Gevrey-

well, actually Brochon, as that is really the commune where the vineyard lies, despite its being entitled to Gevrey *villages* status. An utterly classic 2010. 2018-2040+. **92.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Champonnets”- Domaine Louis Boillot

Champonnets lies up above the premier cru of Fontenys on the slope and is one of the smallest premier crus in the village of Gevrey. Monsieur Boillot’s stunning 2010 version may well be the push that takes this fine premier cru out of relative obscurity and adds a little luster to the reputation of this fine *terroir*. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, a complex base of Gevrey’s black minerality, grilled meats, a touch of mustard seed, vanillin oak and a floral topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave, with great transparency, outstanding mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long, poised and well-balanced finish. Classy juice. 2020-2070. **93.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Cherbaudes”- Domaine Louis Boillot

Monsieur Boillot’s parcel of very, very old vines in Cherbaudes have produced a stunning 2010. The brilliant bouquet offers up a red fruity mélange of cherries, blood orange, mustard seed, very complex minerality, coffee and a deft touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a minerally personality, a sappy core of fruit, a tightly-knit structure, tangy acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and great mineral drive. A brilliant bottle of Cherbaudes! 2020-2075. **94+.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2010 Pruliers- from Monsieur Boillot’s oldest vines that are not too far away from celebrating their century mark- is stunning. The deep, pure and sappy nose soars from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, a touch of currant leaf, vinesmoke, anise and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite closed, with brilliant transparency, a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, very fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy finish. The inherent elegance of the 2010 vintage, which has produced such magical Pommards in the cellar this year, has also worked its magic with the old vine Pruliers! A great wine in the making. 2022-2075. **94+.**

Vosne-Romanée

Domaine Georges Noëllat (Vosne-Romanée)

I was introduced to young Maxime Cheurlin during my visit in November of last year, as he brought along a couple of bottles from his family domaine to a tasting in Beaune. 2010 is his very first vintage, having taken over the running of the family estate from his grandmother. Like many of his neighbors in Vosne-Romanée, there is a fairly high percentage of new oak used here, but the only wine that really had an issue with in terms of oak balance was the Nuits St. Georges “Boudots”, which was showing extremely woody at the time of my visit. For the remainder of the range, the oak is nicely balanced by depth of fruit and there is superb soil tones across the board from the fine parcels of vines that Monsieur Cheurlin has to work with. The winemaking looks at this early stage to be very sure-handed and I have little doubt that Maxime Cheurlin is well on his way to becoming one of the next stars in the firmament of Vosne-Romanée. I have a gut feeling that less new wood in the recipe here would really deliver impressive results, as all of these wines showed absolutely beautiful underlying expressions of terroir beneath their spicy new wood components. Monsieur Cheurlin bottled his village wines quite early in 2010, with the Vosne that I tasted last November bottled at the end of October of 2011, but, I am not sure

exactly when he bottled the premier crus and grand crus that I tasted on this visit in mid-March. In addition to the two premier crus that I tasted with Monsieur Cheurlin in March, the domaine also has parcels in the Vosne premier crus of les Chaumes and les Beaux Monts as well. I hope as time goes on Maxime Cheurlin will use a tad less new wood for his wines (but, of course, I hope this for virtually everyone I visit in Vosne these days!), but there is no denying that his range of 2010s are a very, very exciting first effort at the head of the family domaine and this is an estate to watch in the future!

2010 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Noëllat

My tasting note on the Vosne-Romanée AC from Maxime Cheurlin dates back to last November, at which time it had only been in bottle for three weeks. Nevertheless, the wine was showing quite well, offering up a deep and complex nose of red and black cherries, a touch of game, bitter chocolate, a very good base of soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft touch of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and balance and very good length and grip on the moderately tannic finish. The vines in this parcel of Vosne *villages* are sixty years of age and the wine was raised in thirty percent new wood. Good juice here! 2017-2035. **89+**.

2010 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Georges Noëllat

During my visit in mid-March, the 2010 Nuits AC was showing very well indeed. The bouquet is a lovely mélange of red and black cherries, a nice touch of blood orange, fine minerality, woodsmoke and a firm base of spicy new oak. I did not ask, but assume that the Nuits *villages* was also raised in thirty percent new wood in this vintage. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a very good core of fruit, lovely purity, tangy acids and fine length and grip on the focused and quite elegant finish. This too is an excellent village wine in the making. 2017-2035+. **89+**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The lovely 2010 Petits Monts from Domaine Georges Noëllat was raised in fifty percent new oak and was showing quite well at the time of my visit in March, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of red and black cherries, coffee bean, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a nice touch of fresh nutmeg and plenty of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure on the attack, with impressive minerality, fine mid-palate depth and a very long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. Today, the wine is a bit marked by its wood on the backend, but there is plenty of stuffing to eventually absorb these wood tannins and the wine should be excellent with eight to ten years of bottle age. There are eight barrels of Petits Monts in the cellars in 2010- four of which were new. A very good example of this great *terroir*. 2019-2040+. **91+**.

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

Monsieur Cheurlin decided to raise the Boudots in seventy percent new wood in 2010, and this was the only wine that was not showing well at the time of my visit. The new wood was quite resinous in tone, overpowering the underlying notes of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa and soil. The wine is deep and full-bodied on the attack, but again, currently quite dominated by its new wood and dry and astringent on the backend. Perhaps, I just caught this wine at an extremely awkward stage. ???

2010 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat

I first saw a sample of the 2010 Echézeaux from Maxime Cheurlin last November, when the wine had just finished up its malo, and it was a bit disjointed from the secondary fermentation, but showing outstanding potential. I was very happy to have the chance to revisit it

again in March, where it was absolutely singing. Maxime's family's parcel lies in the *lieu à dit* of Les Cruots and the vines are in excess of eighty years of age. These venerable old vines have produced a superb wine that shows no difficulty standing up to its one hundred percent new wood this year, soaring from the glass in a blaze of plums, black cherries, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a touch of game and a generous base of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on that attack, with a rock solid core sappy fruit, tangy acids, ripe, well-integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. This is a classic example of Echézeaux in the making, with the vintage's beautiful transparency very much in evidence. A prodigious first vintage of Echézeaux. 2022-2060+. **93+**.

2010 Grands Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The Grands Echézeaux from Domaine Georges Noëllat is also produced from vines in excess of eighty years of age and the wine was raised all in new wood in 2010. This is a superb example of the vineyard and the vintage, with plenty of stuffing to carry its new oak. The deep and absolutely superb nose offers up a complex mélange of black raspberries, black cherries, a touch of venison, Vosne spices, excellent minerality and plenty of cedary, spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with excellent transparency, a fine core of black fruit, tangy acids, superb focus and a very, very long, ripely tannic and very well-balanced finish. This is a fine, fine bottle in the making! 2022-2075. **94**.

Nuits St. Georges

Domaine Alain Michelot (Nuits St. Georges)

The cold cellars at Domaine Alain Michelot are beautiful for slow and gentle evolutions for the wines in barrel, and this is often seen years later when the wines are just singing out of bottle. But, for visiting journalists, this often means that the wines will be a bit behind their neighbors' in their evolutions, and it is not a rare occasion to find that the wines are still finishing up malos when many other cellars are already completed. This probably would have been the case if I had visited here in November, but due to my rather inflexible schedule and Elodie Michelot's numerous commitments during Les Trois Glorieuses last year, we decided to put off my visit to taste the 2010s until this March. Happily, the wines (with a couple of exceptions) were in beautiful shape and showing beautifully at the time of my visit, with the malolactics all completed and the wines not yet racked, as the domaine prefers to wait until the wines are to be assembled for bottling to conduct the racking. As I reported in the October issue last year (where the second round of 2009 red Burgundies were reviewed), that the 2010 vintage is the first year of production for Domaine Michelot's first grand cru, their new Clos Vougeot. The Michelots gained a lease on a fine parcel of relatively old vines in Clos Vougeot located up at the top of the vineyard and over on the southern side towards Grands Echézeaux in the spring of 2010, and since I had heard the news during my visit last summer, I have been looking forward to tasting this new addition to the Clos Vougeot lineup. As the note below will attest, Elodie Michelot has not wasted any time in producing a stunning wine from this parcel of old vines at the top of the Clos.

The 2010 vintage is also a watershed year for the domaine for another reason beyond the new Clos Vougeot, as it is the last year that they will produce their fine version of les Porrets St. Georges. The parcel is owned by one of Alain Michelot's brothers or sisters, and there is now a younger cousin who is ready to get started with his or her own career as a vigneron and the

parcel of les Porrets has reverted back to another branch of the family. Elodie Michelot has done a splendid job with the last vintage of les Porrets from the domaine, and for folks who may not be as familiar with this great terroir as they are with other, perhaps better-known vineyards such as les Cailles or les Vaucrains, the 2010 Michelot Porrets would be a very rewarding addition to the cellar. Not content with the addition of the domaine's first grand cru in 2010, there will also be a new wine from Domaine Alain Michelot in 2011- a Nuits St. Georges Blanc from the vineyard of la Perrière Noblot- which was planted over to chardonnay four years ago. I had a chance to get a sneak peak at the 2011 vintage of the Nuits Blanc and this is going to be a very good wine when the vines have gained a bit more age to them. The 2010s chez Michelot are absolutely stellar examples of the vintage, with the top three or four premier crus amongst the very best wines to be found in Nuits in this great vintage, and the Clos Vougeot certain to be one of the reference point examples of this grand cru long into the future. Do not miss these great 2010s!

2010 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Michelot Bourgogne rouge is lovely in 2010, offering up a very pretty and red fruity nose of cherries, pomegranate, a nice touch of soil tones and a bit of Nuits St. Georges nuttiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and pure, with modest tannins and a long, tangy finish. This is a lovely example. 2014-2025. **87.**

2010 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2010 Morey *villages* was still showing just a bit of grumpiness from its late malo at the time of my visit, and I have scored the wine in a range as a result. Underneath the bit of aggressive CO2 from the malo is a very good wine in the making, offering up scents of red and black cherries, a touch of raw cocoa, woodsmoke and a stylish base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite pure on the attack, with good structure, a fine core and a long, suavely tannic finish. This will certainly be a very good AC. 2017-2035. **88-89.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2010 Michelot old vine Nuits bottling is gorgeous this year, with the inherent elegance of the vintage really feeding beautifully into the style of the finished wine this year. The young and very pure nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, quince, a touch of blood orange, nutskins and a lovely signature of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in style, with excellent purity on the attack, ripe, well-integrated tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long and tangy finish. This is an excellent village wine. 2018-2040. **90.**

2010 Morey St. Denis “les Charrières”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The beautifully-situated premier cru of les Charrières lies right in the band of top premier crus in Morey that runs through the middle of the village slope, just below Clos de la Roche and Clos St. Denis. This band includes Clos des Ormes (contiguous to les Charrières on the northern side of the vineyard), les Façonnières, les Millandes, and a little bit further on to the south both Clos Sorbés and les Ruchots. The 2010 Charrières offers up a stylish nose of cherries, a touch of beetroot, pomegranate, woodsmoke, soil and incipient notes of gamebirds. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved, with a fine core of pure fruit, lovely transparency and a long, suavely tannic, classy finish. Good juice in the making. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “la Richemone”- Domaine Alain Michelot

La Richemone is one of the most elegant of the premier crus in Nuits and the 2010 from Domaine Michelot is excellent. The wine will be a very suave and silky example of the vintage

that will offer up quite sophisticated drinking after seven or eight years of bottle age. The sappy and complex nose delivers a mélange of red and black cherries, pomegranate, lovely minerality, raw cocoa, smoke and a nice touch of violet in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety on the attack, with a sappy core of pure fruit, lovely elegance and nascent complexity and a long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. This is a really delicious bottle of Nuits in the making, with its Vosne-Romanée proximity very much in evidence. 2020-2060. **92.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Michelots’ parcel of les Cailles, right alongside that of Bertrand Chevillon’s, is as fine a location in this great vineyard as one could ask for. The 2010 is a beautiful example of the vintage, offering up a closed and classy aromatic blend of cherries, blood orange, gamebirds, a great base of soil tones, a bit of Nuits nuttiness and a nice topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and intensely flavored, with a good core, ripe tannins and lovely focus and balance on the ripely tannic and soil-driven finish. This will take a good decade or more of bottle age to fully blossom, but it will age very gracefully and will be a lovely drink. 2022-2060. **92+.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “Champs Perdrix”- Domaine Alain Michelot

As is the case with the Morey AC, the 2010 Champs Perdrix was one of the latest to finish up its malo and was showing still a bit of gas from the recently-finished secondary fermentation. Underneath is a very good wine by any measure, delivering a bouquet of black cherries, plums, a touch of game, cocoa, fine soil tones and a bit of coffee bean in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a sappy core of black fruit, lovely focus and a long, structured finish. This will certainly be a fine bottle. 2022-2060. **91-92.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2010 Chaignots from Elodie Michelot is another absolutely superb Nuits premier cru. The very pure and sappy nose of red and black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, gamebirds, a lovely base of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with Chaignots’ classic plummy generosity, lovely transparency, a plush core of fruit, tangy acids and fine focus and nascent complexity on the ripely tannic and very classy finish. Fine juice in the making here. 2020-2060. **92+.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Porrets St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot

This will be the last vintage of les Porrets St. Georges at Domaine Michelot, as the vines are reverting to a younger cousin, and it is a splendid wine to go out with this cru at the domaine. I cannot recall a finer young vintage of les Porrets St. Georges from the domaine, as the 2010 offers up great beauty on both the nose and palate. The excellent bouquet jumps from the glass in a mélange of black cherries, pomegranate, raw cocoa, fine soil tones, woodsmoke and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with great soil drive on the backend, firm, ripe and fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and very transparent finish. This will be a beautifully complex and pure wine at its apogee and one of the absolute stars to be found in Nuits St. Georges in the 2010 vintage. 2022-2070. **94.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The inherent elegance of the 2010 vintage beautifully dovetails with the *terroir* of Vaucrains this year, and the Domaine Michelot version is a stunning wine in the making. The deep, pure and very refined nose offers up a complex and very classy blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, incipient notes of game, nutskins and a very complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and absolutely rock solid at the core, with firm,

ripe tannins, excellent focus, tangy acids and great length and grip on the well-balanced and very classy finish. A beautiful bottle of Vaucrains. 2025-2075. **94+**.

2010 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot

As great as the last two premier crus are in the Michelot cellars this year, they have to allow first place here to be taken by this brilliant example of Les St. Georges. The supremely promising and pure nose wafts from the glass in a stunning mélange of cherries, pomegranate, blood orange, nutskins, beautifully complex minerality and a floral topnote redolent of peonies. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with a very transparent and soil-driven personality, a fine sense of reserve and simply stunning length and grip on the very pure and tangy finish. This is a quintessential example of Les St. Georges that very convincingly argues that at its best, this is the grand cru of Nuits St. Georges. This is one of the great steals of the vintage. 2025-2075. **95**.

2010 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Alain Michelot

There are three and a half barrels of this glorious Clos Vougeot in the Michelot cellars in its inaugural vintage. The vines were planted in 1972 and are now at their prime at forty years of age. The deep and beautifully sappy nose soars from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a beautiful base of soil and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a suave profile, beautiful transparency, a great core, tangy acids and outstanding length and grip on the complex and stunning finish. This is only the first vintage for the Michelot Clos Vougeot, but it is pretty hard not to assume that this is going to be one of the reference point examples of this lovely grand cru *terroir* for many, many years to come. The 2010 Michelot Clos Vougeot is a brilliant wine. 2022-2075+. **96**.

Beaune

Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils (Beaune)

I had not had the possibility to visit Bouchard Père et Fils for a few vintages, and I was happy to have the opportunity to taste through a fine range of their 2010s on this March visit. As long-time readers of the newsletter will certainly be aware, I have often found the red wines here just too oaky for my palate, with the good underlying raw materials here struggling a bit to find a pure expression under the onslaught of spicy new wood. Philippe Prost, Cellar Master at Bouchard was very gracious with his time on this most recent visit and we had a long and very enjoyable tasting in the cellars. One of the things that I have found distracting with the red wines here in the past (no problems with the stunning whites being produced at the domaine these days!) has been that they have really shown an very heavy influence of Taransaud barrels, which are amongst the most aggressively spicy and heavy-handed in their flavoring of wines raised in them. I am no fan of Taransaud in any guise, but find it most patently unsuitable for red Burgundy in particular, as it seems to my palate to really muddy the translation of the underlying terroir character into the wine, with the aggressive oak spice of Taransaud often a more dominant theme in the resulting wine than the soil nuances. Taransaud is one of the most popular tonneliers in France these days specifically for this aggressively spicy element in its barrels- which is a mystery to me- but, it seems that at least someone out there really likes this element in their wines, as Taransaud has no problems selling every barrel they make.

But, enough of this digression about Taransaud and back to the 2010s from Bouchard Père et Fils. The white wines here are absolutely stellar here in 2010, with the sappy, almost

silky textures from the vintage's low yields very much in evidence in these precise, pure and very soil-driven white Burgundies. The entire range is stunning and they are amongst the most beautiful group of white wines I tasted anywhere in this great vintage; they are unequivocally the greatest young Bouchard wines I have ever had the pleasure to taste. Curiously, the white wines at Bouchard Père et Fils do not see any Taransaud barrels- which has been customarily reserved for the red wines in the cellars here (at least for the last several vintages)- but, I am sure it is just a coincidence that the Bouchard white wines are not raised in Taransaud and are consistently excellent. The 2010 reds here did see a fair bit of Taransaud wood during their élevage, and this has predictably colored the wines with the aggressive wood spice of this tonnelier's work, which came across in a great many of the wines this year as a very marked note of "Pain Épice" (or gingerbread spice) in the finished wines. If one likes this overt spiciness in one's red Burgundies, then there is a lot to like with this range of 2010s, but, if like me, one finds this an unnecessary and unnatural, distracting element in the wines, then the range of 2010 Bouchard reds is going to be a bit less interesting. The only fair way that I could come up with to score these wines was to mark them within a range (as the underlying wines themselves are really quite stunning), as this takes into account any potential tolerance issues from the fairly heavy blast of "Taransaud oak spice" in the Bouchard reds this year. For those who like this element, the higher score of each range will certainly be appropriate. For those who do not like the Taransaud additive in their red Burgundies, then the lower score in the range will probably be more accurate.



I am going on about the Taransaud element in the red wines at Bouchard Père et Fils at such length, as it has been heretofore one of the defining character of these wines in the last several vintages (at least to my palate) and I am very happy to report that, starting with the 2011 vintage, this will no longer be the case. The team at Bouchard Père et Fils has decided to stop using Taransaud barrels for their red wines and I am very much looking forward to visiting here in November and tasting what these wines taste like “sans Taransaud spice”, as I have long felt that there is some terrific winemaking going on here under the Pain Épice veneer of new wood. The estate has not been using a particularly high percentage of new oak for their red wines (generally between a quarter and a third for their premier crus, and a bit more for the grand crus) for several vintages now, so one has to assume that the Taransaud barrels in use here have been the culprits in giving the wines their oaky characters in the past and the news that Taransaud is no longer going to be part of the barrel rotation here is very, very exciting- at least to me. In any event, these fine 2010s were tasted in mid-March of this year and offer up a brilliant range of white wines and some spicy, but very well-made (in that aggressive Taransaud style) red wines of impressive complexity and very evident breed. But, for me, the new chapter of real red winemaking here at Bouchard Père et Fils does not begin until 2011- when the Taransaud has been shown the door! Most of the wines I tasted during my visit are from Bouchard’s own vineyard parcels and are marked as “Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils”. The handful of wines I tasted that were made from purchased fruit are marked as “Maison Bouchard Père et Fils” in the notes that follow.

White Wines of Bouchard Père et Fils

2010 Bourgogne Chardonnay Réserve- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s Bourgogne Chardonnay Réserve is made all from vineyards that the domaine owns, located in the villages of Puligny and Meursault. This is really a lovely wine for its level and one of the great steals of the vintage for those looking for high class, everyday wine. The superb nose shows off its fine origin in its blend of apple, tart orange, superb minerality, spring flowers and a nice touch of lime peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and impressively complex, with good depth, fine cut and a long, focused finish. A very classy bottle of Bourgogne blanc that is in the same league as those made from Coche-Dury and Arnaud Ente. 2012-2025+. **88+**.

2010 Pouilly-Fuissé- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Having spent an afternoon down in Mâcon the previous afternoon, I was very happy to see the 2010 Bouchard Pouilly-Fuissé included in our tasting lineup. This is a very well-made example and not to be ignored in the quest to latch onto some of the magical bottles from the Côte de Beaune this year. The fine nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, a lovely base of toasty soil tones and lime blossoms in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and classy, with a nice core of fruit, bright acids, lovely focus and very good length and grip on the finish. Lovely juice. 2012-2018. **88+**.

2010 Meursault “les Clous”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 les Clous from Bouchard Père et Fils is a lovely bottle of Meursault, delivering a deep and classy nose of pear, lime zest, crystalline minerality, a dollop of almond, spring flowers and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with good mid-palate depth, lovely purity and focus, fine balance and a long, snappy finish. This should age very well- if premox will leave it alone! 2012-2030+. **90+**.

2010 Beaune du Château “Premier Cru” Blanc- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Beaune du Château Blanc is a lovely wine that shows a very intriguing blend of pure chardonnay fruit and a touch of *terres rouges* soil tones that makes for a bit of exotic *terroir* in the wine. The deep and classy nose offers up a complex mélange of apple, quince, lime, beeswax, soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and classy, with very good focus, length and grip on the pure and quite soil-driven finish. I really like the style of this wine in this vintage. 2012-2025. **90.**

2010 Beaune du Château “Clos St. Landry” Blanc- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Clos St. Landry is one of the best-situated vineyards for white wines in Beaune and the 2010 from Bouchard Père et Fils is simply outstanding. The superb nose soars from the glass in a blend of apple, pears, white flowers, lime zest, beautifully complex, chalky minerality (no *terres rouges* here!) and a beautifully discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with laser-like focus, outstanding cut, a superb core and great length and grip on the dancing and very pure finish. The silky texture of the vintage’s low yields is very much in evidence in this beautiful bottle of Beaune Blanc. 2014-2035+. **93+.**

2010 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Bouchard version of Genevrières is superb in 2010, with a great sense of reserve that augurs very, very well for down the road. The beautiful bouquet delivers a complex and very suave blend of apple, pear, almond, chalky soil tones, citrus blossoms and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nascently complex, with a silky core of fruit, snappy acids and outstanding focus and balance on the very long and elegant finish. This will need a few years to really blossom, but will start to offer up outstanding drinking after only a couple of years in the cellar. 2014-2035+. **93+.**

2010 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Meursault “Perrières” from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is a brilliant young wine and one of the best examples I have tasted in this vintage from this fabled vineyard. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a classic mélange of apple, pink grapefruit, complex, stony minerality, lime peel, iodine and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and rock solid at the core, with glorious elegance and nascent complexity, superb focus and a very, very long, pure and soil-driven finish. A great bottle of 2010 Meursault “Perrières”. 2016-2040. **95.**

2010 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Bouchard “straight” Chevalier-Montrachet from 2010 is a beautiful bottle in the making. The deep, complex and utterly superb nose wafts from the glass in a refined mélange of pear, lemon, complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and silky pure at the core, with ripe, snappy acids, outstanding focus and balance and a very, very long, complex and classy finish. Quintessential Chevalier. 2018-2040. **94.**

2010 Chevalier-Montrachet “la Cabotte”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

As is always the case (at least in my experience- which is nowhere near as in-depth as I would like!), the 2010 la Cabotte bottling of Chevalier is a decided step up from the “regular” Chevy-Lou and is one of the most brilliant bottles I have tasted from the vintage. The magical bouquet delivers a kaleidoscope of Chevalier nuances in its blend of apple, pear, fresh lemon, a touch of iodine, very complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very complex, with a weightless elegance that

borders on the ethereal. The finish is endless, with great focus, bounce and racy precision. Just a stunning, stunning bottle of Chevalier! 2016-2040. **98.**

2010 Montrachet- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Montrachet from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is pure magic in the bottle, with the breed, nascent complexity and haunting length on the palate that only the very greatest wines of the vintage can match. The stunning nose offers up a magical mélange of apple, pear, lime zest, iodine, a beautifully complex base of chalky minerality, spring flowers, a hint of lemon blossoms and a very discreet base of vanillin oak. This beautiful wine was raised in only twelve percent new wood in 2010, which gives its wood treatment stunning refinement. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a very solid and silky core, laser-like focus and brilliant length and grip on the racy and classic finish. A brilliant, brilliant Monty. 2020-2055. **99.**

2010 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard's 2010 Corton-Charlemagne is no slouch, as there are not many white wines in this vintage that could so seamlessly follow hard on the heels of the previous two vinous treasures and still show well! The superb nose offers up a mélange of lemon, grapefruit, stony minerality, a hint of the iodine to come and a very stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and racy, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent focus and balance and a very, very long, soil-driven and youthful finish. Classic Corton Charlie! 2018-2050. **94+.**

Red Wines of Bouchard Père et Fils

2010 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Savigny-lès-Beaune from Bouchard Père et Fils is a fifty-fifty blend of wines from the domaine's own parcels and purchased grapes. It was raised this year in twenty-five percent new oak. The nose is a bit marked by oak spice, but not aggressively so, as it wafts from the glass in a complex blend of red and black cherries, coffee, a touch of gamebird, soil and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and tangy, with a good core of fruit, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the finish. This does not show much Taransaud influence and is a very good village Savigny. 2017-2035+. **87-88.**

2010 Monthelie "Clos les Champs Fulliot"- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Champs Fulliot is a beautifully situated premier cru in Monthelie, as it lies along the commune's border with Volnay and borders Clos des Chênes. The Bouchard version in 2010 was raised in thirty-five percent new wood and shows a bit more Taransaud than I would like, but there is still a lot here that impresses on both the nose and palate. The complex and classy bouquet is a blend of dark berries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and a bit of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite pure on that attack, with tangy acids and a bit of oak tannin that still needs to be integrated on the long finish. Good juice that could have been a great example with a different oak regimen. 2018-2035+. **86-88+.**

2010 Beaune du Château "Premier Cru"- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard's Beaune du Château bottling hails from vines in the premier cru of Centes Vignes, but the domaine has been commercializing this cuvée under this name for more than a century. This probably saw more Taransaud barrels in its *elevage* than did the Clos les Champs Fulliot, and consequently is a bit more marked by the *Pain Épice* wood spice on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a mix of cherries, red currants, coffee, allspice, a touch of soil and plenty of cedary oak spice. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, quite suave on

the attack, with a good core of fruit and more than a fair bit of uncovered oak tannin currently poking out on the long finish. I would suspect that this wine has more than adequate stuffing to absorb its wood with further bottle age, but it seems likely to always be pretty marked by its Taransaud wood spice. 2016-2035+. **84-89.**

2010 Beaune “Clos de la Mousse”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Clos de la Mousse has a very fine nose, as it offers up scents of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, coffee and lead pencil new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with a well-integrated tannins, fine focus and very good length and grip on the tangy and moderately tannic finish. This seems a bit less marked by its spicy wood component on the backend, and consequently, I like it even better than the above. 2018-2040. **89-91.**

2010 Beaune “Grèves” Vigne de l’Enfant Jésus- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s flagship bottling of l’Enfant Jésus is really excellent, and I can only imagine how this kind of purity of fruit and soil is going to show when not encumbered next year by such spicy oak. The 2010 offers up a superb nose of red and black cherries, currants, coffee, incipient notes of *sous bois*, a touch of game, soil and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off outstanding purity on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, tangy finish that shows just a bit more oak spice than would be ideal. The raw materials here this year are absolutely stunning, and I have little doubt that this wine has the depth of fruit to eventually absorb its wood, but it will always have that telltale touch of *Pain Épice*. 2020-2060. **90-92+.**

2010 Volnay “Caillerets” Ancienne Cuvée Carnot- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Caillerets “Cuvée Carnot” also shows off simply outstanding raw materials, but it seems at this stage to be even a bit more marked by its Taransaud barrels than the above couple of wines. The nose is lovely, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, currants, plenty of *Pain Épice*, coffee, lovely soil tones and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure on the attack, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, spicy oak finish. Again, there is certainly the stuffing to absorb the tannins on the backend here, but one has to really like this spicy oak seasoning in the wine to appreciate this wine in its entirety. For me, it is a distraction that takes away from what would otherwise be an absolutely stellar bottle of Caillerets. 2020-2060. **88-92.**

2010 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s 2010 Clos des Chênes is a great wine under its veneer of Taransaud spice, as it offers up an excellent bouquet of red and black cherries, a touch of plum, oak spice, beautiful soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice topnote of lavender. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with very good mid-palate depth, ripe, firm tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. What could have been with a different *tonnelier* in the cellar! 2020-2060. **89-93.**

2010 Pommard “Rugiens”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The domaine’s parcel of vines in Rugiens lie in the upper section of the vineyard, and they have produced some truly stunning fruit in 2010. The deep and classy nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of cherries, orange zest, quince, gamebirds, great minerality and the ever-present, *Pain Épice*, spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very refined for a young Rugiens, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, firm tannins and a very long, nascently complex and spicy finish. Like the Clos des Chênes, there is an absolutely gorgeous wine here under the Taransaud. 2022-2075. **89-93.**

2010 Le Corton- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard has long made an outstanding example of Corton and the 2010 version is superb. The bouquet offers up a superb mélange of sappy red and black cherries, orange zest, coffee, a complex base of stony soil tones and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and broad-shouldered, with great elegance on the attack, a superb core of fruit, firm, well-integrated tannins and a very long, focused and spicy finish. Great raw materials under a veneer of spicy wood. 2025-2075. **91-94.**

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

The Gevrey AC is made from purchased fruit, but is a very strong example of its appellation and vintage. The nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of grilled meat, coffee bean, black minerality and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and pure, with quite good complexity and a touch of oak spice tannins perking up the finish. Good juice. 2018-2035+. **87-88+.**

2010 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

I was unaware that Bouchard owned a parcel in les Cailles, but I was very impressed with the quality of this fine 2010. The nose is quite marked by its Taransaud (perhaps les Cailles is a *terroir* that takes even less well to oak spice than some others in the Côte de Nuits?), but otherwise, offers up a fine mélange of black cherries, dark berries, game, espresso, lovely soil tones and the aforementioned dreaded blast of Taransaud spice. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully pure on the attack, with superb focus, a rock solid core, and a long, tangy and quite tannic finish. This too, could have been stunning without the oak spice. 2020-2050+. **89-91+.**

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s very good Suchots is also made from purchased grapes, and it too struggles a bit (at least to my palate) with its allocation of *Pain Épice*. The nose is a complex blend of plums, dark berries, bitter chocolate, dark soil tones and a generous serving of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and suave on the attack, with good, but not great depth at the core, good focus and grip and a long, moderately tannic and spicy finish. This does not seem to quite have the same mid-palate depth and intensity as the rest of the range of Bouchard reds in 2010s, and it also has to wrestle a bit with its Taransaud. Not bad. 2017-2040. **87-88+.**

2010 Echézeaux- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2010 Echézeaux from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is outstanding. The wines hail from a parcel of vines the domaine owns in the *lie à dit* of Combe d’Orveau, and offers up a superb bouquet of dark berries, cassis raw cocoa, espresso, woodsmoke, gamebirds, lovely soil tones and cedary, spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a rock solid core, fine focus and a long, ripely tannic and oak spicy finish. This is a great wine under the Taransaud, and the aromatics and flavors of the Echézeaux seem to work much better with the aggressive oak spice than many of the others in the cellar this year. It is pretty clear that the domaine is making great wine from this parcel and look out for it when the Taransaud is finally banished from the realm! 2022-2060. **93-94.**

2010 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard has fine holdings in Clos Vougeot and I have had some lovely older examples of this bottling. Both this and the Clos Vougeot seem to have handled the veneer of oak spice better than some of the more delicate *terroirs* of the Côte de Beaune, and hence the influence from the Taransaud seems less pronounced. The nose is deep and quite superb in its mélange of

black cherries, a touch of plum, orange zest, woodsmoke, a great base of soil and plenty of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and youthfully structured, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, chewy tannins, tangy acids and excellent focus and balance on the primary and very long finish. A lovely example in the making. 2024-2075. **92-93+**.

2010 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Chambertin “Clos de Bèze” from Bouchard Père et Fils hails from purchased fruit, but this is a stunning wine in the making. Like the Clos Vougeot, the spicy wood is less of a distraction here. The complex and aristocratic bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, dark plums, grilled meat, espresso, raw cocoa, a very complex base of soil and a sturdy framing of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy on the attack, with outstanding soil inflection, great mid-palate depth, firm, ripe and well-integrated tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very, very long and pure finish. This will be outstanding. 2024-2075+. **93-94+**.



Emmanuel Sala, the Cellar Master at Château de Pommard, in the tasting room at the domaine.

Pommard

Château de Pommard (Pommard)

Château de Pommard was in the midst of preparing for another art exhibition at the time of my visit in March, which always makes a visit here a bit more culturally satisfying than a simple stop in the cellar to taste the new vintage. I was not sure what the new exhibit was going

to be, but many of the fine sculpture that the estate owns were gathered closely together in anticipation of the new arrivals when I was here tasting the 2010s out of barrel. In addition to the two 2010 reds whose tasting notes are listed below, I also revisited the 2009, 2008 and 2007 Château de Pommard bottlings, but as I have recently reported on the wines and they were showing consistently well, I have not reprinted the notes here. I also tasted a couple of white wines from the domaine at the end of the visit, but as those samples had been opened the day before and seemed perhaps to have fatigued just a touch, I did not take proper notes on the wines. This is an estate on the rise in quality and the Pommard is now consistently one of the top wines in the commune.

2010 Monthelie “les Riottes”- Château de Pommard

This is the first vintage for this lovely Monthelie premier cru at Château de Pommard, and it is a lovely inaugural effort. The nose is deep and quite classic in its aromatic mélange of dark berries, black cherries, chocolate, dark soil tones and a nice touch of dried violets in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and juicy, with a pretty good core, nice complexity and a wide open and fairly gentle structure that will allow early drinking. A very tasty middleweight. 2012-2020+. **88.**

2010 Pommard- Château de Pommard

The 2010 Pommard from Château de Pommard was set to be bottled in July of this year and was showing outstanding potential at the time of my March visit. The wine had not yet been racked into tanks in anticipation of the summer bottling, so this note is taken from an approximation of the final blend. The nose is deep, pure and classy, wafting from the glass in a blend of black cherries, dark berries, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, deep and complex soil tones and a nice framing of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, lovely soil inflection and a long, ripely tannic and focused finish. Château de Pommard is really making superb wines under the new regime and the 2010 may well prove to be the most refined yet since the changeover here. Superb wine. 2020-2055. **92+.**

Auxey-Duresses

Domaine Lafouge (Auxey-Duresses)

The Domaine Lafouge 2010s were in varying stages at the time of my March visit this year, with the white wines all racked and assembled into tank for bottling not long after Easter, while the reds had already all been bottled. The Lafouge family have long been fixtures in Auxey-Duresses, and Gilles Lafouge will be the third generation to head the domaine since they began to sell estate bottled wines here in 1929. He currently works alongside his father, Jean Lafouge, running one of the top domaines in the village. This is a very fine, ten hectare estate with parcels located primarily in Auxey-Duresses (both rouge and blanc) and Meursault, though there is also a small slice of the premier cru Pommard “Chanlins” as well. The wines are very beautifully made, with both the reds and the whites being raised in twenty-five percent new oak casks and offering some of the most beautifully transparent red and white Burgundies to be found in the region. The white Burgundies at Domaine Lafouge spend one year in cask, after which they are racked into tank and allowed to settle for several months prior to bottling. They are very racy and soil-driven, and offer up outstanding minerality and cut. Stylistically they are very similar to Jean-Marc Roulot’s wines and very highly recommended to those who may be unfamiliar with them. The reds here are equally lovely, soil-driven and beautifully balanced

wines, with red fruity personalities of great purity and balance, and the ability to drink well early on and yet age gracefully for at least fifteen to twenty years, (obviously longer in the case of the Pommard “Chanlins”). The Lafouge reds are extremely elegant and refined examples of Auxey-Duresses, and offer impressive complexity and depth. While the village of Auxey-Duresses is not generally the first locale that Burgundy lovers think of when the topic of the region’s top domaines is discussed, it is my very strong perception that Domaine Lafouge is indeed one of the very best producers in the Côte d’Or today and these are wines that are every bit as profound as any to be found in the more “toney” neighborhoods of Burgundy. Their superb 2010s will disappoint no one intrepid enough to venture into this commune and discover just how good the best wines of Auxey-Duresses can be, and there are also some stellar Meursaults and a great Pommard to be found here as well!

Vins Blancs

2010 Auxey-Duresses Blanc “les Hautés”- Domaine Lafouge

The Auxey-Duresses “les Hautés” Blanc is a beautifully situated *climat*, lying right alongside the border of Meursault and the 2010 has turned out very well indeed. The lovely nose offers up a very pure and vibrant mélange of apple, lime, chalky minerality, white flowers and a nice touch of youthful citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with crisp acids, lovely focus and grip on the well-balanced and impressively long finish. This is a great value year in and year out, but the 2010 is special. 2012-2020+. **90.**

2010 Auxey-Duresses Blanc “les Boutonniers”- Domaine Lafouge

The vineyard of les Boutonniers lies next door to the fine Meursault *lieu à dit* of Meix Chavaux, and the 2010 version has turned out beautifully *chez* Lafouge. The beautifully complex and zesty nose wafts from the glass in a blend of pear, citrus zest, a nice touch of almond, chalky soil tones and a topnote of lime blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a fine core of fruit, ripe acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and snappy finish. Just a beautiful bottle in the making. 2012-2025. **91.**

2010 Meursault- Domaine Lafouge

The Lafouges’ Meursault *villages* bottling hails from sixty to seventy year-old vines in the two *lieux à dits* of Aux Moulin Landin (which lies just downslope from Grands Charrons) and Le Clous (which is sandwiched between Tillets and Vireuils at the top of the slope). The 2010 is another excellent white wine in the making in the cellars here, offering up scents of fresh coconut, apple, a nice dollop of lime blossoms, lovely minerality and a delicate framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and again, quite intensely flavored, with a very good core, suave, zesty acids and lovely focus on the long and classy finish. A lovely Meursault *villages*. 2012-2025. **91.**

2010 Meursault “Meix Chavaux”- Domaine Lafouge

In my experience, the Lafouge parcel of eighty-two year-old vines in Meix Chavaux produce one of the very best *lieux à dits* bottlings in the village, and Meursault is certainly a commune with a lot of very strong examples produced at this appellation level. The 2010 Meix Chavaux has turned out splendidly, jumping from the glass in a deep and superb blend of apple, pear, incipient iodine, gentle notes of almond, stony minerality and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and racy, with beautiful mid-palate depth, ripe acids and a long, nicely reserved and very promising finish. A beautiful wine. 2014-2030. **92+.**

2010 Meursault “Casse Têtes”- Domaine Lafouge

Casse Têtes has pure southern exposition, in contrast to Meix Chavaux’s more easterly view, and this tends to give the wine a bit more early mid-palate amplitude. The 2010 from Gilles Lafouge is stunning and one of the great white Burgundy steals to be found in this vintage. The superb nose delivers a complex and classic blend of apple, passion fruit, early notes of the iodine to come with bottle age, almonds, spring flowers and a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and almost silky at the core, with excellent focus and grip, bright, zesty acids and outstanding length and grip on the complex and very classy finish. A truly outstanding example of the vintage. 2015-2035. **93+**.

Vins Rouges

2010 Auxey-Duresses Rouge- Domaine Lafouge

The 2010 Auxey *villages* from Domaine Lafouge will drink very well indeed with only a few years of bottle age and shows off the great purity and transparency of the vintage. The young and classy nose offers up scents of cherries, a touch of quince, woodsmoke, gamebirds, incipient notes of *sous bois* and a gently spicy topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and nicely structured, with good mid-palate depth, moderate tannins and a long, tangy and soil-driven finish. A very good AC. 2015-2030+. **88**.

2010 Auxey-Duresses Rouge “Climat du Valle”- Domaine Lafouge

The premier cru of Climat du Valle, which lies at the extreme western end of the small band of premier crus in the village, and the 2010 is excellent. The bright and very classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a complex base of soil and a distinct topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with lovely, nascent complexity, a sappy core, suave tannins and outstanding balance and grip on the very long and refined finish. This is a classic example of just how good the best reds from Auxey can be in the hands of a seasoned and talented *vigneron* such as Gilles Lafouge. A stellar value! 2016-2040. **90**.

2010 Auxey-Duresses Rouge “la Chapelle”- Domaine Lafouge

The Lafouge bottling of La Chapelle is made up primarily of old vines, as one third of their parcel is planted in vines in excess of seventy years of age, one-third older than fifty years of age and the remainder planted twenty-one years ago. The 2010 version is excellent, delivering a lovely and still quite youthful bouquet of red and black cherries, fresh herbs, beautiful soil tones (which show signs of becoming quite autumnal with bottle age), gentle notes of game and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with lovely transparency, excellent focus and balance and excellent length on the youthful and modestly tannic, tangy finish. There is just a touch of backend pepperiness on this wine (which I assume is the product of its recent *mise*), suggesting that four or five years of bottle age will be handsomely rewarded. 2017-2040. **91**.

2010 Auxey-Duresses Rouge “les Duresses”- Domaine Lafouge

The 2010 les Duresses is a superb young wine and a classic example of the enormous potential to be found in Auxey-Duresses. The beautifully pure and nascently complex nose offers up a lovely mélange of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a complex base of soil, fresh herbs and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very classy, with a sappy core of fruit, excellent transparency, suave, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long and tangy finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2017-2040+. **93**.

2010 Pommard “les Chanlins”- Domaine Lafouge

The 2010 Chanlins from Domaine Lafouge is going to be a simply stunning bottle of wine. The great bouquet soars from the glass in a sappy blend of cherries, blood orange, quince, woodsmoke, *pigeon*, beautifully complex soil nuances, dried violets and a deft touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with a fine sense of reserve, ripe, beautifully-integrated tannins and stunning length and grip on the very soil-driven and bouncy finish. The inherent elegance of the best 2010s has produced a very, very elegant rendition of Chanlins in the Lafouge cellars this year! 2020-2060. **94.**



The entrance to Domaine Chartron's monopole of the Clos de la Pucelle in Puligny-Montrachet.

Puligny-Montrachet

Domaine Jean Chartron (Puligny-Montrachet)

Jean-Michel Chartron is really at the top of his game these days and this remains quietly one of the very greatest estates in the village of Puligny today. At the time of my visit in mid-March, a few of the wines had already been bottled, but the lion's share were still in tank awaiting bottling soon after the Easter holidays. I tasted a pair of lovely reds to start the tasting (but not the Puligny-Montrachet “Caillerets” rouge- the last red wine produced in the village of Puligny), and both wines merit attention from value-minded red Burgundy lovers. The roster of white wines at Domaine Chartron were also still primarily in tank awaiting bottling, with only a few wines already bottled. Where I could recall (this was my last stop at the end of a long day of

tasting, so my notes do not always reflect for some of the earlier bottlings whether or not the wine was in tank or already bottled- sorry for the sloppiness on my end!), I have indicated whether or not the wine had been bottled. In any case, as everything that was still in tank was to be bottled soon after my visit, this is a moot point today. The 2010s from Jean-Michel Chartron may well be the finest wines he has ever produced in his career- at least up until this point- and there are some absolute gems to be found here in the cellars this year! I had been extremely remiss in not visiting him each and every year since I started the newsletter, but I can learn from the errors of my ways, and Domaine Jean Chartron is now on my regular tasting schedule, as these are some of the very finest wines as can be found in the illustrious village of Puligny-Montrachet, and the vinous fireworks here extend down to the more “user-friendly” appellations from the exalted peaks of the top premier and grand cru Pulignys. A simply superb range of 2010s!

Vins Rouges

2010 Bourgogne Rouge “Clos de la Combe”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Bourgogne *rouge* “Clos de la Combe” had already been bottled at the time of my visit, but was showing quite well. The bright and pure nose offers up scents of black cherries, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and shows a touch of tannin, with pretty good depth and very good length and grip on the tasty finish. Good juice. 2012-2020+. **87.**

2010 Haute Côtes de Beaune Rouge “Sous la Roche”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Sous la Roche *rouge* was also bottled at the time of my visit and it too was showing very well indeed. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a good touch of soil and just a whisper of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and nicely transparent, with quite good complexity, modest tannins and fine length and grip on the classy finish. This is quite a sophisticated example of Haute Côtes de Beaune *rouge* and is a fine value. 2014-2025+. **88.**

Vins Blancs

2010 Bourgogne Blanc “Clos de la Combe”- Domaine Jean Chartron

My notes do not indicate that the Clos de la Combe Blanc had been bottled at the time of my visit, but I assume that it had been already. This is a very tasty bottle meant for early drinking, that offers up a fine nose of apple, tangerine, lovely minerality and a nice touch of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and complex, with an impressive core of fruit and fine cut and grip on the long finish. Good juice. 2012-2025. **88.**

2010 Haute Côtes de Beaune Blanc “En Bois Guillemain”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 En Bois Guillemain Blanc from Domaine Chartron is another lovely wine and a great value. The complex nose wafts from the glass in a blend of pear, lime peel, a touch of pink grapefruit, chalky minerality and a nice dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and crisp, with a good core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, racy finish that closes with lovely chalky soil tones. A lovely bottle in the making, I would give the Haute Côtes de Beaune Blanc “En Bois Guillemain” a couple of years in the cellar to really blossom. This is very sophisticated juice for its appellation and price point! 2014-2025. **88+.**

2010 Rully “Montmain”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Way back in my wine merchant days, the fine Côte Chalonnaise bottlings from Chartron and Trebuchet were staples of our selection, and this really superb 2010 Rully “Montmain”

brought me back to those days. This wine is aged in ten percent new wood, which provides a lovely touch of vanilla to complement the lovely minerality in the wine. The bouquet is a blend of apple, tart orange, stony minerality, lime peel and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy, with lovely drive from its base of soil, a fine core and great backend cut and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This is a very fine bottle of Rully. 2012-2030. **90.**

2010 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Puligny *villages* bottling from Jean-Michel Chartron had already been bottled at the time of my visit and was showing lovely potential. The deep and classy nose is a mélange of apple, pear, lime zest, really striking minerality, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and racy, with a fine core of fruit, snappy acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and classic finish. A lovely AC. 2015-2035. **90+.**

2010 St. Aubin “Murgers des Dents de Chien”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Domaine Chartron’s parcel in this Murgers des Dents de Chien lies right alongside that of Domaine Hubert Lamy’s, in the section of the vineyard immediately above Chevalier-Montrachet. The 2010 version is stunning and a great value, as the wine soars from the glass in a very sophisticated blend of apple, pear, orange peel, chalky soil tones, a touch of pastry cream and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and zesty, with lovely mid-palate depth, snappy acids and excellent focus and grip on the complex and very long finish. This is a beautiful bottle of St. Aubin and a pretty strong argument that the wines from this village deserve as much attention from white Burgundy lovers as the wines from its more exalted neighbors. 2014-2035. **91+.**

2010 St. Aubin “Perrière”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 St. Aubin “Perrière” from Domaine Jean Chartron is also excellent, but at least at this early stage, it cannot quite match the depth and complexity of the Dents de Chien. The very elegant and pure nose wafts from the glass in a mix of white peach, pear, pastry cream, chalky soil tones, flowers and a nice touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more open and accessible than the Dents de Chien out of the blocks, with good mid-palate depth, fine cut and a long, racy finish., Of the two very fine St. Aubins *chez* Chartron this year, the Perrière is the one that I would opt to drink first, while allowing the Dents de Chien to fully blossom with a couple of years of bottle age. Another very fine bottle. 2012-2025. **90+.**

2010 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Benoites”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The Chassagne *lieu à dit* of “les Benoites” lies downslope from Morgeots and Domaine Chartron owns just over a half hectare of vines here. I had very much liked the 2009 version of this wine that I tasted last July, but the 2010 had just had it sulfur adjusted in preparation for bottling right before my visit and was not in any shape for proper tasting. There was very good purity of fruit and a lovely underpinning of minerality to the sample, but the wine was too agitated to really handicap with any degree of accuracy. The wine is very long and racy, so I suspect that it is a fine example of the vintage, but at the time of my visit, it was not in good shape for precise tasting.

2010 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Jean-Michel Chartron is making one of my favorite examples of Caillerets these days and the 2010 is superb. This wine shows of a brilliant nose of apple, pear, orange peel, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy, with a rock solid core of silky fruit, laser-like focus, and simply great length and grip on the pure and utterly classic finish. Before my banishment from the

cellars by Noël Ramonet, Domaine Ramonet's version of Caillerets used to be one of the wines that I drank and cellared with the most regularity, so it is nice to have another outstanding option for this magical *terroir*. This is a stellar bottle in the making. 2017-2040+. **93+**.

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Folatières from Domaine Jean Chartron is excellent, offering up a very classic and juicy bouquet of fresh pears and delicious apples, a touch of vanilla custard, a lovely base of limestone soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and classic, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and balance, zesty acids and excellent grip on the long and classy finish. A very fine bottle. 2012-2030+. **92.**

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Pucelle”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The Domaine Chartron monopole bottling of the Clos de la Pucelle is pure magic in 2010. The wine roars from the glass in a beautifully pure mélange of pear, fresh apple, lemon zest, very complex, chalky minerality, apple blossoms, pastry cream and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with beautiful, silky mid-palate depth, laser-like focus, crisp, racy acids and outstanding balance on the long, suave and utterly refined finish. Quintessential Pucelles. 2015-2040. **94.**

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos des Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

As superb as the top premier crus are *chez* Chartron this year, the Clos des Caillerets has to take top honors and really is a grand cru in quality in 2010 (and maybe every year). The brilliant nose delivers a beautifully complex blend of apples, pears, lemon zest, Chevalier-Montrachet-like chalky soil tones, a dollop of *crème patissière* and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly suave on the attack, with a beautiful core of silky, low yield fruit, racy acidity and stunning focus and grip on the well-balanced, complex and hauntingly long finish. Just a brilliant bottle in the making! 2017-2040+. **95.**

2010 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Chartron Corton-Charlemagne is also outstanding, wafting from the glass in a classically reserved and soil-driven mélange of lemon, pear, chalky, stony minerality, citrus blossoms and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and soil-driven, with a rock solid core of fruit, crisp acids and superb length and grip on the focused and perfectly balanced finish. I would tuck this away in the cellar for several years to let it unfold fully- it is a dynamite bottle of Corton Charlie in the making. 2018-2045+. **93+**.

2010 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

Domaine Chartron's Bâtard-Montrachet hails from Domaine Ramonet's parcel, as the two domaines effect a swap of grapes each year at harvest time, with Noël Ramonet getting his Chevalier-Montrachet from Jean-Michel Chartron in exchange for Bâtard-Montrachet grapes. I believe the ratio is three parts of Bâtard for two parts Chevalier. The 2010 Chartron Bâtard-Montrachet is simply stunning, as it delivers a young, pure and classic nose of apple, tangerine, brilliantly complex soil tones, orange peel and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and magically transparent, with a rock solid core of fruit, a very youthful personality, racy acids and a stunningly long and pure finish of uncompromising precision and balance. This is a Lamborghini of Bâtard-Montrachet. 2020-2050+. **96+**.

2010 Chevalier-Montrachet “Clos des Chevaliers”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2010 Clos des Chevaliers from Jean-Michel Chartron is one of the greatest white wines of this magical vintage- pure and simple. The utterly brilliant nose delivers a glorious blend of apple, pear, lemon chiffon, kaleidoscopic, chalky minerality, orange zest, a touch of vanillin oak and a very complex, floral topnote redolent of all shades of citrus blossoms. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with glorious mid-palate depth, an utterly refined sense of balance, profound length and grip on the racy, tensile and endless finish. This is a magical wine. 2022-2050+. **98.**

2010 Montrachet- Maison Jean Chartron

There is only a single barrel of Montrachet in the Chartron cellars this year- purchased from a grower in Puligny-Montrachet. Sadly, my sloppy note taking does not say if this was purchased as grapes, must or fully fermented wine. Jean-Michel Chartron is raising it in a “two wine” barrel. The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a mélange of lemon, tangerine, pear, complex minerality, citrus blossoms and a touch of vanilla from the older barrel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with crisp acids, lovely focus and balance and a very long, elegant and racy finish. Stylistically, this is cut very much in the style of the Laguiche Montrachet from Maison Drouhin. Another simply stellar wine. 2020-2050. **96+.**

St. Aubin

Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils (St. Aubin)

This was my first visit to Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils in St. Aubin and I was very, very impressed by the quality of the wines here. A subscriber from Denmark, who I had the good fortune to taste with at several stops last November in Burgundy had mentioned that I would really like the wines if I added Domaine Prudhon to my tasting schedule in March, and he was absolutely right. The domaine has been in existence since 1921, when Henri Prudhon first put together a vineyard patrimony, and it was his son, Gérard Prudhon (born in 1949), who expanded the domaine's vineyard holdings and began selling some of the estate's production in bottle. Today, the domaine exploits 14.5 hectares of vines in St. Aubin, Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet, with Gérard's two sons, Vincent and Philippe Prudhon, who currently manage the estate. On this visit I tasted with the younger of the two brothers, Philippe, who is the trained oenologist of the two. The wines are very pure, very soil-driven and beautifully balanced, with a modicum of new oak for the premier crus and village wine and no new wood for the regionals. The white wines are utterly classic white Burgundies, with beautifully pure fruit tones and lovely and classic expressions of their underlying terroirs. The red wines are quite refreshingly old school in style, with light colors and very soil-derived personalities. In addition to the wines that I tasted on my visit, there is also a Chassagne-Montrachet AC blanc produced by the estate. Domaine Prudhon is still a very important source for several top négociants (one of the important brokers in the region stopped by the domaine right after my visit), but the domaine is estate-bottling more and more of their production with each passing vintage. This is a great source for superb wines at very fine prices- just what the Burgundy firmament needs more of in this day and age of pricing insanity!

Vins Blancs

2010 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The Domaine Prudhon's Bourgogne Blanc is produced from ten to twenty year-old vines, all located in the regional sections of the village of St. Aubin. The 2010 had been bottled in October of 2011 and was showing very well this past March, offering up a very lovely bouquet of apple, pear, chalky soil tones and spring flowers- as well as just a whisper of vanillin oak from its older barrels. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and quite classy, with a good core, nice, bright acids and lovely focus on the long and bouncy finish. This is a lovely bottle of Bourgogne blanc. 2012-2020. **87.**

2010 St. Aubin “le Ban”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The St. Aubin *villages* bottling is the largest of the Prudhon white wine holdings, with a bit over two and a half hectares of vineyard parcels comprising the production for this well-made wine, with the vine age ranging from ten to sixty years of age. It saw fifteen percent new oak in this vintage. The 2010 was bottled in August of 2011 and is a beautifully-balanced, tightly-knit example of the vintage. The classy nose offers up scents of pear, orange zest, dusty limestone soil tones, a nice touch of fresh almond and a delicate touch of vanillin wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved at the present time, with a good core of fruit, a lovely signature of soil, zesty acidity, very good focus and fine length and grip on the fairly closed finish. Part of this wine’s current reticence may be the result of the bottling last summer, but it strikes me that this is a serious village wine that needs a year or two to blossom in most top vintages. This seems to have very good potential, but again, this is my first visit to the estate. 2013-2025. **87-88+**.

2010 St. Aubin “les Castets”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

Les Castets is the most southerly of the premier crus in St. Aubin, lying just to the southwest of the village proper in a slope that lays right below the *Montagne du Ban*. This is one of the smaller Prudhon premier cru parcels, with just under a third of a hectare of vines and the vines are fairly young still, at fifteen years of age. Like all the premier cru whites here, it was raised in twenty-five percent new wood in 2010. The nose is deep and quite fine, delivering a pure mélange of apple, pears, lemon zest, *terres blanches*, spring flowers and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nicely reserved at the present time, with very good mid-palate depth, bright acids and fine length and grip on the youthful and classy finish. Good juice that will need a couple of years to unwind. 2015-2030+. **89+**.

2010 St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

This fine premier cru is located just northeast of the village center of St. Aubin (in the same band of premier crus as the Derrière Chez Edouard that produces such a lovely wine nearby at Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy), with a southeasterly exposition that gives it a lot of morning sun and a much racier and minerally personality than some of the more westerly-exposed vineyards on the band of premier crus over towards the Chassagne side of St. Aubin. The Prudhon’s vines in Sur le Sentier du Clou are thirty-five years of age and the 2010 is outstanding. The bouquet is a deep and very classy blend of fresh pear, lemon, white flowers, citrus zest, chalky minerality and a delicate touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and snappy, with a superb core of fruit, excellent focus and grip, brisk acids and lovely backend mineral drive on the long and zesty finish. This is a very high class bottle. 2017-2035. **92**.

2010 St. Aubin “les Perrières”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The premier cru of les Perrières in St. Aubin lies just down slope and with the same southeasterly exposition as Sur le Sentier du Clou. The Prudhons own just over a half hectare of thirty-five year-old vines here, which they choose to raise in twenty percent new wood. The 2010 les Perrières is superb, with even a touch more elegance on both the nose and palate as the above wine, offering up a very fine bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of orange zest, very refined, chalky soil tones, a deft touch of vanillin oak and a floral topnote redolent of orange blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and beautifully balanced, with a fine core of silky fruit, crisp acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and very pure finish. This is a beautiful example of St. Aubin. 2017-2035. **92+**.

2010 St. Aubin “Sur Gamay”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

Sur Gamay is located on the larger hillside of premier crus in St. Aubin, on the slope that faces southwesterly and borders both Chassagne and Puligny and is one of the larger premier crus in the appellation. The domaine owns nearly three quarters of a hectares of vines here, ranging from twenty to sixty years of age, with the wine raised in 2010 in twenty percent new wood. The warmer, afternoon sun produces a more fruit-driven style of St. Aubin here, with the 2010 from Domaine Prudhon offering up a very stylish nose of pear, white peach, lemon blossoms, a touch of fresh coconut, gentle soil tones and a nice base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and suave on the attack, with a very good core of fruit, lovely focus and a long, very refined and accessible finish. This is quite a bit more forward than the premier crus from the band of vineyards above the village of St. Aubin proper, but, I would still give it a couple of years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. A really tasty bottle of St. Aubin. 2014-2025+. **90+**.

2010 St. Aubin “la Chatenière”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

La Chatenière lies immediately downslope from Sur Gamay and is a much smaller, slip of a premier cru, with one of the steepest grades in the appellation of forty-five degrees. Consequently, this is one of the most minerally wines to be found in this section of premier crus in St. Aubin. The Prudhon family owns just over ten *ares* of vines here, aged forty years of age, and in a typical vintage, one of the two and a half barrels is new for the élevage of this lovely wine (I am not sure how the domaine handled the new wood quotient in the very short crop of 2010). The new vintage of la Chatenière is really lovely, as it shares the beautifully pure fruit of the Sur Gamay with a much more minerally personality, offering up a superb nose of pears, delicious apples, orange blossoms, very stylish minerality, lime zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, tight and racy, with an excellent core of silky fruit, great mineral drive, snappy acids and a very long, elegant and youthful finish. Fine, fine juice. 2016-2035. **92**.

2010 St. Aubin “les Murgers Dents de Chien”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

Les Murgers Dents de Chien is probably the most famous premier cru in St. Aubin, as it lies just over the summit of the ridge from Chevalier-Montrachet in Puligny. The Prudhons have just under a quarter hectare of twenty year-old vines, right in the corner of the vineyard, bordering the Puligny premier cru vineyard of la Garenne, which they raise in a third new oak (two barrels out of six in this short crop). The 2010 Prudhon Murgers Dents de Chien is outstanding, soaring from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, tangerine, chalky minerality, orange zest, vanillin oak and a floral topnote redolent of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with brisk acids, outstanding focus and balance and great backend mineral drive on the long and racy finish. This is a stunning wine in the making. 2018-2040. **93**.

2010 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

En Remilly lies downslope from Murgers Dents de Chien and is another outstanding *terroir* in the appellation of St. Aubin. The domaine exploits just over a quarter hectare of twenty-five year-old vines here, which are aged in twenty-five percent new wood. The 2010 is the most complete of this lovely lineup of classy premier crus, delivering a beautiful aromatic mélange of pear, lemon, a nice touch of youthful pink grapefruit, a touch of *crème patissière*, stony minerality, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and youthful, with a great core, superb focus and cut, and a very long, racy and very mineral finish. A beautiful, beautiful bottle in the making. 2018-2040. **93+**.

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “les Enseignères”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The fine *lieu à dit* of les Enseignères is one of the most important parcels in the Prudhon portfolio, as the domaine owns two plots of vines here that add up to nearly a full hectare. One section is in thirty year-old vines, and the other parcel is fully eighty years of age. This *lieu à dit* is of course best-known for the fine bottling produced here by Domaine Coche-Dury. Domaine Prudhon raises their Enseignères in twenty percent new wood. The 2010 had only been bottled three weeks prior to my visit and was still a bit upset from the *mise*, but, its underlying quality was unmistakable. The deep and currently quite closed nose offers up a pure blend of apple, pear, sweet grapefruit, lovely minerality, lemon zest and a nice dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and focused, with a fine core of fruit, great mineral drive on the backend and a very long, snappy and beautifully-balanced finish. I have scored this within a range, due to its recent bottling, but I would be shocked if it does not ultimately deserve the higher score in the range. 2016-2035+. **91-93.**

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “la Garenne”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

Domaine Prudhon has a very tiny holding of less than nine *ares* in the premier cru of la Garenne, but these are sixty year-old vines. Typically, there is enough production for two barrels each year, one of which is usually new. In the short crop of 2010, I am not sure how the domaine handled the new wood regime for this wine, as I failed to do my homework prior to my visit and know to ask Monsieur Prudhon. In any event, the 2010 la Garenne was showing quite fine promise, thought it too, had only been bottled three weeks prior to my visit. The nose is deep and even more closed than the Enseignères, reluctantly offering up scents of apple, pear, a touch of pastry cream, *terres blanches*, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and classy, with zesty acidity, lovely focus and balance and fine length and grip on the nicely transparent finish. Clearly good juice in the making. 2018-2040. **92-93+.**

2010 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

There are only three and a half barrels of Chenevottes produced by Domaine Prudhon, from a parcel of forty year-old vines that lie directly upslope from Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet, with the small slice of Chassagne premier cru of Blanchot Dessus in between. This too had just been recently bottled prior to my visit, and may have been even a bit more upset from the *mise* than the two Pulignys. The nose is quite closed, but offers up lovely scents of apple, pear, tangerine, a good base of soil and a delicate touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite pure on the attack, with a good core and a long, focused and snappy finish. At the present time, this does not show the great backend minerality of so many of the top St. Aubin premier crus, or the two Pulignys, but perhaps this is just a reflection of the wine’s recent *mise*. 2016-2035. **91-92+?**

Vins Rouges

2010 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The vines for the Bourgogne *rouge* bottling all lie in the village of St. Aubin. The wine in 2010 is quite light cherry in color and offers up a pretty and red fruity nose of strawberries, orange zest, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke and rose petals. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and transparent, with tangy acids, just a touch of tannin and quite good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. Good juice. 2014-2020+. **86+.**

2010 St. Aubin Rouge- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The 2010 St. Aubin *rouge* had only been bottled two weeks prior to my visit, but was showing very well in spite of this. The vines for this cuvée range from thirty to sixty years of age

and see very little, or no new oak. The nose on the 2010 is stylish and very transparent, offering up scents of cherries, strawberries, orange zest, lovely minerality and a nice touch of coffee in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, medium-full and pure on the attack, with a very soil-driven personality, lovely intensity of flavor, modest tannins and a long, tangy and focused finish. I really like the style and shape of this classy middleweight. 2015-2035. **88+**.

2010 St. Aubin “les Frionnes” Rouge- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The premier cru les Frionnes *rouge* bottling is one of the founding wines of the domaine (like the Les Perrières *blanc*) that have been in the Prudhon family since 1921. The domaine owns just under one hectare of thirty to sixty year-old pinot vines in les Frionnes, and the wine is raised almost entirely in older barrels. The 2010 is really lovely, offering up a promising nose of cherries, strawberries, orange zest, woodsmoke, roses and stony minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and fairly reserved in personality, with a good core, lovely focus and intensity, a bit of firm tannin, tangy acids and lovely grip on the long and youthful finish. This will be a lovely wine with a bit of bottle age and is a superb value. 2017-2035. **89+**.

2010 St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou” Vieilles Vigne Rouge- Domaine Prudhon et Fils

The *rouge* bottling of Sur le Sentier du Clou comes from the domaine’s oldest vines, as the range of vineyard age here runs from forty years old all the way to more than eighty! Nearly a hectare and a half of the Prudhons’ parcel in this vineyard is planted to pinot noir, making this an important cuvée for the domaine. The 2010 Sur le Sentier du Clou *rouge* is excellent, offering up a deep and very young nose of red and black cherries, a touch of bonfire, superb soil tones, gamebirds and a touch of orange peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection, firm, ripe tannins, tangy acids and very good length and grip on the focused and still quite chewy finish. This is an old school wine in the best sense of the term that should be delicious with sufficient bottle age. 2018-2040. **89+**.

2010 St. Aubin “Cuvée les Rouges Gorges” Rouge- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The Cuvée les Rouges Gorges bottling is a blend of a couple of different, smaller holdings in premier cru vineyards- one on the hillside up above the village of Gamay, and the other two larger parcels on the Chassagne border. All are planted with good old vines, with the range from forty to sixty years of age. The nose on the 2010 Cuvée les Rouges Gorges is more red fruity and transparent than the Sur le Sentier du Clou *rouge*, offering up a very stylish blend of cherries, strawberries, chalky soil tones, fresh herbs, roses and incipient notes of gamebirds. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, with a fine core of fruit, a very soil-driven personality, tangy acids and a suavely tannic, complex and very long finish. This is a very elegant rendition of St. Aubin *rouge*. 2018-2040. **90+**.

2010 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Chambres” Rouge- Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils

The les Chambres *rouge* bottling is comprised of forty year-old vines in a one-third of a hectare parcel in Chassagne. The nose is very refined in 2010, jumping from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke and a nice floral topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and broad-shouldered, with a nice sense of reserve, a good core of sappy fruit, deep soil tones and a long, tangy and fairly chewy finish. This will need five or six years of bottle age and should be a lovely and quite long-lived bottle. 2017-2035. **88**.



Vines in St. Aubin's fine premier cru of Les Murgers Dents de Chien, with grand cru Pulignys just over the ridge.

Wines Tasted During Les Grands Jours and in New York

I have listed the wines which I tasted at Les Grands Jours events in Burgundy in late March and the couple of domaines I tasted here in the New York last month in the same section here, with the wines listed geographically from north to south, starting in Chablis and working down through the Côte de Nuits. Unless noted in the introductory notes on the estate, the wines would have been tasted at the Les Grands Jours tastings. As I was on the road for a month during the spring, with my Burgundy leg of the trip just the first eleven days of thirty on the road, I only spent two days tasting at the Les Grands Jours week of events, and then headed off to Germany, so my notes from these tastings are concentrated on domaines from Chablis (the first day's tastings for Les Grands Jours) and the Côte de Nuits.

Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin (La Chapelle en Chablis)

As readers may recall from the last big Burgundy issue, my tasting at Domaine Bessin last November was my first visit to Monsieur Bessin's cellars and I was egregiously late, as I had gone to the family's home in the center of Chablis, rather than the cellars in the village of La Chapelle, a few kilometers away. By the time I arrived at the cellars in La Chapelle, Monsieur Bessin had prepared the 2009s to taste and I did not have time to taste ranges of both the 2009s and 2010s on that day and had to wait until March to get my first look at his 2010s. Happily, he had most of his lineup available for tasting at the Les Grands Jours tasting this year, so I was

able to taste through his fine roster of 2010s on this trip. As I noted in Issue 36, Monsieur Bessin has only been selling his wines off in bottle since the 1992 vintage, so this is hardly an old domaine by the standards of the region. The Bessin Chablis “V.V.” and the Fourchaume are fermented entirely in stainless steel. The other wines generally see about thirty percent barrel fermentation, with the remainder done in stainless steel tanks, so that they retain a beautiful base of minerality, while having some of their edges nicely rounded off and their structures perfectly sculpted for long-term cellaring. Monsieur Bessin has a fine range of old vines in his twelve hectares of vineyard holdings, and has some of the finest terroirs in Chablis included in his small range of wines. I did not have the chance to ask Monsieur Bessin if he had picked before the rainy weather in the fall of 2010, but I would guess that at least a very substantial percentage of his fruit was collected prior to the rains arriving in Chablis that autumn, as the wines collectively show outstanding precision and tensile purity. All the 2010s had been assembled and filtered just before the Les Grands Jours tasting, but Monsieur Bessin had prepared his samples for the tasting prior to the assemblage, so that the wines would not be upset by the racking and the wines were absolutely singing when I tasted them! This is one of the great domaines in Chablis and the wines of Jean-Claude Bessin deserve to be better-known for their outstanding quality.

2010 Chablis “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The Domaine Bessin old vine bottling is comprised of forty-five to fifty-five year-old vines and raised entirely in stainless steel. The nose on the 2010 is brilliant, offering up a vibrant mélange of pink grapefruit, tart orange, great minerality, lemongrass and a touch of anise in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and racy, with a fine core of fruit, zesty acids, excellent focus and grip and a very long, nascently complex and snappy finish. A beautiful bottle of Chablis V.V. in 2010. 2012-2025. **91.**

2010 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The vines for Monsieur Bessin’s Montmains bottling actually lie in the vineyard of La Forest (through one of the intricacies of the AOC laws in Chablis, La Forest can be sold as Montmains), as the domaine owns two distinct plots of vines in this vineyard. Monsieur Bessin prefers to bottle the production from one parcel as Montmains, rather than including it in his cuvée of La Forest, as the two parcels are in completely different sections of the vineyard and Monsieur Bessin finds the two *terroirs* quite different. The 2010 Montmains from Domaine Bessin is outstanding, offering up a very precise and minerally bouquet of lime, tangerine, green apple, great, crystalline minerality, lime zest, a touch of petrol and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with excellent mid-palate depth, laser-like focus and stunning complexity and grip on the snappy and very long finish. This is a beautiful wine in the making! 2014-2035. **93.**

2010 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The domaine has three distinct parcels in Fourchaume, from which they make two different bottlings. One is this lovely Fourchaume, which is all fermented in stainless steel, and the second is the old vine bottling that is partially barrel-fermented and labeled as “la Pièce au Comte”. The 2010 stainless steel-fermented Fourchaume is excellent, soaring from the glass in a complex blend of tangerine, pink grapefruit, beautiful, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms and a touch of straw. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and focused, with great cut and grip on the very long, almost tensile finish. The extreme raciness here suggests that all of the fruit here was collected before it started to rain. Many examples of Fourchaume (which is one of

the warmer premier crus in the region) can be a bit more overtly generous than this example, which offers up a snappy minerality that is very, very impressive for this vineyard. Great juice. 2016-2035+. **93+**.

2010 Chablis “Fourchaume la Pièce au Comte”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The domaine’s la Pièce au Comte is the old vine bottling from Fourchaume, which is made up of a parcel planted to fifty-eight to seventy-eight year-old vines. The 2010 la Pièce au Comte is a great, great wine in the making, offering up a deep and utterly refined nose of green apple, pink grapefruit, petrol, lime blossoms and a beautifully complex base of crystalline minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, snappy acids and superb length and grip on the racy and laser-like finish. This is another absolutely stellar bottle of young Fourchaume. 2017-2040. **94.**

2010 Chablis “La Forest”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The Bessin La Forest is thirty percent barrel fermented (as is the la Pièce au Comte bottling) and the 2010 was showing stunning potential at Les Grands Jours. The bouquet is vibrant and very, very pure in its aromatic mélange of grapefruit, tart apple, orange peel, chalky minerality, gentle notes of petrol and a beautifully floral topnote redolent of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively reserved, with a rock solid core of fruit, outstanding focus and balance, brisk acids and superb length and grip on the nascently complex and frisky finish. This is a stunning bottle of La Forest. 2016-2040. **94.**

2010 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

Along with Domaines Raveneau and Piuze, Monsieur Bessin makes my favorite example of Valmur. His 2010 Valmur is a stunning wine, offering up a very deep and youthful blend of grapefruit, lemon, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms and a topnote of lemongrass. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary and closed at the present time, with a rock solid core of fruit, crisp, snappy acids, excellent focus and grip and a very youthful, long and soil-driven finish of exquisite balance and purity. This will take at least five years to really start to blossom, but once it reaches its apogee, it should prove to be one of the finest grand crus to be found in the 2010 Chablis vintage. 2017-2040. **95.**

Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard (Préhy)

I had tried to set up an appointment to taste at Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard during my trip in November, but as one of the days that I was scheduled to be in Chablis was a holiday, the domaine was closed and it was not possible to taste the 2010s at the estate in Préhy. Consequently, I did not taste the entire range of 2010s from this large and excellent producer, but had to be content with the range of wines that Domaine Brocard brought to the Les Grands Jours tasting. While this is only a slice of their large portfolio, the wines that were on display at the tasting indicate that 2010 is an excellent vintage for this estate, as the wines across the board showed tensile, racy personalities that is indicative of fruit here was brought in before the rains in this vintage. In fact, the domaine managed to harvest all of their 170 hectares of vineyards before the rains started on September 24th, which has made for some very precise and snappy wines in this lovely vintage. There were no 2010 Brocard grand crus on display at Les Grands Jours this year, but the two superb 2009s that the winery representative brought along were both very long, elegant and decidedly more accessible than some of the snappier 2010s. This is an underrated source for fine Chablis and many of the wines offer up truly exceptional value for their cru.

2010 Petit Chablis “Domaine Sainte Claire”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The domaine’s Petit Chablis bottling is always a very good, tasty wine for early drinking and the 2010 is no exception. The wine offers up a ripe and lively nose of grapefruit, lime peel, petrol and soil. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and nicely focused, with good mid-palate depth and quite impressive length on the snappy finish. This is not as elegant an example of Petit Chablis as the one produced by Vincent Dauvissat for example, but it does deliver a lot of personality for its very modest price tag. 2012-2017. **85.**

2010 Chablis “Domaine Sainte Claire”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The very tensile side of the 2010 fruit that was brought in prior to the rains is quite evident on the snappy, almost snippy backend of the Brocard Chablis AC. The nose is quite good for certain, offering up scents of green apple, tart orange, petrol, flinty minerality and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and clean, with lovely cut and definition, good mid-palate depth and just a touch of youthful backend bitters on the tensile finish. Good juice that will be even better with a year or two of bottle age- which should relax the structure a bit. 2012-2020+. **87.**

2010 Chablis “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2010 Brocard Vieilles Vignes bottling is very strong, jumping from the glass in a blend of grapefruit, tart orange, lime zest, stony minerality and a nice, smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite tensile, with a very good core of fruit, fine focus and balance and a long, racy finish. This is a fine bottle and a great value! 2015-2035. **90+.**

2010 Chablis “Vau de Vey”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The little-seen premier cru of Vau de Vey is consistently one of the sleepers in the Brocard lineup and the 2010 has turned out very well indeed. The deep and classy nose offers up scents of apple, pear, lime peel, flinty soil tones and dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and classic, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids and excellent balance and grip on the very long finish. This is will be even more accessible out of the blocks than the snappier Vieilles Vignes bottling. Fine juice. 2012-2025. **91.**

2010 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

Domaine Brocard’s 2010 Montmains is excellent, wafting from the glass in a very minerally mélange of lime, tart orange, crystalline minerality, orange peel and again, a gentle topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a fine core of fruit, with excellent focus and mineral drive on the very long and racy finish. I would give this excellent example of Montmains at least a few years to unwind in the cellar. Another superb value. 2015-2035. **92.**

2010 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

As is often the case, the warmer *climat* of Butteaux has resulted in a bit more over ripeness to the fruit component on the nose here, which marries brilliantly with the underlying racy minerality found in all these 2010 Brocard wines. The complex and classy nose delivers scents of pear, tangerine, sweet grapefruit, crystalline, chalky minerality, orange peel and lemongrass. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively pure on the attack, with excellent complexity, fine mid-palate depth and excellent cut and grip on the very long and youthfully structured finish. Impressive quality. 2016-2030. **93.**

2010 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The Vaulorent premier cru, appended to the end of the grand cru slope, is one of my absolute favorites in all of Chablis, and the 2010 Brocard example is excellent. The deep and very pure nose offers up a fine mélange of green apple, flinty minerality, lime peel, smoky tones

and a nice touch of grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more immediately accessible than either the Montmains or the Butteaux, with lovely complexity, a fine core and superb length and grip on the racy and quite electric finish. This is a superb, superb example of the vintage! 2016-2035. **93+**.

2009 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2009s from Domaine Brocard are also very fine examples of the vintage, but they do come across as pretty laid back and accessible in comparison to so many of these very tensile and rapier-like 2010s that preceded them. The lovely 2009 Bougros offers up scents of pear, tart orange, chalky minerality, spring flowers and a touch of petrol in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite ripe on the attack, with a fine core, good underlying acidity and impressive lightness of step on the very long and complex finish. Good juice. 2014-2035. **92**.

2009 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2009 les Preuses from Domaine Brocard is a very fine example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a complex and classy blend of lemon, apple, orange zest, chalky minerality, spring flowers and a touch of vanillin oak (to the best of my recollection, the Preuses here is raised in a small percentage of newish- but not brand new- barrels). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very elegant, with a lovely core, fine acids and a very long, classy finish. This is a lovely wine for near-term drinking- which may be the best kind of white Burgundy these days in this age of premox! 2013-2030. **92+**.

Maison Samuel Billaud (Chablis)

This was the first time I had tasted any wines from Maison Samuel Billaud, which is a small, new négociant operation started by Samuel Billaud, who has been the winemaker at the better known, Domaine Billaud-Simon for the last twenty years. Samuel’s uncle, Bernard Simon, has been intent on selling the domaine and cashing out (against the wishes of his nephew and niece, who wish to continue the one hundred and ninety-five year legacy of the estate on into the future), and the disagreement has now descended into litigation. While the French courts attempt to settle this conflagration, Samuel Billaud has launched a new line of wines made from purchased fruit and the handful of 2010s that I tasted at Les Grands Jours were outstanding. In addition to the three excellent premier crus commented on below, Monsieur Billaud was also showing a 2010 Les Clos bottling at the tasting, but for some bizarre reason, I do not have a note on the wine and cannot recall why this is the case. Given the very well attended nature of Les Grands Jours this year, it may well be that I was interrupted chatting with someone at the tasting and forgot to go back to taste the grand cru here at the Billaud table- pretty unprofessional of me! Given how fine the premier crus were here in 2010, it is pretty hard not to imagine that I made a very big mistake not tasting Monsieur Billaud’s example of Les Clos! All the 2010 premier crus had been bottled in November of 2011.

2010 Chablis “Fourneaux”- Maison Samuel Billaud

The 2010 Fourneaux from Monsieur Billaud was raised entirely in stainless steel tanks this year and the wine is lovely. The wine offers up a very pure and vibrant nose of grapefruit, lemon, stony minerality, citrus peel and a topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and very intensely flavored, with a good core, fine focus and very nice balance on the long and wide open finish. This is a lovely wine for near-term drinking. 2012-2020+. **89+**.

2010 Chablis “Monts de Milieu”- Maison Samuel Billaud

The 2010 Monts de Milieu from Monsieur Billaud was raised in twenty percent older barrels and eighty percent in stainless steel tanks. The wine is really very lovely in this vintage, jumping from the glass in a blend of apple, grapefruit, chalky minerality, orange peel and spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and racy, with a very good core of fruit, zesty acids and impressive length and grip on the focused and transparent finish. Very good juice indeed. 2015-2030+. **92.**

2010 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Maison Samuel Billaud

The Montée de Tonnerre from Monsieur Billaud is produced from a parcel of thirty year-old vines and is raised similarly to the Monts de Milieu, with twenty percent barrel fermentation and the remainder done in stainless. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a classic expression of apple, grapefruit, lemon peel, chalky minerality, straw, perhaps just a whisper of vanilla from the barrel fermentation and a lovely topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, excellent depth and focus and a very long, racy and precise finish. This is an excellent example of Montée de Tonnerre. 2016-2035. **93.**



The village center of Chablis and the fine slope of grand cru vineyards rising up behind.

Domaine des Chenevières- Frédéric Gueguen (Chablis)

Frédéric Gueguen is one of my favorite producers in Chablis. As readers may recall, he is the son-in-law of Jean-Marc Brocard and his day job at this fine large estate is to oversee all the viticulture for Domaine Brocard. But, Monsieur Gueguen also has his own, small family estate- Domaine des Chenevières, from which he makes some outstanding wines as well. Given Monsieur Gueguen's very real time commitments at Domaine Brocard, it is not surprising that not all of the wines at his family estate are harvested by hand, but the Vieilles Vignes bottling and the premier crus are hand-harvested. The 2010 Domaine des Chenevières were really showing beautifully at the Les Grands Jours tasting and are consistently some of the finest values to be found in the entire region.

2010 Petit Chablis- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

Monsieur Gueguen's Petit Chablis is really lovely in 2010, offering up a bright and zesty nose of lime, pink grapefruit, pretty minerality, citrus peel and a topnote of *Chablisienne* straw. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and beautifully balanced, with a lovely synthesis of generous fruit and classic minerality. The finish is long, focused and very bright. A lovely example. 2012-20218+. **87+**.

2010 Chablis- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The domaine's Chablis *villages* is machine-harvested and seems to show just a slight lack of precision as a consequence in 2010. The wine does indeed offer up a lovely bouquet, as scents of green apple, lime peel, flinty minerality, orange zest and dried flowers waft from the glass. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and zesty, with a very good core of fruit, bright acids and very good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. I would love to see this wine hand-harvested, as it might be able to compete with the village wines from folks like Vincent Dauvissat and Bernard Raveneau in that case. But, that said, this is still a really lovely bottle of wine for drinking over the next eight to ten years. 2012-2020. **88**.

2010 Chablis "Grandes Vignes" V.V.- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The old vines cuvée from Domaine des Chenevières is called "Grandes Vignes", and the 2010 is a fine bottle. The young and classy nose offers up a complex mélange of grapefruit, tart orange, wet stones, lime oil and dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved, with a crisp, classy personality, a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and a long, pure and snappy finish. I would give this a year or two in the cellar to really let it blossom. It is a great value! 2013-2025. **91**.

2010 Chablis "Côte de Léchet"- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The 2010 Côte de Léchet looks to be the pick of the litter from these three very, very fine premier crus from Monsieur Gueguen in this vintage- by a very slim margin. The bouquet is young, pure and excellent, offering up scents of green apple, tart orange, lemongrass, chalky minerality, gentle notes of beeswax, citrus peel and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nicely reserved, with excellent mid-palate depth, fine focus and a very long, precise and snappy finish. A really superb bottle. 2015-2035. **92+**.

2010 Chablis "Fourchaume"- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The domaine's Fourchaume is consistently excellent and the 2010 vintage is no exception. The deep and classy nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, a hint of pear, lime peel, wet stones, straw and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a nice sense of reserve (not always the case with young examples of Fourchaume, which is one of the warmer premier crus in the region). The finish is very long,

crisp and well-balanced, and though it is not quite as racy as the Côte de Léchet, it too is an outstanding bottle in the making. 2014-2030. **92.**

2010 Chablis “l’Homme Mort”- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

Very few producers make the charmingly named “l’Homme Mort” premier cru, and Monsieur Gueguen’s version may well be the best with which I am familiar. The 2010 l’Homme Mort is excellent, delivering a lovely nose of apple, tart orange, lime blossoms, beautiful, complex minerality and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent, with very good balance and focus, ripe, sound acidity and very good length and grip on the wide open and complex finish. There is not quite the same cut and race here as is found in the Fourchaume or Côte de Léchet from the domaine this year, but this will simply make the 2010 l’Homme Mort the best option of these three fine premier crus for early drinking. Lovely juice. 2012-2025. **91.**

Domaine Christian Moreau (Chablis)

Christian Moreau is making superb wines and one of these days in the not too distant future, I am going to find time to make a proper visit to the domaine and make a much more in-depth report on his wines. In the meantime, he was showing these four superb 2010s at Les Grands Jours. The domaine harvests all of its vineyards by hand, so there are no issues with lost potential for premier crus or village wines harvested by machine at this address. The precision and depth to the wines from hand-harvesting are very much in evidence. I am not sure of when Monsieur Moreau harvested, but from the lovely texture of these 2010s, I would suspect that some of the fruit was brought in before the late season rains, and a bit after the rains started, so that the acids and concentration are very good across the board here, but they do not share that tensile, almost painfully sharp edge of acidity of domaines’ wines that were all produced from grapes collected before the late season soggy. All four of these wines are excellent.

2010 Chablis- Domaine Christian Moreau

The 2010 Chablis *villages* from Christian Moreau is an excellent effort for its level, offering up a deep and complex nose of grapefruit, green apple, flinty minerality and a nice topnote of lemongrass. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very precise, with a fine core of fruit, racy acids and excellent cut and grip on the focused and classy finish. Fine juice here. 2012-2025. **89+.**

2010 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Christian Moreau

Christian Moreau’s 2010 Vaillons is excellent and an absolutely classic example of this fine premier cru vineyard. The fine bouquet is a blend of pink grapefruit, tart orange, beeswax, chalky soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nascently complex, with very refined acids, lovely mid-palate depth, excellent focus and balance and a very long, transparent and zesty finish. A lovely bottle of Vaillons. 2014-2030. **91.**

2010 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine Christian Moreau

Christian Moreau’s parcel of vines in Vaudésir is still planted to young vines, as they were only twelve years of age in 2010. Nevertheless, the wine is really fantastic in 2010, with perhaps the low yields of the vintage adding concentration to these young vines. The exceptional nose soars from the glass in a very complex mélange of pink grapefruit, lime zest, green apple, flinty soil tones, straw and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a nice sense of reserve, a rock solid core of fruit, snappy acids

and great length and grip on the soil-driven and very intense finish. A superb bottle of Vaudésir. 2016-2040. **93+**.

2010 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine Christian Moreau

The 2010 les Clos from Domaine Moreau is even more shut down than the Vaudésir, but its quality is also quite self-evident. The reticent nose offers up a blend of green apple, grapefruit, flinty minerality, white flowers, a touch of beeswax and a topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very tightly-knit, with a rock solid core, brisk acids, excellent focus and balance and a very, very long, snappy and youthful finish. This will need at least a year or two more bottle age than the Vaudésir to start to really blossom, but will also be an outstanding bottle at its apogee. 2018-2040. **93**.

2010 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Christian Moreau

The Valmur parcel of Monsieur Moreau contains the oldest vines of the domaine- fifty-five years of age, and these old vines have produced another absolutely lovely example of the 2010 vintage. The deep and very expressive nose soars from the glass in a fine mix of lemon peel, ripe apple, beeswax, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms and a gentle touch of smoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and balance, sound acids, but not quite the same cut and grip as is found in the Vaudésir, which at this early stage, despite its young vine status, looks to be the slightly superior wine of these three very, very fine grand crus. 2015-2035+. **93**.

Domaine Arlaud (Morey St. Denis)

All of the 2010s from Domaine Arlaud had already been bottled prior to the Les Grands Jours tasting, but there was such a crush of crowd around the Arlaud table at the tasting in Gilly that I did not have the opportunity to ask when the mise had taken place at the domaine. The underlying wines have been consistently excellent here for many years, but this is one of those “time warp” domaines for me who use too much new oak for their various bottlings to ever rise above the “merely quite good” camp for my palate. I know that there are many people out there who really love these wines (witness the scrum of tasters around the Arlaud table all day in Gilly), but for me, until the new wood gets dialed down a bit, these wines will remain in my personal second division. The village wines here were raised in thirty percent new oak in 2010, and the premier and grand crus in substantially more. The wines are quite good, but they do not carry their high percentages of new wood with anywhere near the same grace as Domaine Dujac for instance- or that is at least been my consistent impression. I sold a lot of Domaine Arlaud wines back from the vintages of the late 1980s and early 1990s back in my merchant days, when the underlying winemaking was nowhere near as impressive as it is today (and yields were probably substantially higher as well back then), but, I found the wines more satisfying back in the day because of their modest use of new wood. But, to each his own...at least the two 2010 Arlaud grand crus on display showed no ill effects from their oak treatment and were truly outstanding examples of the vintage.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Arlaud

The 2010 Chambolle AC from Domaine Arlaud is a very pretty example of the vintage, offering up a deep and sappy nose of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, lovely soil tones and a nice touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and well-balanced, with a silky suaveness on the attack, solid mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins

and a long, tangy finish. This was showing substantially better than the 2010 Morey AC at the Les Grands Jours event. 2012-2025. **88.**

2010 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Arlaud

The Domaine Arlaud 2010 Morey *villages* is quite a bit more marked by its new wood component at the present time, but, perhaps this is just a reflection of its recent *mise* and does not signify over-oaking. The nose is a new oaky blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, soil, coffee, mustard seed and smoky new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and a touch rigid from its new wood treatment, with good length and grip, perfectly respectable depth at the core, but currently, a rather four-square finish that lumbers under its oak. This may well turn out better than it was showing at the time of my tasting, but it would have been a much happier camper raised entirely in one or two wine barrels. 2015-2035. **86+?**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Noirots”- Domaine Arlaud

The 2010 Chambolle “Noirots” from the Arlaud family is really a lovely wine, but it too is pretty marked by its new wood component- particularly on the nose. The bouquet is a sappy blend of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, soil and plenty of smoky new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This is good juice, but again, less oak would have produced and even more interesting wine (at least to my palate). 2016-2035. **90.**

2010 Morey St. Denis “les Ruchots”- Domaine Arlaud

Maybe the Morey wines were bottled a bit after the Chambolles in the Arlaud cellar this year, as the 2010 Ruchots is also showing substantially more difficulty absorbing its dose of new wood than the above wine. The nose is quite marked by new and spicy oak in its mélange of black cherries, plums, gamebirds, a bit of soil and an overly generous serving of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish and shows off nice complexity on the attack, with a solid core and good focus, but a fair bit of uncovered, resinous oak tannins still in need of absorption on the slightly clipped backend. Again, maybe I was just unlucky and caught this wine too soon after its bottling and the new wood is really not quite this strident- perhaps. 2015-2035? **86+?**

2010 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Arlaud

The 2010 Domaine Arlaud Clos St. Denis is a really lovely example of the vintage. The deep, pure and classic nose offers up scents of red plums, cherries, raw cocoa, mustard seed, lovely soil tones and a generous framing of well-integrated, cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a lovely core of sappy fruit, beautiful soil inflection, refined tannins and excellent focus and grip on the tangy and dancing finish. This is a lovely bottle of Clos St. Denis. 2020-2060+. **93+.**

2010 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Arlaud

Domaine Arlaud’s 2010 Bonnes-Mares is also an outstanding bottle in the making, soaring from the glass in a pure and classic blend of black cherries, dark plums, raw cocoa, venison, a lovely base of soil, woodsmoke and a base of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a superb core of sappy fruit, excellent soil signature, fine-grained tannins and outstanding balance and grip on the long, suave and youthful finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Bonnes-Mares in the making, but it will need a couple more years to really blossom in comparison to the Clos St. Denis. 2022-2075. **93+.**

Domaine Ballorin et Filles (Morey St. Denis)

Young Gilles Ballorin only began his own estate in 2005, after working for a decade at several other estates and co-ops- most recently at Antonin Rodet. He was born in Dijon and is the first generation of his family to pursue a career as a winegrower, and he and his wife have pieced together five hectares of rented and owned vineyards to work with, scattered from Chenove (just north of Marsannay) down to Comblanchien (just below Prémieux). More than half their vineyards are in regional appellation such as Bourgogne rouge or blanc, but they also produce several examples of Marsannay, a Fixin and a Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard” from vines right next to those of Cecile Tremblay. I only tasted the Ballorin wines at the Morey-Chambolle tasting in Gilly, so the range was limited here to the domaine’s Aligoté, Bourgogne rouge and the Morey “Trés Girard”- all of which were lovely. Jeremy Seysses of Domaine Dujac has suggested I taste the wines of Monsieur Ballorin, as he thought I would like the style, and of course, he was quite correct. Monsieur Ballorin has one premier cru currently- a Nuits St. Georges “les Damodes” bottling, but it was not on display in Gilly. The domaine is farmed entirely biodynamically and one hopes that there will one day be some further premier crus or even a grand cru or two to add to the roster. I hope to visit the domaine and taste the full range of Ballorin wines on a coming trip, as another fine source of Marsannay and Fixin is always most welcome in this day and age of high prices for red Burgundy. The three wines that I tasted were very, very well made and this is another of those new domaines in Burgundy (such as Domaine David Clark), where the winemaking is sufficiently fine to make paying attention to some of the lesser appellations well worth the effort.

2010 Bourgogne Aligoté- Domaine Ballorin et Filles

Monsieur Ballorin’s Aligoté is planted in Marsannay and I was very impressed by the quality of this wine in 2010. The nose is deep and quite lovely in its mélange of apple, tangerine, a nice touch of leanness and a complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a good core, a lovely sense of transparency and fine balance on the long and zesty finish. Good juice here. 2012-2020. **88.**

2010 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Ballorin et Filles

The Domaine Ballorin Bourgogne rouge is a very fine example of the vintage and one of the most impressive regional wines that I tasted on this most recent trip. The deep and really impressively complex nose offers up scents of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, a nice touch of gamebird (are these vines in Morey?) and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and classy, with a juicy core of fruit, lovely focus and balance and just a touch of tannin on the long, suave finish. Impressive. 2012-2020+. **89.**

2010 Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard”- Domaine Ballorin et Filles

The 2010 Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard” from Gilles Ballorin is excellent, offering up a deep and classy nose of black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds, just a touch of new wood and a very impressive signature of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a lovely core of sappy fruit, excellent purity and very good length and grip on the focused and moderately tannic finish. This is a very fine example of this lovely *terroir*. I cannot wait to taste the entire range of Ballorin wines the next time I am in Burgundy! 2015-2030+. **91.**

Domaine Clos de Tart (Morey St. Denis)

I only tasted a couple of wines from Clos de Tart at the Grands Jours tasting in Gilly, as they were not showing the 2010 La Forge at this time. The 2010 Clos de Tart had been racked one month prior to the tasting and was destined to begin its bottling the day after the tastings. These continue to be very well-made wines that to my palate could improve noticeably if they domaine would give up its new oak fetish and focus on its exceptional terroir. But, what do I know?

2008 La Forge- Domaine Clos de Tart

The 2008 La Forge is very marked by its new wood component on both the nose and palate, but has enough stuffing to eventually carry the wood. The bouquet is a blend of black cherries, chocolate, a touch of soil and plenty of toasty new oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full and suave on the attack, with a perfectly respectable core of fruit, ripe tannins and good length and grip on the fairly long finish. This has rather modest transparency for a 2008, but otherwise, it is pretty well-made. 2014-2030+. **87.**

2010 Clos de Tart- Domaine Clos de Tart

The 2010 Clos de Tart is one of my favorite recent vintages of this fine grand cru, but again, stylistically, it might be quite a bit more sophisticated if less emphasis were placed in the cellar on its pricey smorgasbord of toney tonneliers. That said, the wine is excellent, as it offers up a deep and polished nose of black cherries, dark plums, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a suave coating of coffee-like new wood. The wood treatment here reminds me strongly of the 2009 Lafite. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very velvety on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. This is a great *terroir* and I would be delighted to see more emphasis placed on this aspect of the finished wine, but it seems to me that the folks at Clos de Tart are more interested in trying to mimic Bordeaux and produce a *vin de luxe*, rather than a great, classic grand cru Burgundy. But, all in all, it is hard not to be swayed by how well the 2010 Clos de Tart has turned out in its luxuriant style. 2020-2060. **94.**

Domaine Louis Remy (Morey St. Denis)

Madame Chantal Remy brought a nice selection of wines across several vintages to the Les Grands Jours tasting this year, as the domaine continues to offer older wines for sale. Some of the wines were showing quite well at the tasting, while others seemed a bit out of sorts, but there are certainly some good things to be found here. I have not yet visited the estate and tasted “sur place”, but hope to have the opportunity on one of my next trips through the region. For those who long for that old-fashioned style of red Burgundy, which is long on transparency and light on its feet, these wines can offer some good drinking at a very fair price- provided one catches one of the better cuvées. From my brief experience with these wines in recent times, the winemaking can be a tad inconsistent, so one has to pick and choose a bit, but there are certainly some options here that merit attention.

2010 Morey St. Denis “Clos des Rosiers”- Domaine Louis Remy

The Clos des Rosiers is a monopole vineyard that is at the *villages* level in the hierarchy in Burgundy, but well-situated, as it lies just down slope from Clos des Lambrays. The 2010 is a very pretty, red fruity example of the vintage, offering up scents of strawberries, coffee, mustard seed, woodsmoke and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex

and very transparent, with a touch of tannin, good focus and nice length and grip on the tangy finish. This is a touch *fluide*, particularly for a 2010, but it is complex and stylish at the same time. It will drink well right from the outset. 2012-2025+. **88.**

2010 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Louis Remy

The domaine's 2010 Clos de la Roche is quite good this year, delivering a deep and classy nose of red and black cherries, coffee, a touch of venison, incipient notes of forest floor, a fine base of soil, mustard seed and just a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fairly full-bodied and quite complex, with moderate tannins, bright acids and very good length and grip on the long and soil-driven finish. Again, one would love to see a bit more mid-palate density in a grand cru, but this has the breed and complexity of a fine Clos de la Roche. Picture the weight of the Domaine Rousseau Clos de la Roche, but with a much more overtly evolved personality right out of the blocks. Not a bad example at all. 2017-2040. **90+.**

2009 Morey St. Denis "Clos des Rosiers"- Domaine Louis Remy

This was the first vintage of Clos des Rosiers produced at the domaine, and it is not quite in the league of the pretty 2010 version. The nose is quite a bit riper than the 2010, offering up a jammy blend of black cherries, roasted game, coffee and damp herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and blurry from ripeness, with a juicy core, soft tannins and a chunky, four-square finish. There is no overt signs of heat on the backend, but this is a wine that has lost quite a bit from the ripeness of the vintage. 2012-2020. **83.**

2009 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Louis Remy

The 2009 Clos de la Roche from Domaine Remy also suffers a bit from a lack of precision on both the nose and palate from the ripeness of the vintage. The bouquet is a blend of red and black cherries, game, coffee, a touch of bonfire and a nice base of *sous bois*. On the palate the wine is fullish, soft and plump, with a good core of jammy fruit, a distinct lack of focus, very moderate tannins and a long, balanced and succulent finish. Maybe this wine will gain in precision with bottle age, but right now, it seems rather blurry. 2012-2030. **85+?**

2007 Chambolle-Musigny "Derrière La Grange"- Domaine Louis Remy

The premier cru vineyard of Derrière La Grange is located in the center of the Chambolle *vignobles*, propitiously sandwiched between Les Fuées up above it on the slope and Les Gruenchers below it. In contrast to the jammy 2009s on display at the Les Grands Jours tasting, this 2007 is really a very pretty wine. The nose is a mature and inviting mélange of cherries, a coffee, a nice touch of blood orange, autumnal soil tones and a dollop of gamebird in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, suave and silky, with moderate depth, but nice intensity of flavor. The finish is long, silky and complex. This is a lovely example of the Remy style carried out with grace and dexterity. 2012-2025. **89.**

1998 Chambertin- Domaine Louis Remy

I really like the nose on the 1998 Chambertin from Domaine Remy, but the palate was a bit angular at the tasting- could this have been the result of the sediment being kicked up into solution during transport to the tasting? The nose is deep, tertiary and impressively complex, wafting from the glass in a blend of grilled meat, cherries, red plums, forest floor, a touch of summer truffle and *sous bois*. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit four-square, with a good core, but an overtly autumnal backend that seems more developed than the nose would suggest. The finish is still long and the tannins are pretty much melted away, but the wine seems entirely more interesting today on the nose than on the palate. I suspect that a bottle carefully decanted might be much more interesting and that the nose here is more indicative of the true quality of the wine than the palate impression at this particular tasting. 2012-2030. **86+?**

Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux (Vosne-Romanée)

This domaine used to be known as Domaine Robert Arnoux. I have had some lovely older wines from this domaine, but have found most of the examples I have tasted from here in the last decade or more to be over-oaked to my tastes. I took the time to visit and taste here a while back the range of 2005s, but was underwhelmed. The range I tasted of 2010s at the Les Grands Jours tasting was not a whole lot better. There is a lot of new wood in use at Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux, with the village wines raised in twenty percent new oak, the premier cru les Chaumes in fifty percent new oak and the Suchots (which was not being shown at the tasting) and the grand crus all in one hundred percent new barrels. I did not find these 2010s particularly impressive, though the RSV was certainly a very good wine- just perhaps a bit disappointing for such a great terroir in a legendary vintage.

2010 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

Ironically, the 2010 Vosne AC from Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux was one of my favorite wines that I tasted at the Château de Clos Vougeot. The wine offers up a pretty bouquet of raspberries, cherries, coffee, Vosne spices and a fair dollop of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tangy and nicely transparent, with modest tannins, good focus and sneaky length and grip on the bouncy finish. This is not bad at all. 2014-2025. **87.**

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Hauts Mazières”- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

The 2010 Hauts Mazières is much more marked by its new wood than the straight Vosne AC, offering up a woody aromatic blend of cherries, raspberries, coffee, a touch of soil and tons of oak spice. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite woody, with modest mid-palate depth, tangy acids and a long, oak tannin finish. There may be enough stuffing here to carry the wood with a bit more grace down the road, but today, this seems likely to always be a bit over-oaked and woody. I would guess that we have all Taransaud barrels in play here, as I can think of no other way to get this much wood astringency in a wine that has only seen twenty percent new wood. This will take at least five years to try and absorb some of the oak tannins, and then it will probably have a very short window of reasonable drinking, before the fruit starts to dry out from the same aggressive wood policy. A weird way to make a wine in Vosne-Romanée, but the Lachaux family has lots of company in this commune! The score represents the best-case scenario for the wine during its relatively brief window of enjoyable drinking. 2017-2025+? **85+?**

2010 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

Even back when the wines from Domaine Robert Arnoux were pretty strong, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Chaumes was always a bit of a weak link, and the 2010 was not particularly reassuring. The fifty percent new oak here has certainly done the wine no favors, as it offers up a bouquet of red and black cherries, espresso, smoke and tons of spicy new wood tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, woody and currently shows absolutely no soil tones under its onslaught of oak, with tangy acids, good focus and grip not sufficient to distract from the currently rather raw finish of uncovered oak tannins. There is some depth of fruit here, so maybe things will not look quite so dismal in terms of balance three or four years from now, but this is not a great wine. 2015-2025+? **82-87+?**

2010 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

The 2010 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux has better stuffing than the Chaumes to stand up to its new wood, but also a full one hundred percent new lumber to bear. The nose carries its wood better than the above, offering up scents of cherries, plums, bonfires,

game and aggressively spicy new (Taransaud?) oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, muddled on the attack (was this recently racked- no one has indicated this to be the case!), with a respectable core of fruit, and plenty of uncovered oak tannins currently sticking out and drying the finish. There is some depth of fruit here, so maybe the wood will integrate a bit better down the road. The best-case (and perhaps far-fetched) scenario for this wine is for it to absorb its new wood tannins on the backend and end up a rather fruit-driven, but respectable example of Clos Vougeot. If this happens, the upper end of the range will be appropriate for this wine, but this is by no means a certainty at this point in time. 2020-2035+? **83-90?**

2010 Echézeaux- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

The 2010 Echézeaux from Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux is a bit less plump in the depth of fruit category, but also decidedly more transparent and soil-driven. The nose is, of course, quite marked by its new oak, but also offers up scents of cherries, red plums, *pain épice*, coffee, soil, and aggressively spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full and nicely soil-driven on the attack, but currently dry on the backend from uncovered oak tannins. The focus here is good and the tangy acids should keep everything fresh and bouncy on into the immediate future, but there is an awful lot of new oak tannins here that need to be absorbed, and I am not sure how successful this wine will be tackling this monumental task. At the very least, it will be a pretty complex wine, but perhaps always with an edginess from uncovered wood tannin. 2018-2035+? **85-89?**

2010 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux

The 2010 Romanée-St.-Vivant from Domaine Arnoux-Lachaux, not surprisingly, has the best depth of fruit to stand up to the wood tannins here, and this wine is not bad at all. The nose is a complex and classy blend of cherries, orange peel, coffee, Vosne spices, lovely soil tones and plenty of smoky, *luxe*-styled new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a good core of fruit, fine focus and very good length and grip on the chewy and only modestly over-oaked finish. This will have no trouble eventually absorbing its wood tannin, as it is only showing a touch of backend dryness at this time, and it will be a pretty good bottle at its apogee. But, should one expect more from an expensive example of Romanée-St.-Vivant in a great year? This will certainly not offer up even a modicum of value. 2016-2040. **91+**.

Domaine Bruno Clavelier (Vosne-Romanée)

Bruno Clavelier is another domaine that I tried to visit during my week of tastings in the cellars prior to the start of Les Grands Jours, but I could never get anyone at the domaine to call me back despite the several voicemail messages that I left on their machine. Monsieur Clavelier gave me his card and email address at the tasting at the Château de Clos Vougeot, so maybe such logistical difficulties will not arise again next year. The Clavelier 2010s had all been bottled the week prior to the tasting, and there was a fairly limited range of wines on display, due to the short crop of 2010. Despite their having just been bottled, the four 2010s that I tasted from Domaine Clavelier were all showing very well indeed and I dearly wish I could have had a chance to taste the entire range of 2010s in the cellars. Given that these wines had all been bottled a week before I tasted them, there is a distinct possibility that my scores are on the conservative side for these wines and they may ultimately prove to be even better down the road!

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Combe Brûlées”- Domaine Bruno Clavelier

Domaine Clavelier’s 2010 Combe Brûlées was showing beautiful transparency and elegance at the Les Grands Jours tasting, jumping from the glass in a classy blend of cherries, raspberries, blood orange, fine minerality, Vosne spice tones and a deft touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and tangy, with outstanding mineral drive, moderate tannins and fine focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. Good juice here! 2016-2035+. **89+**.



2010 Vosne-Romanée “Hauts Mazières”- Domaine Bruno Clavelier

The 2010 Hauts Mazières from Bruno Clavelier is also lovely, offering up a deep and pure nose of black cherries, blood orange, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, lovely minerality, fresh herb tones and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite pure and suave on the attack, with a solid core of fruit, moderate tannins, lovely focus and very good grip on the impressively long finish. Another lovely Vosne AC. 2017-2040. **89+**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “aux Brûlées”- Domaine Bruno Clavelier

The 2010 Vosne-Romanée “aux Brûlées” from Domaine Bruno Clavelier is excellent, delivering a deep and classy nose of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, a bit of game, dark soil tones and a deft framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in style, with a sappy core of fruit, outstanding soil inflection, ripe, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This is a fine, fine example of this great premier cru. 2020-2060. **93**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “les Beaux Monts”- Domaine Bruno Clavelier

The vineyard of Beaux Monts can often be quite a black fruity example of Vosne (or Flagey, if one wants to be precise), but Monsieur Clavelier's 2010 offers up really lovely red fruit tones to add to the aromatic fireworks this year. The deep and very classy nose jumps from the glass in a blend of raspberries, blood orange, black cherries, lovely minerality, bonfires, Vosne spices and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, great minerality on the backend, ripe, suave tannins and beautiful focus and balance on the very long and tangy finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Beaux Monts. 2020-2060. **93+**.

Domaine Anne Gros (Vosne-Romanée)

Madame Gros continues to use new wood like it was still 1995, and I guess that her customers find this quite agreeable. To my palate, I cannot recall ever tasting a wine from her in the last decade that was not struggling to carry its lumber, and these 2010s were no exception. The 2010 village wine was raised in sixty percent new wood, the Echézeaux in seventy percent (with the remainder of the barrels “one wine” barrels), and I did not bother to ask about the Clos Vougeot and Richebourg, as my questions were obviously starting to grate a bit on her ears at the Les Grands Jours tasting. There are often really good wines evident under the onslaught of new wood, but this is a decidedly second division domaine in my book these days- due almost entirely to how the new wood is used and presented in the finished wines.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “les Barreaux”- Domaine Anne Gros

The 2010 Vosne-Romanée “les Barreaux” from Domaine Anne Gros is very marked by its new wood component on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a new oaky blend of cherries, raspberries, coffee, soil tones and plenty of aggressive, spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, medium-full and nicely transparent on the attack, with respectable mid-palate depth and a distinctly new oaky finish that carries a fair bit of wood tannin on the backend. There is sufficient stuffing to eventually carry the wood here, but one has to ask what all the new oak is adding to the equation? 2014-2035. **87**.

2010 Echézeaux- Domaine Anne Gros

Anne Gros' 2010 Echézeaux is decidedly over-oaked- or at least that is the way it was showing at the Les Grands Jours event. The woody nose shows scents of raspberries, cherries, gamebirds, coffee and soil tones underneath the onslaught of spicy new wood (this has got to be all Taransaud barrels). On the palate the wine is fullish and pinched from the new wood, with moderate mid-palate depth and a fair bit of dry, uncovered oak tannins currently cutting short the finish. Maybe this wine was just racked or bottled or had some other depredation to withstand prior to the tasting, and this may be the reason the wine was showing so dried out at the tasting. But, Madame Gros did not volunteer that any of these were the case and she seemed perfectly content with how the wine was showing. There is probably enough stuffing here to carry at least some of the wood eventually, but I would be shocked if there is enough to eventually absorb all these aggressive wood tannins. 2016-2035? **80-87?**

2010 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Anne Gros

Madame Gros' 2010 Clos Vougeot is decidedly deeper at the core than her Echézeaux, and so has a better chance of resolving its own generous helping of new wood tannins. The nose is a blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, venison, lovely soil tones and plenty of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with some of its soil

signature given up to the new wood seasoning, but with the tannins decidedly better-integrated at this time than is the case with the Echézeaux. This is not bad and will be interesting to drink down the road, but it could be great with a lot less new wood. 2020-2050. **91+**.

2010 Richebourg- Domaine Anne Gros

Like the Clos Vougeot, the 2010 Richebourg from Domaine Anne Gros has sacrificed a fair bit of transparency and soil nuance to new oaky tones on both the nose and palate, which in my book is a pretty one-sided trade! The nose is good, but not great in its mix of plums, black cherries, gamebirds, cocoa powder and a big old serving of smoky new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite fruit-driven for a 2010 grand cru, with a sappy core and pretty good length and grip on the rather short and chewy finish. Currently, the new wood here pinches the finish, though this may change with bottle age. Not bad, but hardly what one expects from Richebourg in a great, great vintage. 2018-2050. **89+**.

Domaine Michel Gros (Vosne-Romanée)

Not all of Monsieur Gros' 2010s were showing well at the Château de Clos Vougeot, but some were in very good form, which leads me to believe that others may have just been racked and not particularly happy about being shown at the tasting. The Clos Vougeot seemed to me to be the only wine that was over-oaked this year, and I really worry about its size and shape in the face of its very significant serving of toasty new wood. But, the other wines were not bad at all, with the 2010 Brûlées showing the finest potential. But, that said, the winemaking here seems so risk-averse as to be sacrificing the potential of these great, old vine vineyards, and I would be really happy to see Michel Gros stop using commercial yeasts and stop hustling his wines through their fermentations as quickly as possible (for, at least to my palate, this is how the wines taste). To my mind, there is an awful lot of potential here that is still not be realized.

2010 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Michel Gros

The 2010 Vosne villages from Monsieur Gros is a very pretty wine that should drink well right from the outset, offering up a lovely bouquet of cherries, blood orange, coffee, autumnal soil tones and a touch of smoky new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, suave on the attack and wide open, with nice complexity, moderate depth and a long, tangy and quite softly tannic finish. There is not a ton of backbone here, but the flavors and aromatics are quite appealing and the wine is quite well-balanced. Tasty juice, if not with the depth and structural integrity of a top example. 2012-2030. **87**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “aux Brûlées”- Domaine Michel Gros

The 2010 Vosne-Romanée “aux Brûlées” from Domaine Michel Gros was my favorite 2010 from the estate on display at Les Grands Jours. The nose is lovely in its complex mélange of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, venison, a nice touch of blood orange, woodsmoke and toasty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows pretty good depth at the core, with still a touch of youthful CO2 in evidence on the backend. The finish is long, complex and moderately tannic, with good focus and very good balance. Again, this does not quite have the mid-palate stuffing of the best examples from this vineyard in 2010, but this has all the classy personality of Brûlées and will drink very well for at least a couple of decades. 2018-2045. **90+**.

2010 Vosne-Romanée “Clos des Réas”- Domaine Michel Gros

The 2010 Clos des Réas was not showing as well as the above wine at the tasting at the Château de Clos Vougeot, but this may have been the result of a recent racking, as there was certainly considerable promise on both the nose and palate in evidence. The wine just seemed a

tad “muddled” on the palate, which is often just a reflection of a recent racking. The nose is a fine blend of plums, red and black cherries, a touch of nuttiness, Vosne spices, duck, fine soil tones and also a fair bit of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a sappy core of fruit, refined tannins and a long, tangy finish. If the wine can snap back into focus, then it will merit a score at the upper end of the range. 2018-2045. **88-92?**

2010 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Michel Gros

I am not particularly sanguine about how this relatively young vine Clos Vougeot will eventually absorb its one hundred percent, heavily-toasted new oak. The nose is very marked by its wood component, offering up scents of bourbon-like new wood to go along with cherries, blood orange, coffee, gamebirds, soil and a bit of bonfire. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and surprisingly transparent on the attack, with respectable mid-palate depth and plenty of new oaky tones prevalent on the moderately long and chewy finish. There are some backend wood tannins here that are currently not covered by fruit, but there may be just enough stuffing to eventually carry the wood. But, the nose at the present time is so marred by its bourbon oak component, that I really wonder how attractive this wine can ever really be. Again, just maybe the wine will merit a score at the upper end of the range, but it seems more likely that the 2010 Clos des Réas will regain precise focus than the 2010 Clos Vougeot will ever seamlessly integrate its new wood. But, it could happen. 2019-2035+? **85-92?**

Maison Joseph Faiveley (Nuits St. Georges)

I had fully intended to visit Maison Faiveley in either November or March to taste in the cellars and handicap the full range of their 2010s, but I could not get on the same page with the domaine in November of last year and my dance card filled up too quickly in March on my shortened visit to find time to work through the cellars in Nuits St. Georges. But, I did get a chance to visit a few of their wines at the various Les Grands Jours events that I attended. While the estate is focusing on using better quality oak for the élevage of their wines, the few I tasted are still raised in entirely too much new oak for my tastes, though at least the two Chambolle premier crus that I tasted seemed likely to have no difficulties absorbing their generous percentages of new wood. These two wines had been bottled only three weeks before the Les Grands Jours events, and will need some time to completely reintegrate their new wood components, but they should ultimately have no issues with balance. But, it would be fun to see both these wines focused more on their soil components and less on which tonnelier is currently in favor at the estate. The two Faiveley grand crus that I tasted were at the event held at the Clos Vougeot (rather than Gilly), and I was not able to find out what percentage of new wood was used for each of them.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “la Combe d’Orveau”- Maison Joseph Faiveley

Both the la Combe d’Orveau and the les Fuées were raised in sixty percent new oak in 2010. The Combe d’Orveau offers up a very pretty nose of strawberries, cherries, coffee, mustard seed, lovely soil tones and plenty of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively elegant on the attack, with a good core of red fruit, fine focus and very good length and grip on the tangy, moderately tannic and spicy finish (from its new wood). Not bad at all, and perhaps even better down the road, once the wine fully recovers from its recent *mise*. 2018-2040. **91+?**

2010 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées- Maison Joseph Faiveley

The 2010 Faiveley Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” is also a very good wine in the making that saw plenty of new wood. The deep and classy nose offers up an excellent mélange of red and black cherries, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fine soil tones, fresh herbs and spicy, cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively sappy on the attack, with very good focus and nascent complexity, tangy acids and a long, slightly woody finish of ripe tannins. Again, my score may prove to be a tad on the conservative side once this wine fully comes back from the *mise*, but both of these fine Chambolles would have been much more interesting to my palate with a lower percentage of new wood used in the *elevage*. 2018-2040. **91+?**

2010 Clos Vougeot- Maison Joseph Faiveley

The 2010 Clos Vougeot from Maison Faiveley was showing quite well at the tasting at the Château de Clos Vougeot, jumping from the glass in a classy and new oaky aromatic mélange of cherries, plums, a touch of orange peel, gamebirds, lovely soil tones and plenty of smoky new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core of fruit, plenty of personality and very good length and grip on the tangy and chewy finish. There is a fair bit of wood tannin on the backend that still needs to be absorbed here, but there seems to be no issue with this eventually coming to pass. But, as good as this wine will be in the fullness of time, it does not seem likely to ever be a particularly transparent example of the vintage and the vineyard. But, there is a lot to like here. 2020-2070. **92+**.

2010 Echézeaux- Maison Joseph Faiveley

The 2010 Echézeaux from Maison Joseph Faiveley looks, at least at this early stage, less successful than the 2010 Clos Vougeot. Like the Clos Vougeot, the Echézeaux is quite marked on the nose by its smoky new oak, but there seems to be less stuffing to carry the heavy lumber on the palate. The bouquet is a blend of cherries, red plums, venison, coffee, a touch of fresh nutmeg and plenty of smoky, *luxe* new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and tangy, with a good core of fruit, fine soil inflection, but with a woody, slightly dry-edged and tannic finish from its new wood. Again, I did not receive information about when this was bottled, so maybe it is showing so woody on the backend because of recent bottling. But, I am less sanguine about its overall balance in comparison to both the Clos Vougeot and the two fine Chambolle premier crus from the domaine, and at this point in its evolution, it is not inconceivable that the wine will simply dry out from its wood tannin. 2020-2030+? **87+?**

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

I tasted a couple more 2010 wines from Maison Joseph Drouhin at the various Les Grands Jours events that I had not tasted back in November to the domaine.

2010 Chambolle-Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2010 Chambolle AC from Joseph Drouhin is a lovely example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a bright and classic blend of cherries, quince, mustard seed, coffee, lovely soil tones and a hint of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and tangy, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection, very good balance and fine length and grip on the softly tannic and tangy finish. This is a vibrant and bouncy middleweight that is just ideal for a Chambolle AC for near-term drinking. 2016-2030+. **89.**

2010 Morey St. Denis “Clos Sorbés”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2010 Morey St. Denis “Clos Sorbés” from Maison Joseph Drouhin is outstanding on both the nose and palate and would be a fine pick up for the cellar for long-time fans of Jacky Truchot who miss this bottling in their collections since Monsieur Truchot’s retirement. The very pretty and impressively complex nose offers up scents of cherries, strawberries, a touch of orange peel, woodsmoke, gamebirds, lovely soil tones, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, fine focus and very good length and grip on the modestly tannic and soil-driven finish. Fine juice. 2016-2040. **91+**.

Maison Louis Latour (Beaune)

I am yet to visit Maison Louis Latour and taste in their cellars, but it is a visit that I have been very curious to make for several years now and I hope to have the opportunity in the not too distant future. When I was first starting out in the wine trade, Louis Latour’s wines were often outstanding, with bottlings such as their Corton-Charlemagne, Chevalier-Montrachet “les Demoiselles”, Corton “Grancey”, Chambertin and Romanée-St.-Vivant consistently superb. Their other wines were often very fine as well, though the consistency beyond these five wines was not always what one might hope for and one had to pick and choose a bit from their portfolio, but there were often very pleasant surprises to be found here. But, I have generally lost track with their wines in the last decade or so and really have no idea what is going on at this domaine these days. As has been their custom for a few years at the Les Grands Jours tasting at the Château de Clos Vougeot, they brought along a mini-vertical of their Romanée-St.-Vivant for the tasting. The wines were good, but I could not help thinking that they used to be significantly better back in the decades of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s- which were stunning examples of this great vineyard and which I have been lucky enough to drink with some frequency. Certainly, these three recent vintages of RSV showed dramatically more new wood- and very spicy, probably Taransaud wood at that- that was the case in their glory years with this wine, and losing some of the new wood might go a long way towards restoring this wine to its former, exalted level of quality.

2010 Romanée-St.-Vivant “les Quatre Jours”- Maison Louis Latour

The 2010 Romanée-St.-Vivant “les Quatre Jours” from Maison Louis Latour is the finest of these three vintages, and offers up a very fine nose of red and black cherries, orange peel, lovely, complex soil tones, coffee and a generous base of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with very good, but not great depth at the core, pretty transparency, tangy acids and a bit of uncovered wood tannin poking out on the long finish. There are sufficient, but suavely ripe skin tannins here already, so the wine certainly does not need any additional tannins from the wood, but there is some here that will have to be absorbed before this wine starts to drink very well. The balance is probably sufficient to eventually absorb the wood completely and this will be a pretty tasty wine at its apogee. But, in a great vintage like 2010, this wine should have been even better! 2018-2040. **90.**

2009 Romanée-St.-Vivant “les Quatre Jours”- Maison Louis Latour

Louis Latour’s 2009 Romanée-St.-Vivant is decidedly riper than the 2010 version, and consequently, its higher alcohol level has leached more wood tannins out of the new barrels and is more marked by its oak as a result. The nose is a ripe, borderline overripe, blend of black cherries, a touch of prune, venison, damp soil and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit heavy-handed, with a fat core of jammy fruit, good length, but some

backend heat and decidedly more uncovered oak tannins perking up on the backend than the better balanced 2010 example. This is okay, but no better. 2015-2025+? **86.**

2008 Romanée-St.-Vivant “les Quatre Journaux”- Maison Louis Latour

2008 used to be the kind of vintage where Louis Latour’s Romanée-St.-Vivant really shined, but this wine is over-oaked and pretty uninteresting. The nose is quite marked by spicy, Taransaud oak in its blend of cherries, raspberries, coffee, orange peel and boatloads of oak spice. On the palate the wine is fullish and nicely transparent, but with only modest mid-palate depth that cannot carry its new wood seamlessly, leading to a dried out, oak tannin finish. Waste of a good wine under the onslaught of Taransaud. 2017-2025+. **85.**

Domaine Clos de la Chapelle (Volnay)

Domaine Clos de la Chapelle is a new domaine in name only, having been previously known as Domaine Louis Boillot up until a year ago (not to be confused with the other Domaine Louis Boillot, based now in Chambolle-Musigny), when an American Burgundy lover, Mark O’Connell, purchased the tiny estate and renamed it after its small monopole vineyard, the Clos de la Chapelle. Domaine Louis Boillot was created originally in 1865 and in recent times had sold almost all of its production off to private clients in Europe, so it was not a well-known domaine prior to Mark O’Connell’s purchase of the estate last year. In addition to the small monopole premier cru of Clos de la Chapelle, the estate also owns parcels in the Volnay premier cru of Carelle Sous la Chapelle and the fine Pommard premier cru of Chanlins. In total, the domaine only comprises 1.25 hectares of vines, which is probably why the Boillot family was always content to sell to private clients and not seek any presence in the export markets. The Clos de la Chapelle sits just on the southern edge of the Clos de la Bousse d’Or, with a slightly higher elevation than its more famous neighbor and a very refined base of soil. The 2010 indicates that this is a gem of a Volnay premier cru and I am very much looking forward to following this very refined wine over the coming years. The domaine’s vineyards are farmed on a day to day basis by Maison Champy and the wines are made in the Champy cellars. The vineyards had been farmed organically for the last several years of the Boillot’s tenure, and since Monsieur O’Connell has purchased the estate, they are in the process of conversion to biodynamique farming. The vines here are old, with both the parcel in Carelle Sous la Chapelle and the Clos de la Chapelle over fifty years of age, and the plot in Chanlins in excess of eighty years old- a true Vieilles Vignes! The 2010s reviewed below were all destemmed, but the domaine intends to include about twenty percent whole cluster in vintages that allow this in the future. The wines receive about a week long cold soak prior to the start of fermentation and the 2010s were bottled after fourteen months of élevage, and were raised in thirty percent new wood in this vintage (Allier barrels- no Taransaud here). I was very, very impressed with the quality and classic purity of all three of these superb 2010s. The Domaine Clos de la Chapelle is a great new addition to the Burgundy firmament, as these wines are simply superb.

2010 Volnay “Carelle Sous la Chapelle”- Domaine Clos de la Chapelle

The 2010 Carelle Sous la Chapelle from Domaine Clos de la Chapelle is excellent, as it offers up a very pretty and soil-driven nose of cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, a touch of fresh herbs, a deft framing of cedary wood and a beautiful base of complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, medium-full and intensely flavored, with lovely purity and brightness, a sappy core of fruit, moderate tannins and outstanding length and grip on the transparent and still quite primary finish. I love the intensity of flavor here, without any undue weight. This is a

premier cru that I do not get to taste with any regularity, but it is quite clear from this beautiful wine that this is an important *terroir* in the village. Classic Volnay! 2020-2050+. **92.**



The exceptional Volnay premier cru Monopole vineyard of Clos de la Chapelle.

2010 Volnay “Clos de la Chapelle” (Monopole)- Domaine Clos de la Chapelle

The Clos de la Chapelle lies right next door to the Clos de la Bousse d’Or in the center of Volnay. At one point it was part of the Clos de la Bousse d’Or, but sometime back in the eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, the wall that separates it from the Clos de la Bousse d’Or was built, and it was already a separate vineyard by the time Louis Boillot purchased it in 1865. The 2010 is an absolutely stunning young bottle of Volnay, offering up a deep and classy nose of cherries, red plums, a touch of raw cocoa, vinessmoke, fresh herbs, a beautiful base of soil, a lovely touch of fresh nutmeg and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with beautiful transparency, bright, tangy acids, a sappy core of fruit, superb focus and balance and a very long, soil-driven and utterly refined finish that closes with superb grip and outstanding complexity. This is a magical first vintage for the domaine’s flagship wine and this is obviously going to be one of the top premier crus in the commune in the coming years. Do not miss this wine if you have a chance to latch onto a few bottles. Stunning juice. 2020-2060. **94.**

2010 Pommard “Chanlins” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Clos de la Chapelle

The eighty-plus year-old vines in Chanlins have turned out a superb example of the vintage in 2010, offering up a deep and lovely bouquet of red plums, cherries, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, a fine base of soil and a nice touch of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-

bodied, pure and youthful, with a fine core of fruit, beautiful transparency, tangy acids and outstanding focus and grip on the very long, firm and ripely tannic finish. This is a classic example of a 2010 Pommard, with the inherent elegance of the vintage beautifully woven into the more structured style of a young Pommard. I love the *terroir* of Chanlins and the Domaine Clos de la Chapelle's version looks likely to become one of the referenced point examples of this great vineyard in the years to come. Fine, fine juice. 2020-2060. **93.**

Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay (Volnay)

*I tasted this fine range of 2009s from Bernard and Thierry Glantenay here in New York in May. This is a new domaine to me and I was very, very impressed with the quality of these wines. Thierry Glantenay only began working at the family domaine in 2007, but has had the good fortune to inherit from his father and grandfather lots of old vines in some outstanding vineyards in Volnay, Pommard and Puligny-Montrachet (I did not taste any whites from the domaine). The use of new wood is kept to a minimum (my kind of vigneron!) and the 2009 wines emphasize *terroir* over fruit pomposity, which was not easy to pull off in this vintage. Most of these 2009s were in the 13-13.5 percent range in alcohol, indicating that Monsieur Glantenay was quick to pick in September of 2009. I was very impressed by the quality across the board of these 2009s, which really are amongst the strongest set of wines from this vintage as anyone's- and I look forward to tasting both his 2010s and 2011s in the near-future.*

2009 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

The 2009 Glantenay Bourgogne *rouge* is 13.2 percent in alcohol and a good example of its level and the vintage, offering up a fresh and impressively complex mélange of cherries, strawberries, vinesmoke, fresh herbs, a nice base of soil and a whisper of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, complex and fairly youthful, with a bit of backend bitterness that needs to be worked out before the wine will really start to drink to its potential. 2014-2025. **86+.**

2009 Volnay- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

Monsieur Glantenay works with forty to forty-five year-old vines in his Volnay *villages* parcels, and this cuvée also includes twenty percent premier cru from plots that are too small to be bottled on their own. The 2009 Volnay AC was cropped at thirty-five hectoliters per hectare and raised entirely in older barrels. The bouquet is superb, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, fresh herbs, a touch of hickory smoke and a lovely base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely structured, with a good core of fruit, modest tannins and a long, complex and youthful finish. This will be lovely with four or five years of bottle age. 2016-2035+. **88+.**

2009 Pommard “les Riottes”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

Les Riottes is a *villages* level vineyard located on the northern boundary of the vineyards of the Château de Pommard. My notes do not indicate how old the domaine's vines are in this plot, but the 2009 is excellent, offering up a deep and pure nose of cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebird, mustard seed and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a sappy core of fruit, moderate tannins, excellent focus and balance and a long, nicely reserved finish. This will be excellent. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2009 Volnay “les Brouillards”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

The Glantenay family's parcel of vines in Brouillards are fifty years of age. The 2009 version is outstanding, delivering a superb and primary bouquet of black cherries, bitter

chocolate, herbs, vinesmoke, dark soil tones, espresso and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, quite complex out of the blocks, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine, ripe tannins and a very long, youthful and focused finish. I have become a fan of this fine premier cru thanks to the efforts of Louis Boillot and it is now nice to be aware of another outstanding source for this excellent *terroir*. 2020-2050. **91+**.

2009 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

The domaine’s parcel in Santenots were planted in 1966 and lie right alongside the vineyard’s border with the premier cru of Chevrets, on the Meursault-Volnay boundary. The 2009 was raised in twenty-five percent new oak and is a beautiful example of the 2009 vintage. The excellent nose soars from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, cassis, bitter chocolate, dark soil tones, a bit of bonfire, fresh herb tones and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure for the vintage, with a fine core of fruit, moderate, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Fine juice here. 2020-2060. **92+**.

2009 Pommard “les Sausilles”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

Les Sausilles is a tiny sliver of a premier cru that lies on the Pommard-Beaune border, right alongside les Pézerolles on the slope. The Glantenays have a plot of eighty year-old vines in les Sausilles, from which they have made a superb example of the 2009 vintage. The superb and very pure nose offers up a youthful blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, mustard seed, coffee, iron-like soil tones and a nice touch of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still very primary, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe tannins, excellent balance and delineation and a very long, tangy and soil-driven finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Pommard in the making. 2022-2060+. **92+**.

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

The domaine’s parcel in Caillerets is planted to fifty-seven year-old vines and lies alongside those of the Domaine de la Pousse d’Or in this fine premier cru. The 2009 includes forty percent whole clusters and was raised entirely in older barrels. This is a stunning bottle of Caillerets in the making that shows outstanding purity for this vintage, offering up a superb nose of red and black cherries, a touch of currant leaf, a bit of grilled meat, classic Caillerets spice tones, coffee, iron soil, woodsmoke and a touch of cedar (despite not seeing any new wood). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, ripe and pure, with a sappy core of fruit, excellent soil inflection, firm, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the poised and youthful finish. Just a classic example of Caillerets. 2022-2060. **93+**.

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Bernard and Thierry Glantenay

Half of the domaine’s parcel in Clos des Chênes was replanted ten years ago, with the balance of the vines still a very robust seventy years of age. The 2009 version was raised in thirty percent new oak, which is about as high as Thierry Glantenay wishes to go with any of his wines. The 2009 Clos des Chênes is superb, soaring from the glass in a vibrant and youthful mélange of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, gamebirds, a touch of cedar and a beautifully complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, and pure on the attack, with gorgeous transparency for the vintage, ripe tannins, lovely acids and a very long, focused and soil-driven finish. An utterly classic example of Clos des Chênes. 2022-2060. **94**.