

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

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THE LOW OCTANE 2011 BURGUNDY VINTAGE: SUPREME ELEGANCE AND TRANSPARENCY



The Beaune premier cru vineyard of Clos des Mouches under a Christmas snow.

The 2011 vintage in Burgundy has turned out much better than anyone had reason to expect, given the topsy-turvy growing season and completely uncharacteristic mix of weather patterns in the midsummer months of this year. In fact, this vintage has turned out absolutely exceptional in character, with overall quality at a very high level for both reds and whites and the wines offering up lovely potential- both for relatively early accessibility and, quite likely, for fairly long-term aging as well. As François Millet of Domaine de Comtes des Vogüé observed. “in fact, in many ways 2011 was the inverse of what we typically see as a growing season here in Burgundy, with the extremely warm and sunny weather in the spring and very early summer, and the cool and rainy weather- that we would normally experience in the spring- occurring in the heart of the summer this year, so we have arrived at, in the end, a very good physiological maturity at the time of the harvest in a completely unusual manner.” Several growers with whom I visited on this eighteen day visit to Burgundy in November commented that in some ways, the growing season of 2011 resembled that of 2007 quite a bit, but then all were quick to aver that the wines were dramatically different in style than the 2007s. In fact, I can think of no previous vintage of the size and shape of the 2011s, and there were very few producers who could think of any recent vintages that were in the character of these wines, which have turned out beautifully, with marvelously precise and transparent aromatics and uniquely harmonious and svelte palate

impressions. Only Michel Lafarge- sage of many growing seasons- could come up with a quick vintage comparison for the 2011s- the 1952s!

The spring and summer of 2011 got going very early, with hot, dry and sunny weather getting the sap flowing in the vines in a most precocious manner and the flowering fully three weeks ahead of schedule, so that *vignerons* initially thought that the summer of 2011 might be a repeat of the uniquely early vintage of 2003. By mid-May, in fact, there was talk of 2011 perhaps setting the all-time record for the earliest harvest on record in the Côte d'Or! Happily, at least for those of us who prefer more *terroir*-specific vintages in Burgundy than the very fruit-defined and roasty 2003s, the summer of 2011 was not about to reproduce the same scorching summer conditions as that year, and a much cooler and absolutely uncharacteristic period settled over the Burgundy region in early June, with temperatures plummeting and rain arriving in very plentiful quantities over the months of June and July. As Elodie Michelot of Domaine Alain Michelot noted, "once the weather turned cool, gray and rainy in June and stayed that way, the vines quickly began to give back the early start we had received in the spring and the projected harvest date began to look more and more likely to come in September, rather than in the middle of August." I am not sure if anyone is really certain how this "upside down" growing season (with heat and very dry conditions over the first third of the vegetative cycle, giving way to non-stop grey skies, unseasonably cool temperatures and plenty of rain throughout the midsummer, and then the good weather at the end of the summer once again getting maturity moving along at a good pace and the harvest taking place under favorable conditions for the most part) actually shaped the style and quality of the 2011s, but there is little doubt that this is a quite unique vintage that possesses a lot of very, very positive attributes, coupled to some rather singular characteristics. If all of this sounds like looking for a silver lining amongst the (midsummer) clouds of 2011, pleased be advised that this is emphatically not the case, for 2011 is an excellent vintage for both the reds and whites of Burgundy.

I heard a few reports from folks visiting and tasting around the same time that I was in the region that they felt the vintage was rather inconsistent, with a smaller percentage of domaines capturing the promise of this year than is typical of late in other top vintages, but I did not find this to be the case at all- at least in qualitative terms. Certainly there are some stylistic differences to be found amongst the successful domaines in 2011, with some wines a bit deeper and more structured than others perhaps, but in terms of excellence, I found that, at least amongst the domaines that I visited, the overall quality level was extremely high and consistent. That said, there are certainly some quite unique general characteristics to the 2011s that will come to define this vintage as time goes by. First and foremost, this is a rather dramatically low alcohol Burgundy vintage- particularly by the standards of the region since the year of 1985. Sugar levels topped out with potential alcohols often in the high elevens to mid-twelves for most producers (discounting a few of the traditionally very late harvesters such as Laurent Ponsot), and most growers who I visited with in November chose to chapitalize a very, very minimal amount (if at all) and just let the wines rest at their lovely points of equilibrium at these decidedly lower octane levels. But, as Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier pointed out, "there was really no reason to chapitalize very much in 2011, as the wines possessed such lovely balance at these lower levels of potential alcohol, that it would have been pointless to try and chapitalize with the goal of getting the alcohols up into the customary thirteen percent range of the last several years." In fact, many growers chose not to chapitalize at all in 2011, content with the exceptional purity and

balance of the wines as they came in at their relatively modest sugar levels, and most of those who I spoke with who did chapitalize, did so only to raise the wines one or two-tenths of a degree of alcohol and primarily just to stretch out the fermentations a bit longer.

For, while the sugar levels of 2011 have produced quite low alcohol wines at most estates in this vintage, it was not a short growing season where physiological ripeness was wanting, as several *vignerons* pointed out to me that even with harvest start dates that fell at the very end of August, the Burgundians had still seen a fairly long growing season in this vintage. Often growers in the region will cite a season that has one hundred days from flowering to harvest as the ideal in Burgundy, and even with early pickers getting started at the tail end of August, most producers had between 105 and 110 days from *floraison* to harvest in 2011, so grapes were quite ready to be picked in terms of phenolic ripeness by the end of August and early September and the wines produced here have a very lovely shape and sense of completeness, even at their alcohol levels that often run in the 12.2 to 12.7 percent range. Several estates cited the conditions in early September as very typical of the end of the vegetative cycle for the vines in 2011, and they observed that the grapes had now been out on the vines more than one hundred days since *floraison* and in many cases, the sugars were done moving upwards in the sunny weather of late August and early September, with the leaves starting to drop and the vines having essentially used up their energy reserves for the growing season, so there was little point in not harvesting the grapes in any case at the lower than usual sugar levels. At this point, the tannins were ripe and sugars did not seem likely to budge any further upwards in any case. As Christophe Roumier commented, “there was really no reason to wait to pick, as the grapes really had lovely balance at these lower sugar levels, with ripe tannins and stems and it seemed only likely that waiting would see the acids fall with no additional benefit in higher sugar levels.”

The resulting wines had pretty uneventful fermentations once the grapes came into the cellars, with malos happening in most cellars fairly briskly and in many cases finishing up by the end of March or early April of 2012, though there were exceptions with some cuvées at some domaines and some of producers with traditionally cooler cellars having decidedly slower malos in any case. For example, Christophe Roumier’s malolactics generally finished up in his cold cellars at the end of September, but this was certainly the exception in this vintage. Most of the *vignerons* with whom I spoke on this trip cited very healthy grapes coming in with potential alcohols anywhere from 11.2 percent up to 12.5 percent or so, and some decided that the wines showed such lovely potential balance at these levels that they did not chapitalize at all, while some chose to lightly chapitalize to extend the fermentations a few days longer and assist just a bit with extraction. However, Louis Boillot was one of several producers who noted that “it was important in 2011 to treat the musts gently and follow the style and shape of the vintage- not to go for too much extraction- so I cut back my usual *pigeages* during the fermentation from two per day to one, and we made sure that we were very gentle with how we handled the wines right from the outset.” Readers may recall that with the 2008 vintage it was equally important to recognize the style of the year and not seek to impose one’s winemaking stylistic preferences on that vintage, but rather be content with the style of wines that Mother Nature had provided, and the estates who were successful in this regard in 2008 made the finest wines. This was equally the case in 2011.

Given the relatively early malolactics of 2011, the cellars in November often found wines in very different stages of evolution, with some having been racked relatively recently, others having been racked prior to the harvest of 2012 and still in cask, while others having already been put together for their final *assemblage* and settling in stainless steel tanks for bottling at the end of the year or very early in 2013. Consequently, it was far from uncommon during this trip to run into one wine that was absolutely singing, another that was still a bit muddled from recent racking and yet another still with a bit of backend CO₂ from having finished up the malo a relatively short time previous and not yet having been racked. A few wines were reduced as well, but this is natural at this time of year- particularly in cellars where the percentage of new wood is kept (happily) at much lower levels. As Christophe Roumier observed about his own wines in 2011, “they have been asking for a racking now for a couple of weeks, but I have been so busy with so many tastings every day that it has just not been possible to find any time to do so, but I think that I will definitely start the racking in the coming week or so and have the cellar completed before Christmas.” Similarly, at Domaine Alain Burguet, I arrived at the end of a grueling week in the cellars late on a Friday afternoon to find that Monsieur Burguet had adjusted all the sulfurs in the cellars that morning, apologizing that “the wines were ready for it and it would not have been good for the wines to leave this until after the weekend.” For me, totally palate-fatigued from a couple of dozen domaines over the course of the week, the chance to taste a few older vintages *chez* Burguet and get home a little early and open a beer was more than welcome, so I made plans to come back in March!

So what are the wines like in this lovely vintage of 2011? In general, they are wines of absolutely lovely purity, perfume and transparency down to their respective *terroirs*. The red wines tend to be wines of medium-full or gently full-bodied structures, with very suave, almost silky tannin textures, relatively low (but not alarmingly so) acidities, truly striking transparency, and structural integrity that often seems to build as one moves up the hierarchy of appellations from regional wines, through the *villages* cuvées to premier and grand crus. Here is where we find some of the variations in style in the reds of 2011, with some acids being very vibrant and adding bounce to the wines, whereas with other wines, acidities take on more of a supporting role and brightening both the fruit and soil elements in the wines, while never really driving the wines in the same way that the 2008 and 2010 vintages’ acids did at this stage in the wines’ evolutions. In some cellars the *vignerons* spoke of their 2011 reds as having very good acidity- though never equating them with the very tangy red wines vintages of 2008 or 2010- with much higher acidities and far greater transparency than the comparable wines of 2007. As Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier said about his 2011s, “perhaps they are a bit like the 2007s, but at the same time, they have far better purity of fruit, a much better expression of underlying *terroir*, better acids and suaver tannins- in fact, I guess they are really not that much like the 2007s (which I happen to like very much), but much better- a vintage that really is far more interesting in potential than the 2007s.” There is an absolutely beautiful harmony to the vast majority of the 2011 reds that I tasted and these are wines that are going to absolutely enchant red Burgundy lovers who value elegance and transparency.

As far as the white wines go, they too share absolutely beautiful purity of fruit tones, often quite overtly floral characteristics, lovely freshness and bounce, good to very good acidity (this varies a bit depending on harvest start dates and characteristics particular to vine age and vineyard microclimate) and fullish or gently full-bodied personalities. Like the reds, these are not

wines of particularly high alcohol levels, which gives great freshness to the fruit components, and the lower octanes and cooler back half of the growing season seem to have conspired to really etch the wines with stunning transparency down to their respective soils. Some of the white wines seem likely to drink brilliantly right out of the blocks- much like the charming 1992 white Burgundy vintage did in the bloom of youth (although, the 2011 whites of this school are far more precise and soil-driven than the more amply-endowed 1992s were at a similar stage of evolution), while others seem decidedly more racy and structured and likely to need at least a bit of time in bottle to really start to unfold and show off all their layers of complexity. At this early stage, the 2011 whites look quite different in appearance from the previously cited white wines from the vintage of 2007, with less racy cut from the acids and more completely ripe fruit tones of apple, pear and tangerine, rather than the grapefruit, green apple and lemon of the earlier vintage. A great, great many of these wines will drink brilliantly from release, with the top wines also possessing plenty of structural integrity to allow them to last long and gracefully (or at least until the Grim Reaper of premox comes knocking). As is the case with the red wine counterparts, they will not scale quite the same heights of the truly exceptional 2010s, but these are a far cry from simple and pleasant wines and 2011 is really an equally superb vintage white Burgundy as it is for reds.

I should take a moment to talk a bit about my impressions of the wines that I tasted on this trip from the vineyard of Le Montrachet in the 2011 vintage, as they were quite unique in my recent experience. I should note that I have often felt in the last decade or so that perhaps this great vineyard had been one of the relative losers in the wake of climate change, as the greater ripeness that it was able to attain centuries ago and which set it above all other white wine vineyards in the Côte d'Or in those formative years, seemed to be a bit of a handicap in today's era of global warming. It is not that there do not continue to be absolutely scintillating examples of Le Montrachet produced in each top white Burgundy vintage of the recent past, but I have often felt that the gap had closed a bit between other grand crus in the Côte de Beaune and Le Montrachet in today's climactic conditions, and in riper and more buxom white Burgundy vintages such as 2005, 2006 and 2009, I have often found that I have had a pretty strong preference in some cellars for Chevalier, Bienvenues or Corton-Charlemagne over a particular domaine's Le Montrachet. However, all of these impressions are completely out the window in the "inverted" vintage of 2011, and it was my distinct impression that the cooler back half of the growing season of this year has really allowed the vineyard of Le Montrachet to stand out from its neighbors like it has not done so in several decades, and I have never tasted so many utterly profound and magical young examples of Le Montrachet as I did on this recent trip. It is quite clear that 2011's unique climactic conditions have provided a window into the past for the vineyard of Le Montrachet, and never before have I been so struck by how much above the other superb grand crus in the Côte de Beaune the examples of Le Montrachet towered in terms of sheer quality. I just thought I should mention this for those in a position to take advantage of this characteristic of the 2011 vintage, as it may well be that growing seasons that allow this vineyard to so flawlessly capture every last ounce of potential are going to be few and far between as we move forward in an ever warming era. Now, back to the general vintage characteristics.

One of the most intriguing and (in my experience) unique elements of the 2011 Burgundy vintage is how the striking minerality of this vintage plays out in both the red and the white wines. Both in higher acid vintages like the 2008s (which were also from a cooler vintage in

terms of sugar accumulation, but which landed higher up the scales in finished octanes) or in 2010, the underlying minerality seems to drive the wines on the palate. This is not the case with a great many of the 2011s, where the superb transparency plays more of a supporting role in the structures of the wines, rather than driving the wines, so that one is left with wines of absolutely stunning elegance and refinement on the palate. While the wines of both colors are impeccably balanced, and hence likely to age very, very well in bottle, the structures at this early stage look likely to also grant folks a very unaccustomed early accessibility that will probably witness a lot of these wines drunk fairly early on in their lives. The last vintage that I can recall offering this kind of truly exciting early drinkability was the 1985 vintage, but that was riper and more fruit-driven at the same time than these 2011s, and it seems quite certain that the finest 2011s will ultimately land higher up in quality than the best wines from the 1985 vintage. In short, this is an excellent and totally unique vintage for both red and white Burgundy.

I should note that the lower alcohol levels will of course produce a style of wine that will not be to everyone's tastes, and I am sure that there are some tasters who have been weaned on more buxom styles of wines who will find the 2011 Burgundy vintage far too ethereal in style for them. For there are very few 2011s that one might term "big wines"- at least outside of Laurent Ponsot's cellars- and one is going to have to value elegance, intensity of flavor and transparency over power to really love this vintage in Burgundy. Of course, at least most of the Burgundy lovers with whom I am acquainted gravitated to the wines of Burgundy specifically to find these elements in their wine glass, and for such *cognoscenti*, there is little doubt in my mind that they will find the 2011 vintage simply outstanding. I have already had a couple of subscribers email me and ask me about issues of pyrazines in the wines of 2011- apparently some rumor to this affect has already begun to circulate- but, I did not find any evidence whatsoever of such issues with the 2011s that I tasted on this trip. There are certainly some red wines that show some of the gentle greenness of moderate ripeness in their aromatic profiles- tones that are expressed as fresh herbs or delicate notes of ground pepper for instance, but I did not taste one 2011 that reminded me of its counterpart in 2004. But, as readers already know, I am not particularly sensitive to pyrazine issues in any case and also have not lost any faith whatsoever with my 2004 red Burgundies in the cellar- which I feel are simply still too young for opening in any case and will eventually offer up very satisfying drinking at their mature stages, so perhaps I am not the right person to be asking about such issues in any case. In my experience, I have found that many wines that start out life a bit green eventually evolve into wines of impressive complexity and breed, but that wines from the other end of the spectrum that start out overripe generally never move in a positive direction as the years go by. I should note that the one 2004 red Burgundy that I sampled during my stay was absolutely singing- Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier's beautiful Clos de la Maréchale. I can only say that those who fear such elements in their wines will have little to worry about from the 2011s that I sampled on this trip, as not a single one reminded me of its 2004 counterpart and in general, 2011 is a higher quality vintage.

Readers will notice that several of the domaines that I normally visit on my November swing through Burgundy are not represented in the notes that follow. Part of this is due to the fact that the weeks surrounding the Hospices de Beaune auction and the traditional *Marche des Vins* in the region have gotten more and more hectic since the Hospices has turned over the auction organization to Christie's and the bidding has been opened up to private individuals, as well as *négociants*. Christie's has done a wonderful job of promoting and expanding the

Hospices de Beaune events, but it has also made it considerably more difficult for me to schedule my tastings at this time of the year. Consequently, some of my favorite estates, such as Domaine Trapet Père et Fils, Domaine Rossignol-Trapet, Domaine Gilles Lafouge and several others could not be squeezed into the time slots I had available and will simply have to be visited on my next trip to the region in March. A few other domaines- most notably, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti and Domaine Leflaive- simply told me that they were too busy with other visitors and could not accommodate my requests to visit and taste their 2011s. This was after I had contacted their American importer months in advance of my trip to try and schedule tastings, but in the end had to call the domaines a couple of weeks before my departure to see if any progress had been made on my requests, as I had heard no positive news from the importer. I will go through the motions again in March to see if I can visit these domaines and taste their 2011s-as their wines are not half bad and I would be happy to taste them ☺- but, the whole exercise of having to go through utterly disinterested gatekeepers is getting a bit tiresome these days. Be that as it may, the scheduling difficulties on this trip will only make the second installment on the 2011s at the end of April that more interesting, so stay tuned.

As is customary with this report, I have broken down the tasting notes by region from north to south, starting first with Chablis, followed by the Côte de Nuits and then the Côte de Beaune. Within each larger subsection, the wines are listed by village (again running from north to south), and then within each village grouping, by the domaine's name in alphabetical order. As I have done repeatedly in these reports since premature oxidation became a problem with so many of the wine world's longest-lived, dry white wines, I have written my tasting notes on the white Burgundies reviewed in this section as if the scourge of premox did not exist, which of course is still not the case. Therefore, the windows of drinkability that appear after the tasting note proper and before the score will say something along the lines of "2016-2035+", indicating that in a perfect world, this white wine would start to blossom in three years' time and would probably be at its peak at about the ten fifteen year mark out from the vintage. Of course, we do not live in a perfect world, and premature oxidation is still likely to claim a very significant percentage of bottles from this vintage before they reach their apogees. Whether or not we are any nearer to an end to this plague is something that I do not know- research continues apace as I write this and there is hope that one day in the not too distant future, premox will be a thing of the past. But, I would not anticipate that the 2011 vintage is going to be any more immune to this problem than any previous vintage since the plague first started with the 1994 vintage, unless there has been some recent breakthroughs that I have not heard anything about.

Chablis

Like its neighbors in the Côte d'Or, the *vignerons* of Chablis experienced a very early budbreak at the end of April and early flowering that began around the 11th of May, but which was drawn out a bit because of a few days of less warm weather in the middle of the *floraison*. The remainder of the spring and early summer were ideal, with the vines racing ahead in maturation and the vintage looked likely, as was the case in the Côte d'Or, to be one of the earliest on record. However, as was the case further south, July and much of August were cold, overcast and frequently rainy, and the vines began to lag a bit in maturity and the potential for a very early harvest date began to vanish. There was a bit of hail at the end of June, striking primarily the vineyards of Fourchaume and Vaulorent, which cut back yields in these vineyards, but did not affect the overall quality, as the berries were still hard and those affected eventually

just fell off of the bunches. Good warm and sunny weather returned in the Chablis vineyards by mid-August, jump-starting the ripening process again and the *fin de saison* was very fine in the region. As was the case for the white wine producers in the Côte d'Or, one of the key decisions *vignerons* had to make in Chablis was when to harvest and whether or not looking for a bit higher sugar accumulation was worth the risk in letting acids start to fall. From my six stops tasting in Chablis, it seems to me that one of the keys for fine success in 2011 in Chablis was to make harvesting decisions based on safeguarding good acidity levels, rather than trying for a bit more sugar in the grapes, as the early start to the vegetative cycle witnessed most of the vines at the end of their energy reserves for the season by the end of August or early September, and letting the grapes hang a bit longer did not meaningfully increase the sugar levels in the grapes—just allowed the acids to drop.



The style of the 2011 Chablis that I tasted (and to be honest, I only visited seven of my favorite domaines on this visit to Burgundy, so my results may be a bit skewed towards tasting the most successful wines of the vintage here and my impressions may not be entirely representative of the vintage in general in the region) was for very pure and elegant wines that varied a bit in terms of mid-palate depth and backend grip. Natural sugars were not high in Chablis in 2011, with most domaines bringing in grapes with potential alcohol in the 11 to 11.7 range and choosing to chapitalize a touch, but where the wines have cut and grip from earlier harvesting and correct yields, they have no shortage of personality or precision in their

expressions of *terroir* and are absolutely lovely wines. A small percentage of wines seem a bit easy-going and more fruit forward than usual, and these I would suggest are wines made from parcels that were picked a bit later (in the hopes of watching the sugars climb a tad higher) and simply lost a bit of grip and minerality from their longer sojourn on the vines, without any attendant benefits. While no one mentioned it specifically, one has to imagine that yields were critical in 2011, for at these lower sugar levels, getting proper physiological ripeness in the wines would require less than maximum yields, and there is simply not a lot of puppy fat in this vintage to hide flaws such as this early on. According to Domaine William Fèvre's vintage report, yields were kept naturally a bit lower on the Right Bank of the Serein River this year, as the berries were smaller and the skin to juice ratio was better, whereas in the Left Bank vineyards, the yields were more typical and those habitually prone to over-cropping would have had more difficulties in these vineyards.

Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin (Chablis)

At the time of my November visit, Jean-Claude Bessin had already bottled his Chablis AC from 2011, but the remainder of his lineup remained assembled in tank in preparation for bottling soon after the new year. Monsieur Bessin reported that there was a bit of hail in 2011 in his domaine's parcels in both Valmur and Fourchaume at the end of June, but happily, the affected berries eventually shriveled up and just fell off of the bunches, so it affected yields more than quality in this vintage. The entire range of 2011s here was outstanding, with the full potential for quality in this vintage clearly captured by Monsieur Bessin. For readers who may not yet be familiar with the wines of Jean-Claude Bessin, he is clearly making some of the finest wines in the Chablis region these days from his small estate, with most of the wines raised in stainless steel entirely, but with the élevage of a few of his top cuvées in a combination of older barrels and tank or simply in older oak. The wines are very, very expressive of their underlying terroirs, with great cut and focus and they certainly deserve to be ranked right up at the top of the food chain in the Chablis region these days.

2011 Chablis- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The nose of the 2011 Bessin Chablis *villages* is a bit closed down still from its recent *mise*, but it is quite clear on the palate that this is a lovely example. The bouquet is quite reticent, but reluctantly offers up scents of grapefruit, green apple, chalk, citrus zest and a bit of upper register smokiness. However, on the palate is a completely different story, as the wine is fullish, complex and beautifully balanced, without any signs of the post-bottling crankiness of the nose. The wine has good mid-palate depth, lovely balance and fine acidity and grip on the fairly long finish. Good juice in the making here. 2013-2023. **88+**.

2011 Chablis "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The Domaine Bessin old vine bottling was still in tank and was showing very, very well at the time of my visit. As readers will recall, this cuvée is comprised of forty-five to fifty-five year-old vines and raised entirely in stainless steel. The 2011 offers up a deep and very stylish nose of grapefruit, lime, flinty minerality, citrus peel and a nice topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and beautifully balanced, with excellent acids for the vintage, fine focus, a very good core and excellent cut and backend mineral drive on the very long finish. Superb wine. 2014-2025+. **90+**.

2011 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

As I noted last year about this bottling *chez* Bessin, one of the intriguing aspects of Chablis’ AOC regulations is that certain vineyards can be labeled as one of their more famous neighbors, as is the case with La Forest, which is one of three vineyards that can be sold officially labeled as Montmains. The vines for Monsieur Bessin’s Montmains bottling actually do lie in the vineyard of La Forest, but are bottled on their own as Montmains, rather than included in his cuvée of La Forest, as they are in a completely different section of the vineyard and Monsieur Bessin finds the two *terroirs* quite different. The 2011 Bessin Montmains is an excellent wine, jumping from the glass in a classic blend of green apple, tangerine, pink grapefruit, wet stones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows of excellent mid-palate depth, with laser-like focus, racy acids and outstanding length and grip on the perfectly balanced finish. This is stellar. 2016-2035. **92.**

2011 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

I reported last year that the domaine has three distinct parcels in Fourchaume- one of these in the small *lieu à dit* of l’Homme Mort- and from these three plots of vines Monsieur Bessin make two different bottlings. One is his “straight” Fourchaume, which is all fermented in stainless steel, and the second is the old vine bottling that is partially barrel-fermented and labeled as Fourchaume “la Pièce au Comte”. The 2011 Fourchaume from Monsieur Bessin is a superb and very, very minerally example of this fine vineyard, offering up a deep and complex nose of apple, tart orange, really lovely, complex minerality, a touch of hay and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a great core of fruit, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the very long and zesty finish. This will want a few years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to emerge. Fine, fine juice. 2016-2035. **92+.**

2011 Chablis “Fourchaume la Pièce au Comte”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The domaine’s la Pièce au Comte is their old vine bottling from Fourchaume. Last year I reported the age of the vines incorrectly, as ranging from fifty-eight to seventy-eight, but they are actually just a bit older, with the youngest vines used for this bottling now sixty years of age and the oldest actually eighty-three years old. The 2011 is an absolutely superb wine on both the nose and palate, with the deep and classy bouquet offering up a refined mélange of green apple, pear, a touch of tangerine, very complex minerality, smoke, straw and a topnote of lime zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great backend mineral drive, superb focus and grip and a very, very long, seamless and racy finish. This has stunning structure for a 2011 Chablis premier cru! 2017-2040. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “La Forêt”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2011 La Forêt from Monsieur Bessin is another absolutely exceptional premier cru, but it is a bit more closed than either of the Fourchaume bottlings right out of the blocks. The refined and properly reserved nose offers up scents of lemon, grapefruit, oyster shell, citrus peel, white flowers and a beautifully complex base of flinty soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and still quite primary, with a fine core of fruit, excellent cut and grip and a long, focused and very, very promising finish. This will be a great bottle of La Forêt, but give it a few years, as it possesses very impressive backbone. 2017-2040. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2011 Bessin Valmur is an absolutely stellar bottle in the making. The deep, pure and youthful nose offers up a very complex mélange of apple, pear, grapefruit, kaleidoscopic minerality, beeswax, orange zest and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep,

full-bodied, pure and absolutely singing, with stunning mid-palate depth, laser-like focus, brisk acids and magical length and grip on the mineral bath of a finish. I would try not to touch a bottle for at least the next five years, as there is so much still to unfold here in terms of secondary layers of complexity, but the structure is not forbidding and I suspect there will be several bottles of this wine that fall to infanticide within the first few years after its release. This is a monumental bottle of Valmur! 2018-2045+. 96+.

Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard (Préhy- Chablis)

I was very cordially greeted by Julien Brocard on my visit to the domaine in November, and it was only afterwards that I learned that a few of my questions and requests for specific 2011 cuvées to taste during my visit might have been a bit impolite, as I have always tasted the wines from Domaine des Chenevières (which is owned by Julien's brother-in-law, Frédéric Gueguen) while I am at Domaine Brocard, as the wines are offered for sale alongside the Brocard wines in the sales room at the domaine. The following morning, while still tasting in Chablis, I discovered that Julien Brocard had dismissed Monsieur Gueguen from his responsibilities at Domaine Brocard (Frédéric Gueguen had been in charge of the viticulture at the domaine for as long as I have been visiting them) only a very short time prior to my visit and no doubt the Brocard family was in a bit of turmoil at the time. How this will eventually effect both Domaines Brocard and Chenevières remains to be seen, but I have to imagine that things may be a little on the chilly side around the Brocard family dinner table this Christmas. In any event, I was able to taste the full lineup of Domaine des Chenevières wines during my visit (please see below) and a very representative sampling of the 2011s from Domaine Brocard as well. Some of the wine had been bottled already, but most of the 2011 Brocard wines had been assembled and were now in tank awaiting bottling in the months of December and January.

Domaine Brocard has produced some very good wines in 2011, but as is often the case here, the very large portfolio of offering from the Brocard family means that one is well-served to pick and choose a bit from their very broad lineup of crus and bottlings, as not all the wines are equally successful (this is particularly true on the lower end of their hierarchy). This is perhaps more true in 2011 than was the case in 2010, which was one of the strongest sets of young wines I have ever tasted from the domaine. Some of the 2011s here were a bit easy-going at the core and rather loose-knit structurally, whereas others showed off lovely depth and cut in a forward and succulent style that will make plenty of fans right out of the blocks. My impression when tasting them was perhaps the wines that were machine harvested (the domaine uses a combination of hand harvesting and machine harvesting, with some crus picked solely by hand, some a mixture of both methods and others all machine harvested) may have been inherently a bit softer in 2011, but I did not seek to confirm this by asking which cuvée had been harvested in which manner. (In all honesty, it seems to me that it is high time that the domaine sold off the machine harvesters and really sought to maximize the potential quality of all of their portfolio.) In general, the 2011 vintage from Domaine Brocard will be a fairly forward vintage across the board, with the better wines here offering up lovely early drinking and very good value. At the top end of the spectrum, with the best premier crus and the grand crus, the 2011 Brocard wines are excellent. More and more of the family's large vineyard holdings have been committed to biodynamique farming in the last few years and the number of certified biodynamique bottlings has grown markedly here. I was given a tasting sheet that indicated which cuvées were now certified, but somehow, it was lost in transit and I have only mentioned which wines are certified

if my tasting note mentions it, but several more bottlings here are certified bio than those which I note below.

2011 Petit Chablis “Domaine Sainte Claire”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Petit Chablis from Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard is not bad, but this is one of the easy-going wines in the lineup this year and I have been more impressed by this bottling *chez* Brocard in several previous vintages. The pretty and juicy nose offers up scents of apple, a touch of pear, chalk and dried flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, succulent and loosely structured, with a bit of *fluidité* at the core, but good focus and sound framing acids to keep the wine bright on the backend. It will need fairly brisk drinking, but should stay fresh for a three or four years. 2013-2016. **84.**

2011 Bourgogne Blanc “Kimmeridgian”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Kimmeridgian Bourgogne Blanc bottling is another quite forward wine in this vintage, but seems to possess a bit more mid-palate stuffing than the Petit Chablis. The bright nose offers up a very chalky blend of pear, apple, limestone soil and a touch of beeswax in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and wide open, with a bit more depth at the core, quite soft acids, but nice balance and purity on the finish. For near-term drinking, this is a pretty tasty wine- particularly for its price point. 2013-2015. **85.**

2011 Chablis “Domaine Sainte Claire”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Chablis AC “Domaine Sainte Claire” had been bottled in June of 2012 and was showing very well at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a bright blend of lemon, grapefruit, a touch of smokiness, incipient notes of straw, citrus peel and a stylish base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and pure, with a good core of fruit, sound framing acids, good focus and lovely length and grip on the open, but zesty finish. Good juice here. 2013-2018. **87+.**

2011 Chablis “Domaine Sainte Claire” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The Chablis Vieilles Vignes bottling from Domaine Brocard is now *biodynamique*, and is also one of the cuvées harvested entirely by hand now at the estate. The 2011 is a classy and very tasty example of the vintage, offering up a lovely and forward bouquet of green apple, tangerine, a complex base of soil, lime oil and a nice touch of grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely transparent, with sound framing acids, good focus and fine balance on the long and complex finish. This is good juice that will drink well from the outset. 2013-2020. **88.**

2011 Chablis “Domaine de la Boissonheuse”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The Domaine de la Boissonheuse bottling was the first to be farmed under *biodynamique* principals at the domaine, and the 2011 was not yet bottled at the time of my visit, as it was assembled and still waiting in tank for its *mise*. The wine was showing a bit of sulfur from its recent assembly, but also showed good depth of fruit and soil inflection in its aromatic mélange of tart orange, grapefruit, lovely minerality, citrus peel and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and almost racy for a 2011 wine here, with a good core, bright acids and fine length and grip on the youthful finish. I am sure this will be very good indeed. 2014-2020+. **88-89+.**

2011 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Montmains was assembled in tank and destined for bottling in the coming weeks after my visit. This is a very pretty wine in this vintage, with excellent mid-palate depth and quite racy acidity for a 2011. The lovely bouquet jumps from the glass in a mix of green

apple, pink grapefruit, a touch of lime oil, lovely minerality and a touch of grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and zesty, with a fine core, lovely precision and a long, well-balanced and classy finish. A very successful 2011. 2014-2025. **91.**

2011 Chablis “Vau de Vey”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

I very much like the size and shape of the 2011 Vau de Vey from Domaine Brocard. The wine had been assembled in tank pretty recently prior to my visit and was showing a bit of SO₂, but underneath was a very good wine in the making. The nose is a fine blend of tart orange, grapefruit, chalky minerality, citrus peel and a nice topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, quite nicely structured for a 2011, with good focus and cut and a long, nicely reserved finish. Good juice in the making. 2014-2025+. **90-91.**



Julien Brocard of Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard tasting his 2011s.

2011 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Brocard Butteaux has turned out quite fine indeed, with a very solid core of fruit, bright acids and lovely focus and transparency. The very classy nose jumps from the glass in a mix of green apple, a touch of pear, grapefruit, smoky overtones, citrus peel and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused, with lovely mid-palate depth, lovely balance and impressive length and grip on the zesty finish. A lovely example. 2013-2030. **91.**

2011 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

Not surprisingly, the slightly warmer *climat* of Butteaux has produced a more open example of the vintage than the Brocard Montée de Tonnerre, which is properly reserved and every bit as promising. The deep and complex bouquet offers up a lovely mélange of lime, apple, chalky minerality, smoke and a bit of youthful grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and fairly reticent at the present time, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection and impressive length and grip on the snappy and youthful finish. This should prove to be one of the longer-lived premier crus in the Brocard stable in 2011. Lovely wine. 2014-2035. **91+**.

2011 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

Domaine Brocard typically makes a fine example of Vaulorent and the 2011 is no exception, as this is the pick of the litter amongst a strong lineup of premier crus this year. The domaine raises this wine in a combination of stainless steel tanks and older *foudres*, and the combination has really worked beautifully with the style of the 2011 vintage. The deep and superb nose offers up a complex blend of apple, pear, lime zest, spring flowers, chalky soil tones and the faintest touch of vanilla from the *foudres*. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly complete and seamlessly elegant, with a fine core, lovely focus and outstanding length and grip on the bright and zesty finish. The acids here are ripe and support the wine nicely, but there will be little reason to defer one’s gratification here, as the 2011 Vaulorent from Domaine Brocard will drink splendidly out of the blocks. 2013-2035. **92**.

2011 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The Brocard family is now raising their Bougros in a combination of *foudre* and stainless steel tanks (as they also do with their Preuses and Les Clos) and the 2011 was showing fine promise. The sample was a touch reduced, but underneath the wine jumps from the glass in a complex mélange of apple, pear, flinty soil tones, lime peel and a very smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved, with impressive, nascent complexity, snappy acids, excellent mid-palate depth and excellent length and grip on the primary and focused finish. Fine juice in the making. 2016-2040. **93**.

2011 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

The 2011 Brocard Valmur was showing very well at the time of my visit, offering up a deep, ripe and very pure bouquet of pear, tangerine, complex, chalky soil tones, smoke, citrus zest and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reticent, with a rock solid core, ripe acids and a very, very long, focused and equally youthful finish. A lovely bottle of Valmur in the making. 2016-2040. **93**.

2011 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Jean-Marc Brocard

My notes indicate that the Brocard bottling of Les Clos is not yet *biodynamique*, which indicates probably that both the Valmur and Bougros are now *bio* wines. The 2011 Les Clos from Domaine Brocard is an excellent wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a very deep and pure nose of green apple, grapefruit, lime peel, complex, flinty minerality, a touch of grassiness and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy for a 2011, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent focus and grip, fine, nascent complexity and fine balance on the very long and primary finish. This will be a lovely wine. 2016-2040. **93+**.

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 used to be overseeing the viticultural responsibilities at Domaine Brocard. However, he and Domaine Brocard parted ways a bit earlier this year, so it will be interesting to see if this frees up Monsieur Gueguen to expand the range of wines he offers from his family estate of Domaine des Chenevières. The 2011 Petit Chablis and Chablis AC had already been bottled at the time of my visit in November, with the old vine cuvée of Grandes Vignes and the premier crus assembled in tank and ready for bottling. These are another absolutely superb lineup of wines from Frédéric Gueguen, who has really captured all the potential inherent in this fine vintage. The wines of Domaine des Chenevières certainly deserve a wider audience, as these are amongst the very finest wines produced in the region today.

2011 Petit Chablis- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The 2011 Petit Chablis from Domaine des Chenevières is really a lovely bottle and a superb value, offering up a deep and very classy nose of apple, lime zest, tangerine, pretty soil tone and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and complex, with crisp, framing acids, sound depth and very good length and grip on the classy finish. This is really terrific wine for Petit Chablis! 2013-2018. **87+**.

2011 Chablis- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

Frédéric Gueguen's 2011 Chablis *villages* is another absolutely excellent bottle of wine and again, a very fine bargain. The deep and vibrant nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, tart orange, flint, a touch of dried flowers and a bit of lime peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very nicely structured, with fine framing acids, lovely focus and balance and a long, complex and beautifully poised and balanced finish. Lovely juice that will drink well from the outset. 2013-2020. **89**.

2011 Chablis "Grandes Vignes" V.V.- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The 2011 old vine Grandes Vignes bottling was not yet bottled at the time of my visit, but was showing excellent potential. The very suave and classy nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of lime, green apple, tangerine, a lovely base of soil tones, a touch of grassiness and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and grip, sound, framing acids and a very long, complex and elegant finish. A classic 2011 Chablis. 2014-2025. **90+**.

2011 Chablis "Côte de Léchet"- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The 2011 Côte de Léchet from Frédéric Gueguen is a bit more reserved in style than the wide open and refined Grandes Vignes bottling, with excellent depth and nascent complexity already apparent on both the nose and palate. The excellent bouquet offers up scents of apple, pink grapefruit, citrus peel, smoke and a lovely base of flinty soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely racy, with a lovely core, fine focus and balance and a long, youthful and classy finish. Fine, fine juice in the making. 2015-2035. **91+**.

2011 Chablis "Fourchaume"- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

Frédéric Gueguen's 2011 Fourchaume is his top wine this year, just nosing out the l'Homme Mort for top honors. The ripe and very classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of tangerine, apple, pear, flint, citrus peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a rock solid core of fruit, zesty acidity, excellent focus and grip and a

very, very long, well-balanced and seamless finish. This is a superb bottle of Fourchaume! 2013-2030. **93.**

2011 Chablis “l’Homme Mort”- Domaine des Chenevières (Frédéric Gueguen)

The 2011 Chablis “l’Homme Mort” from Domaine des Chenevières is also a very lovely wine, delivering a complex and classy aromatic mélange of apple, tangerine, pear, lovely soil tones, a bit of smoke and a notes of orange peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and broad shoulders, but not quite the same grip and structural integrity this year that the Fourchaume displays. The finish here is very long and wide open, and there will be an awful lot of pleasure to be had from this wine over the first tent to fifteen years of its life. 2013-2025+. **92+.**

Domaine Vincent Dauvissat (Chablis)

It is never any surprise that Vincent Dauvissat has fashioned some of the most brilliant wines of the vintage, but this is once again the case with these stunning 2011s. As is the case here, the American allocation of premier crus and village level bottlings had already been bottled, and it was from the finished versions that I tasted these wines. The grand crus were still in barrel and would be bottled after the holidays. The wines are across the board exceptional in 2011, with the elegant and almost silky palate impressions of the vintage tied to snappy acids and brilliant purity and bounce. Monsieur Dauvissat made some of my absolute favorite wines of the 2010 vintage, but it is hard not to wonder whether one will prefer the 2011s here to the 2010s a decade down the road, as these are another absolutely stunning set of wines! Last year I met Monsieur Dauvissat’s daughter, who has begun to work with him at the domaine, and this year his son was in the cellars with him at the time of my visit, so the next generation is coming along at Domaine Dauvissat and the future indeed looks bright. Monsieur Dauvissat was kind enough to blind taste me on an older wine during my visit to the cellars this year, and was very lucky to guess both the wine and the vintage on this occasion. The bottle was just screaming out its terroir as Les Preuses (which it happened to be), but I had to search a bit to get some idea of how old the wine was at this point in time, as it was showing some lovely secondary layers of complexity to both its aromatic and flavor profiles, but this was harnessed to an absolutely youthful and stellar spine of acidity. Eventually, I backed into the 1996 vintage for the wine- which it turned out to be- and the beauty of this particular bottle underscored just how great this vintage could have been if premox had never intervened. Monsieur Dauvissat was so content with my ability to guess the wine that he kindly gave me a bottle of the 1996 Vaillons to try a bit later in my trip- which was also spot on and showed no signs of premox on either the nose or palate. I will write up both wines in an upcoming article on white Burgundies in the bottle, but thought I would mention them as a reminder just how good sound bottles of 1996 whites can be, if one is lucky enough to get a pristine bottle. What a beautiful world it would have been if this great, great vintage had not been prone to premature oxidation issues!

2011 Petit Chablis- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 Petit Chablis from Domaine Dauvissat is a beautiful wine and has to be one of the greatest values available in the market. The very pretty and quite minerally nose wafts from the glass in a blend of green apple, grapefruit, wet stones, orange zest and a hint of straw. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and racy, with excellent focus and cut. The finish is long, zesty and shows off outstanding grip for a Petit Chablis. This is a beautiful bottle of wine that I would be happy to drink every night for the next five or six years! 2013-2018. **88.**

2011 Chablis- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 Chablis *villages* from the Dauvissats shows off a bit more ripeness in its fruit component than the lovely Petit Chablis, but it is every bit a classic example in the making. The beautiful nose offers up scents of apple, pear, pink grapefruit, chalky soil tones, hay and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really lovely at the generous core, with refined, mineral drive on the backend, vibrant acidity and outstanding focus and grip on the long and youthful finish. High class juice and another absolute bargain. 2014-2030. **90.**

2011 Chablis “Séchet”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 Chablis “Séchet” from Domaine Vincent Dauvissat is also an outstanding bottle in the making, jumping from the glass in a complex aromatic blend of pink grapefruit, lemon, green apple, chalky minerality, oyster shell, citrus peel and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tight and classic, with a fine core of fruit, brisk acids and a very long, youthful and racy finish. This is a superb bottle of Séchet. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2011 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 Dauvissat Vaillons is another classic in the making, as the wine offers up a lovely nose of green apple, tart orange, complex, limestone minerality, beeswax, floral tones and just a touch of vanillin oak in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly suave on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, crisp acids, excellent focus and cut and a very long, poised and perfectly balanced finish. Lovely juice, the 2011 Vaillons will be accessible on the early side, but I would give it at least a few years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to emerge. 2016-2040. **92.**

2011 Chablis “La Forest”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 La Forest from Vincent Dauvissat is a lovely bottle, and as I was tasting the wine fairly soon after the *mise*, I may well be underestimating the wine a tad. The deep and utterly classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of green apple, pear, flinty minerality, plenty of beeswax, white flowers and a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and complex, with excellent mid-palate depth, lovely transparency and bounce, crisp acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and beautifully balanced finish. Just a lovely, lovely bottle of La Forest. 2015-2040. **93.**

2011 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 Dauvissat les Preuses is a stunning wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a complex and refined mélange of lemon zest, green apple, tart orange, oyster shell, white flowers, paraffin and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and supremely elegant, with a rock solid core of fruit, crisp, vibrant acids and outstanding length and grip on the complex and seamless finish. A brilliant wine. 2017-2045. **95+.**

2011 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

The 2011 les Clos from Domaine Dauvissat is a bit more reserved than the utterly suave les Preuses from this vintage, but its inherent quality is every bit as easy to read. The deep and stunning nose offers up a youthful mix of pink grapefruit, green apple, complex, very flinty minerality, a touch of hay, orange zest and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with great purity and focus, glorious mid-palate depth and brilliant length and grip on the snappy and still quite primary finish. A great wine in the making. 2018-2045. **96.**

Domaine William Fèvre (Chablis)

Managing Director, Didier Séguier was in a fine mood at the time of my November visit, as he seemed very, very content with how the 2011s have turned at Domaine William Fèvre. He decided to harvest early at the domaine, seeking to safeguard acidity in this vintage, so that the first harvest teams were in the vineyards here by August 31st. The two Chablis AC cuvées had been bottled, respectively, at the end of May and early June of 2012, a couple of the premier crus at the end of July and the remainder of the premier crus in September. The grand crus were all assembled in tank in preparation for bottling in early December, with the exception of the Bougros and les Preuses, which were to be bottled the week after my visit in mid-November. I have scored a few of the wines here in a range where they were a bit agitated either from bottling or some sort of recent adjustment in tank during their assemblage, but wherever possible, I have tried to use a single number to convey my impression of their quality and potential. I heartily dislike scoring wines within a range, as it tends, in my experience, only to muddy the waters, but sometimes a wine is simply at a cranky stage and relying on a range seems the more prudent method of trying to handicap the wine. My notes indicate that a few more of the wines here are being barrel-fermented in older wood these days than was the case perhaps ten years ago, as for example, the premier cru Beuroy was forty percent barrel-fermented in 2011 and in the past would have been raised entirely in stainless steel tank. It is my impression that the wines here get better and better with each passing vintage, and now with everything being bottled under Diam corks, they may last even longer in bottle than was the case with the vintages of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Only time will tell of course on this front, as no one still has any clue why premox occurs, but one has to applaud the domaine taking some steps to try and correct the issue. In any event, the 2011s are not as youthfully snappy as the 2010s were a year ago and they should offer up truly stunning drinking at a relatively early stage of their evolutions, hence assisting in minimizing the loss of wines to premature oxidation down the road, as these wines are going to be delicious from a very early age.

2011 Chablis “Champs Royaux”- Maison William Fèvre

The Champs Royaux bottling is the Chablis *villages* made from purchased grapes by William Fèvre, and the 2011 is a lovely and forward example of the vintage that would work very nicely on restaurant wine lists. The very pretty nose offers up scents of green apple, pink grapefruit, chalky soil tones, a touch of grassiness and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and beautifully balanced, with good acids and very fine length and grip on the wide open and succulent finish. Lovely wine. 2013-2020. **88.**

2011 Chablis- Domaine William Fèvre

The estate bottled example of Chablis AC from Domaine William Fèvre is also excellent in 2011 and, as is always the case here, offers up a bit more depth and structural integrity than the Champs Royaux. The domaine’s parcel of vines that go into this *villages* bottling range from fifty to sixty years of age, so this is no weak-kneed AC bottling. The more reserved nose delivers scents of pink grapefruit, lime, snappy minerality, lemongrass, white flowers and a nice touch of oyster shell in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely focus and balance, racy acids and a very long, focused and classy finish. This is a very serious *villages* level Chablis! 2014-2025. **89+.**

2011 Chablis “Beuroy”- Domaine William Fèvre

As I noted above, forty percent of the Beuroy this year was barrel-fermented in old barrels, which seems to have added a bit more refinement to the palate impression. The deep and

closed nose offers up scents of green apple, tart orange, straw, a lovely base of white soil tones, smoke and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with good mid-palate concentration, fine backend mineral drive, crisp acids and fine focus on the long and youthful finish. I suspect that part of this wine's more reticent appearance today has to do with its bottling at the end of July, and it will probably bounce back to show more early generosity once it has been removed a bit longer from its *mise*. Fine wine. 2014-2030+. **89-90+**.

2011 Chablis "Montmains"- Domaine William Fèvre

Like the Beuroy, the Montmains 2011 had already been bottled, but in this case, at the start of September. This bottling still includes a the domaine's parcels in both Butteaux and Forêt, and perhaps one day we will see those two vineyards bottled on their own at Domaine William Fèvre. The 2011 Montmains is lovely, offering up a very classic bouquet of lime, apple, sweet grapefruit, citrus blossoms, a touch of grassiness, smoke and a superb base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very long, with a fine core, a reserved personality (probably from the recent *mise*), very fine cut and a long, serious and soil-driven finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2014-2035. **90-92**.

2011 Chablis "Vaillons"- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 Domaine William Fèvre Vaillons is another excellent example of the vintage, and given that it too was bottled in early September, I was very impressed with how well it was showing at the time of my November visit. This seems more open than the Montmains today, jumping from the glass in a fine aromatic mix of lime zest, pear, chalky soil and oyster shells, white flowers, a touch of straw and a slightly saline edge that is very attractive. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very tangy, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance and a very long, racy and precise finish. This will be a lovely bottle. 2015-2035. **91-93**.

2011 Chablis "Montée de Tonnerre"- Domaine William Fèvre

The domaine's 2011 Montée de Tonnerre was not entirely on form at the time of my visit, having been recently prepared for bottling the week after my visit, but its inherent quality was not hard to see. The deep and complex nose offers up a fine mélange of apple, pear, lime, complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and a gentle topnote of fresh mint. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with a fine core of fruit, excellent delineation and balance, zesty acids and outstanding grip and cut on the very long and utterly suave finish. This will be a terrific example of Montée de Tonnerre. 2015-2040. **92-94**.

2011 Chablis "Fourchaume"- Maison William Fèvre

The Fourchaume bottling from William Fèvre is made from purchased fruit, with the grapes hailing not only from Fourchaume proper, but also from a few plots in both l'Homme Mort and Vaurent. This wine was really showing well at the time of my visit, with a great mineral aspect to its personality on both the nose and palate- perhaps from the inclusion of some fruit from Vaurent in the blend? The excellent bouquet delivers a blend of tart orange, green apple, smoke, lovely, complex soil tones, citrus peel and a gentle topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very racy for a young Fourchaume, with superb mid-palate intensity, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. Fine, fine juice! 2014-2040. **92+**.

2011 Chablis "Vaurent"- Domaine William Fèvre

As I have observed before, Vaurent is one of my absolute favorite vineyards in all of Chablis, and the 2011 from Domaine William Fèvre was showing superb potential at the time of my visit. The deep and quite reserved nose wafts from the glass in a classic and very, very

elegant blend of pink grapefruit, pear, lemongrass, flinty minerality and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a very primary personality, a rock solid core, zesty acids and outstanding focus on the very, very long and transparent finish. This will be a great wine in the fullness of time and I will be shocked if it does not ultimately merit a score at the top of this range. 2015-2040. **92-94.**



2011 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 Bougros from Domaine William Fèvre was to be bottled at the start of the following week after my visit, and had just had its sulfur adjusted in preparation for the *mise*. The wine is clearly going to be outstanding, as the bouquet offers up a mix of tart orange, grapefruit, pear, chalky minerality, a touch of mint and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a fine core of fruit, lovely, framing acids and fine length and grip on the focused and classy finish. I suspect that there is more cut here than currently meets the eye, and that the impression of structure has been a bit diminished by its preparation for bottling. 2016-2040+. **92-94+.**

2011 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 Vaudésir here was to be bottled a bit later and was in fine form at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a very expressive aromatic mix of green apple, pear, lime blossoms, a superb base of flinty minerality and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with excellent complexity and balance, laser-like

focus and outstanding cut and grip on the very, very long and quite minerally finish. This will be a stellar wine, but give it at least three or four years in the cellar to fully blossom. 2016-2045+. **94.**

2011 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 Valmur from Domaine William Fèvre was also singing at the time of my visit, offering up a deep and utterly compelling young nose of apple, pink grapefruit, beeswax, white flowers, complex, chalky minerality and a topnote of lime zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and supremely elegant, with a fine core of fruit, superb soil inflection and a very, very long, refined and laser-like finish. A great bottle of Valmur in the making. 2017-2045+. **95.**

2011 Chablis “Bougros- Côte de Bouguerots”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 Côte de Bouguerots was also in stunning form and showing brilliant potential in November. The utterly superb nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of pear, lime, tangerine, a great base of chalky soil tones, a touch of lemongrass, citrus blossoms and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and racy, with a rock solid core, an almost silky sense of elegance, great cut and grip and simply brilliant focus on the very long and nascently complex finish. A brilliant wine that will only want a bit of time in the cellar to fully unlock and share its secrets. 2018-2050. **95+.**

2011 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2011 les Preuses from Domaine William Fèvre was also scheduled to be bottled the week following my visit, but unlike the “straight” Bougros, the wine was not showing any crankiness from its adjustments in tank in preparation for the *mise*. The absolutely brilliant nose wafts from the glass in a complex and classic mélange of green apple, tart orange, pink grapefruit, kaleidoscopic, chalky minerality, white flowers and a faint whisper of vanilla from its older barrels. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly stunning, with a great core, laser-like focus, crisp acids and superb length and grip on the seamless and dancing finish. This will be one of the wines of the vintage in Chablis in 2011! 2018-2050. **96.**

2011 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine William Fèvre

Domaine William Fèvre’s 2011 les Clos is also a simply magical wine in the making. The superb bouquet shows of great depth and complexity in its mix of apple, lemon, tart orange, very complex, flinty minerality, spring flowers and a gentle topnote of lime zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and supremely elegant, with a rock solid core, stunning focus, length and grip, impeccable balance and a veritable mineral bath of a finish. A brilliant young bottle of les Clos. 2018-2050. **96.**

Domaine Louis Michel et Fils (Chablis)

As is customary during my November visit each year to Domaine Louis Michel et Fils, the wines were in varying stages of evolution, with most of the premier crus and village level wines already bottled, but with the Butteaux Vieilles Vignes and the grand crus assembled in tank and ready for bottling in the spring. The domaine had begun bottling the premier crus just before the harvest of 2012, with the traditionally more longer-lived wines such as the Montée de Tonnerre and Vaulorent having been bottled only about three weeks prior to my mid-November visit. Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel and his team began harvesting on September 5th of 2011, bringing in healthy grapes of fairly moderate potential alcohol levels, and which have turned into lovely and very elegant wines of superb transparency and very harmonious balance. Unlike the racy and quite structured 2010s chez Michel, several of the 2011s here are going to offer truly outstanding drinking right out of the blocks, with sound acids providing plenty of lift and

bounce, without tying up the wines behind their structures. They reminded me a bit of the beautiful 1995s here, but with much purer fruit tones (the '95s here were just a touch candied in their presentation of their fruit) and great terroir specificity- they will be terrific wines. The Petit Chablis, villages bottling and several of the premier crus here will drink beautifully upon release, with only the top premier crus and the grand crus demanding some cellaring to really start to show all of their potential. Ever since the domaine has moved to using solely indigenous yeasts for all of their wines, the quality here has risen up noticeably from what was already a very high level, and the last several vintages have seen the Louis Michel wines as fine as they have ever been in the slice of their history with which I am familiar (my first Louis Michel vintage I sold in my merchant days was the 1985 vintage, so by now I go back a ways with these wines). I would dearly love to see the domaine take the next inevitable step and start harvesting everything by hand- if Domaines Raveneau, Dauvissat, Fèvre and Piuze can do it, why not Domaine Michel as well? For as consistently excellent as these wines have been for many, many years, it is hard not to imagine that there is even more magical potential waiting here if the domaine would take the plunge and harvest everything by hand. Just thought I would put that wish out there in case Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel and his family wondered what I would really like for Christmas next year! But, that said, these are absolutely lovely 2011s.

2011 Petit Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Petit Chablis was the first wine bottled and it was really on form at the time of my visit. The very pretty and succulent nose wafts from the glass in a stylish blend of apple, tangerine, straw, a nice base of soil tones and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is quite full, forward and beautifully balanced, with very good focus and most impressive length on the juicy and wide open finish. The acids here play a lovely supporting role, but this is a wine that will be at its best right out of the blocks. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Chablis *villages* from Domaine Louis Michel et Fils is also quite forward and already delicious. The classic and vibrant bouquet offers up a lovely mélange of pink grapefruit, apple, chalky stoniness, a touch of flint, white flowers and citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively endowed in the mid-palate, with very fine framing acidity and impressive length and grip on the limestone-driven finish. Unlike the snappy 2010, the 2011 Chablis AC *chez Michel* will be ready to go as soon as it is shipped and should drink very well for the next six to eight years. Lovely wine. 2013-2020. **88+.**

2011 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Montmains from Domaine Michel is a very pretty wine that is quite forward this year and will drink well right from the outset. The very stylish nose offers up scents of apple, tart orange, flinty soil tones, smoke, citrus oil and a bit of chalk dust in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and succulent, with a lovely core of fruit, fine, framing acids and very good length and grip on the wide open finish. A lovely and forward example of 2011. 2013-2020+. **89+.**

2011 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Butteaux *chez Michel* is a bit more reserved than the Montmains, with its underlying *terroir* more fully defining the wine than the very succulent Montmains. The complex and still fairly primary bouquet is a blend of apple, tangerine, chalky minerality, white flowers and just a touch of vanilla (despite the wine never seeing any wood and being raised entirely in stainless steel)! On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and nicely soil-driven, with a

lovely core of fruit, sound acids and fine length and grip on the transparent and classy finish. A fine wine in the making. 2014-2022+. **90+**.

2011 Chablis “Forêts”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Chablis “Forêts” from the Michel family is another very elegant and transparent example of the vintage, with exquisite balance and very good acids to keep the wine vibrant and dancing for many years to come. The lovely nose jumps from the glass in a quite classic mélange of pink grapefruit, orange peel, chalky minerality, a touch of beeswax and white flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely delineated, with a very good core of fruit, impressive complexity and a long, zesty and focused finish. A lovely wine that could use a year to fully blossom, but which of course could be drunk right away for those not interested in waiting. 2014-2025+. **91**.

2011 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

Domaine Michel’s 2011 Vaillons is another absolutely refined and suave premier cru in the making. The very fine bouquet offers up scents of green apple, tart orange, beeswax, oyster shell, a touch of straw and spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off fine mid-palate depth, with bright, framing acids, lovely transparency and a very long, suave and bouncy finish. Like the Forêts, another year of bottle age will allow more complexity to emerge here, but structurally, the wine will certainly not demand this cellaring time. 2014-2025. **91**.

2011 Chablis “Séchet”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Chablis “Séchet” from Domaine Louis Michel et Fils is the most structured and reserved of these premier crus up until this point and will be a dynamite example of the vintage. The utterly superb nose offers up scents of green fruit, grapefruit, flint, lime peel, just a touch of straw and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, fine, youthful acidity and a very, very long and notably soil-driven finish. This is only the second vintage that Domaine Michel has bottled the Séchet on its own (rather than blending it into the Vaillons) and this has clearly been a very good decision. A classic in the making. 2014-2030. **92+**.

2011 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

As I have noted in the past, the domaine only markets this premier cru as Vaulorent in France and to one of its importers in the United Kingdom, with the rest of the world having this wine labeled as Fourchaume- despite the wine hailing entirely from Vaulorent. I list the wine here as Vaulorent, as to my mind, this tiny premier cru (tacked right alongside the grand crus) is really a vineyard of the same distinction in Chablis as Les Amoureuses or Clos St. Jacques is in the Côte de Nuits, and I feel it is a shame that Domaine Michel’s clients do not insist on the wine being labeled as Vaulorent. But, as the domaine does not produce a Fourchaume, no matter which label the wine is sold under, the 2011 will be outstanding. This is a beautiful wine on both the nose and palate, with the bouquet delivering a mélange of apple, pink grapefruit, fresh lime, complex and nearly crystalline minerality (a very rare commodity in 2011), a touch of licorice and again, just a bit of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, suave and complex, with crisp acids, lovely focus, impeccable balance and a very long, supremely elegant finish. This is high class juice! 2013-2030. **93**.

2011 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Montée de Tonnerre had only been bottled a few weeks prior to my visit, but was showing very, very well. The beautifully complex and youthful nose jumps from the glass in a mix of green apple, sweet grapefruit, complex minerality, a touch of youthful grassiness, citrus

peel and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very minerally in personality, with a superb core of fruit, crisp acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This does not deliver the same electricity as the 2010, but it will not demand much cellaring either before it really starts to drink at its apogee. 2014-2030. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “Butteaux” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Butteaux “Vieilles Vignes” bottling was still in tank and was destined to be bottled early in the new year. The bouquet is deep and very primary still, delivering scents of lime, green apple, grapefruit, a touch of grassiness, great minerality and lime peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a nice sense of reserve, crisp acids, excellent mid-palate depth and lovely length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Fine juice in the making. 2015-2030. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Chablis “Vaudésir” from Domaine Louis Michel et Fils is a superb wine, jumping from the glass in a very deep and classy mélange of apple, tart orange, kaleidoscopic minerality, citrus peel, spring flowers and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with crisp acids, excellent focus and balance and superb length and grip on the intense and laser-like finish. Fine, fine juice. 2017-2040. **94+.**

2011 Chablis “Grenouilles”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Grenouilles from Domaine Michel is also absolutely stunning, offering up brilliant depth and complexity on both the nose and palate. The superb and youthful bouquet delivers a blend of green apple, tart orange, lime, deep, flinty soil tones, orange zest, smoke and a touch of youthful grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary, with great mid-palate depth, brisk acids and superb soil drive on the very, very long and focused finish. Great wine. 2017-2040. **95..**

2011 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2011 Les Clos is equally brilliant. The youthfully complex nose offers up a classic aromatic mélange of pink grapefruit, tart orange, kaleidoscopic, flinty minerality, citrus peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite young, with most of its inherent complexity still hidden. The wine has a rock solid core of fruit, brisk acids, laser-like focus and outstanding cut, length and grip on the laser-like and very minerally-driven finish. A command performance in 2011! 2016-2040. **95+.**

Domaine Patrick Piuze (Chablis)

Patrick Piuze has not quite finished up the renovations at his new location at one of the old Vocoret cellars, but work is moving along at a brisk pace and I hope to see the entire project completed by the time I return to taste the 2012s in March of next year. He has so much more space now to work with that the old days of watching him or his partner, Sylvie Quittot, climbing up a precipitously high stack of barrels to draw a sample are now completely in the past. I love his new location, which is just a couple of doors down and across the street from Vincent Dauvissat, as it now makes it possible to walk from the Hostellerie de Clos (where I typically stay while in Chablis) to Domaines William Fèvre, Louis Michel et Fils, Raveneau, Dauvissat and Piuze in only a few minutes, making the trip to Chablis all that more enjoyable for not having to be hopping in and out of the car so often. Patrick had a new villages level bottling on display for the 2011 vintage, as he was able to find a parcel of old vines in a lieu à dit that lies at the base of the great premier cru of Vaurorent, and which he was able to talk the vineyard owner

into selling the grapes to him. As he recalled, he approached the grower and asked “could I buy your grapes if I promised to harvest them by hand?” The vigneron thought he was crazy-offering to harvest “villages” level grapes by hand- but agreed, and another superb Chablis AC bottling was added to the Domaine Piuze lineup in the 2011 vintage under the name of “Terroirs de Decouverte”.

All of the 2011s had been bottled at the domaine several months prior to my visit, and Patrick was very kind to open up the entire range for me to sample, despite the fact that many of the 2011s were already long sold out. The entire range of 2011 Piuze wines is exceptional, but during the course of my visit, Patrick was most excited to talk about the promise of the 2012s now safely resting in barrel and tank in his cellars, as he noted that “he has never seen better grapes than in 2012 and the vintage is going to be absolutely stunning.” Well, that is sort of what he said- as this is the expletive deleted version that equally conveys his enthusiasm for what he has resting in the cellar! Patrick noted that he was one of only two vignerons in 2012 that were out picking their grapes in the rain in September of 2012- the other being Vincent Dauvissat- and several of his neighbors thought that he had absolutely lost his marbles this year! But, as he related, I told them “look, how am I going to get the water out of the grapes once the vines have sucked it up a few days from now and ruined the concentration of the berries?” In his opinion, in 2012 it was “far better to pick during the rains, when the water was still on the outside of the grapes, and then tilt up the wagon to allow the water to run out of the boxes in the cuverie prior to pressing the grapes, rather than try to wait for the water to work its way through the vines and leave the grapes hanging far too long out in the vineyards.” I am looking forward to getting my first look at his 2012s in March of next year, but the potential of this next vintage is no reason to look past the sterling 2011s chez Piuze. They are classic examples of the vintage, with excellent spines of acidity, lovely concentration and superb transparency and grip. At this early stage, they look to be a small step above the 2010s at this address (though most of my scores for each cuvée are about the same for the two vintages!) and will make any Chablis lover proud to have in the cellar or in their glass.

2011 Petit Chablis- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Other than Vincent Dauvissat, I cannot think of another producer other than Patrick Piuze that harvests his Petit Chablis parcel by hand, and the quality of the wine is certainly better for this practice. The 2011 Petit Chablis is a lovely and quite forward wine, offering up a stylish blend of green apple, pink grapefruit, chalky soil tones, beeswax and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and easy-going structurally, with a succulent core and a long, bright and bouncy finish. Good juice for near-term drinking. 2013-2015+. **87.**

2011 Chablis “Terroir de Chichée”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The Terroir de Chichée bottling from Patrick Piuze hails from mostly forty-two year-old vines on hard chalky soils, with about twenty percent of the cuvée coming from a plot of sixty-five year-old vines. The 2011 is lovely and wide open, offering up a complex nose of apple, pear, spring flowers, orange zest and a nice dollop of paraffin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, succulent and complex, with a good core, nice framing acids and sneaky length and grip on the focused and beautifully balanced finish. The structure here is far from forbidding, but the wine has such lovely balance that it may well age far longer than its wide open personality might suggest. But, it is so tasty out of the blocks that I suspect most folks will simply savor this wine in its lovely youth. 2013-2020. **89+.**

2011 Chablis “Terroir de Courges”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The Terroir de Courges bottling hails from fifty-plus year-old vines in the village of Préhy, near to Domaine Brocard (where Patrick plied his winemaking trade for a few years). The 2011 version is a very fine bottle of *villages*, offering up scents of apple, orange, flinty soil tones, citrus blossoms and a nice touch of hay. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and a bit more reserved than the Terroirs de Chichée bottling, with a fine core, bright acids and fine focus and grip on the long and classy finish. Good juice. 2013-2020. **89+**.

2011 Chablis “Terroir de Chablis”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

As readers might recall from last year’s report, the Terroir de Chablis bottling from Patrick Piuze comes from a forty year-old parcel of vines that lie in a *lieu à dit* right next door to the premier cru of La Forêt, and these forty year-old vines are the youngest with which Patrick works these days. The 2011 seemed quite forward and open at the time of my visit, offering up a suave and easy-going personality on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a blend of apple, lemon, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a nice dollop of beeswax in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and crisp, with good, but not great depth at the core, fine focus and very good length and lift on the wide open finish. This seems likely to be the shortest-lived of Patrick’s *villages* bottlings this year, but it will provide plenty of pleasure during its salad days. 2013-2017. **88**.

2011 Chablis “Terroir de Decouverte”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The new Chablis *villages* bottling from Patrick is really special, offering up a deep, vibrant and impressively complex nose of tangerine, pink grapefruit, lime blossoms, lovely, complex minerality and a topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and juicy, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids, lovely focus, impressive backend mineral drive and excellent length and grip on the poised and refined finish. What a lovely bottle of Chablis AC! 2013-2020. **90+**.

2011 Chablis “Terroir de Fyé”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The Chablis “Terroir de Fyé” bottling from Domaine Patrick Piuze all hails from vineyards that surround Montée de Tonnerre, and in 2011, this looks to be the *crème de la crème* of the village cuvées. The very pretty and complex nose jumps from the glass in a fine mélange of candied lemon, apple, chalky minerality, white flowers and a nice touch of beeswax in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and classy, with lovely purity, a fine core of fruit, bright acids and impressive length and grip on the focused and very elegant finish. This is another beautiful bottle of village wine. When one tastes wines like this and the Decouverte, one has to wonder just how much great Chablis *villages* potential is currently squandered by machine harvesting. 2013-2020+. **91**.

2011 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Fourchaume is one of the warmest of the premier cru *climats* in Chablis, and the 2011 from Patrick Piuze has resulted in a succulent and fairly fruit-driven interpretation of this *terroir* in this vintage. The very pure and juicy nose jumps from the glass in an engaging mix of tangerine, pear, spring flowers, a lovely base of supporting soil tones, orange zest and citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and succulent, with lovely focus and bounce, very good framing acids and impressive cut and grip on the wide open and irresistible, long finish. This will not make old bones, but given how well it will drink over the next decade, who cares! 2013-2023. **91+**.

2011 Chablis “Vaillons” Les Minots- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The seventy-plus year-old vines in this section of Vaillons that Patrick Piuze farms have produced a great wine in 2011. The deep, pure and classic nose offers up a classy and quite minerally mélange of apple, lemon, orange zest, paraffin, flinty minerality and a touch of lemongrass in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, pure, full-bodied and shows off great mineral drive from the mid-palate back, with a rock solid core, fine focus and a very long, dancing and zesty finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Vaillons, which may not qualitatively be a big step up from the fine Fourchaume above, but which is stylistically much closer to my ideal of great Chablis. A beautiful wine. 2013-2025+. **93.**

2011 Chablis “La Forêts”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 La Forêts seems a tad riper in terms of its fruit tones than the Minots, but it too possesses absolutely stellar transparency down to its underlying *terroir* and great vibrancy and bounce. The ripe and very, very classy bouquet delivers scents of apple, pear, chalky minerality, dried flowers, straw, flinty overtones and orange zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully soil-driven, with bright acids, excellent focus and balance and a very long, suave and classic finish. These vines are also over seventy years of age and it shows! 2014-2030. **93.**

2011 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Piuze Butteaux- from vines that lie right alongside those of Domaine Raveneau in the vineyard- is absolutely superb in this vintage. The deep and very pure nose offers up scents of apple, pear, sweet grapefruit, spring flowers, a beautiful base of chalk-infused soil tones and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with zesty acids, exceptional focus and grip, lovely balance and a very, very long and utterly classic finish. Just a dynamite wine in the making. 2014-2030. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre” from Domaine Patrick Piuze is a classic rendition of this magical premier cru, soaring from the glass in a superb mélange of apple, pear, complex, chalky minerality, paraffin, spring flowers and lemon oil. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly complete and seamless, with superb mid-palate depth, stunning transparency, bright, snappy acids and outstanding length and grip on the laser-like and beautiful finish. Man, I love great Montée de Tonnerre! 2014-2030+. **94.**

2011 Chablis “Blanchots”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Blanchots from Domaine Piuze is a wonderful wine in the making, offering up a deep and complex bouquet of apple, pear, orange zest, beeswax, a beautiful base of chalky soil and a topnote of acacia blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very classy, with a superb core of fruit, striking soil inflection, very classy structure, bright acids and outstanding grip and focus on the very, very long and utterly suave finish. Blanchots can be such an utterly refined wine when at its best, and this is certainly the case with the 2011 *chez* Piuze. 2017-2035+. **94+.**

2011 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Like Domaine William Fèvre, Patrick Piuze makes two distinct bottlings from the parcels he works with in this grand cru. His “straight” Bougros bottling comes from a plot of vines right at the top of the slope near Les Preuses, with a plain westerly exposition. The bouquet on the 2011 Bougros is excellent, offering up classic notes of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, chalky soil tones and paraffin. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a fine core of fruit, superb purity, vibrant acids and outstanding length and grip on the classy and

still fairly primary finish. Give this superb wine a few years in the cellar to really blossom. 2018-2040+. **94+**.

2011 Chablis “Côte de Bouquereaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Côte de Bouquereaux, from a parcel of vines at the bottom of the slope in Bougros near the Serein River and facing due south, is absolutely brilliant. The superb nose offers up a veritable mineral bath to go along with scents of lemon, green apple, lime, the aforementioned, very complex base of minerality, a gentle touch of grassiness and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy, with a rock solid core, stunning purity and grip and laser-like focus on the very, very long, soil-driven finish. This is a stunning young wine! 2018-2040+. **96**.

2011 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Valmur is another stunner, offering up a deep and impressively complex bouquet of orange, lemon oil, spring flowers a very complex base of soil and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent at the core, with great purity and elegance, ripe acids, laser-like focus and impeccable balance on the very, very long and still quite primary finish. I love here the synthesis of the 2011 vintage’s inherent elegance with the depth and structure of Valmur. 2018-2040+. **95+**.

2011 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Les Clos from Patrick Piuze is another absolutely beautiful bottle in the making. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a classic mélange of apple, tart orange, chalky and flinty soil tones of great complexity, apple blossoms, paraffin and citrus zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a very soil-driven personality, crisp acids and stunning focus and grip on the long, complete and utterly refined finish. A great wine in the making. 2018-2040. **95+**.

2011 Chablis “Les Preuses”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2011 Les Preuses *chez* Piuze is also brilliant, offering up a deep and magically complex nose of pink grapefruit, apple, lemon zest, complex, chalky minerality, a bit of oyster shell and a topnote redolent of white flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off exceptional mid-palate depth, with racy acids, great, nascent complexity and simply stunning length and grip on the flawless finish. A great, great bottle. 2018-2040+. **96**.

Domaine Raveneau (Chablis)

Bernard Raveneau and his daughter, Isabelle Raveneau, were in a fine mood at the time of my November visit, with all signs of the cellar construction that was underway last year now gone. However, we still tasted the 2011s in the small cellar under the family home, as I assume the 2012s were stored in the new cellar, as well as the 2011 Chapelots and Forêt cuvées, so my tasting was a bit abbreviated this year. The 2011s chez Raveneau show off the lovely purity and succulence of the vintage, along with customary mineral drive and structural spines that will carry them quite long in the context of this slightly more forward Chablis vintage. They are a beautiful set of wines- no surprise here, as it is really only pleasure to stop by the Raveneau cellars and taste each year, rather than work, as the only surprises one encounters here are the pleasant kind! At this early stage, it is hard to pick a preference between the 2010s and the 2011s at the domaine, as both vintages have produced beautifully transparent wines that offer up wonderfully pure and succulent fruit tones, while still fully expressing their underlying terroirs. Both vintages are a bit more forward than the classically structured recent vintages of 2007 and 2008, but they are going to offer outstanding drinking from a fairly early age and are so

beautifully balanced that they should also keep very well in the cellar. The 2011s at this early stage look to perhaps have a bit more cut and snap than the 2010s did a year ago, so perhaps they will prove to be the longer-lived vintage of the two, but they are so beautifully balanced, that I can well imagine that a great many will be drunk in their relative youth. A few of the top level wines here were a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but this was nothing out of the normal and it was very clear that they would be superb once they had been racked and assembled for bottling. The grand crus of 2011 chez Raveneau will really demand a bit of cellaring to reach their apogees, but they have such flawless balance, that I suspect that the temptation will be there to open them on the earlier side! The Raveneau family has produced a stellar lineup of 2011s!



Isabelle and Bernard Raveneau in their cellars in Chablis.

2011 Chablis- Domaine Raveneau

I have loved the Chablis *villages* every year since it was added to the Domaine Raveneau lineup in the 2007 vintage, and the 2011 is yet again another lovely bottle. The vines here will not celebrate their tenth birthday until the 2012 vintage, so there is still plenty of room for this wine to grow as the vineyard becomes more mature, but no one is going to be disappointed in this lovely 2011 version. The very floral and wide open bouquet offers up scents of lemon, pear, a touch of acacia blossom, beeswax and a beautifully pure base of minerality. On the palate the

wine is deep, full-bodied and crisp, with a lovely core, bright acids and lovely focus and balance on the long and classy finish. A lovely wine. 2013-2025. **90.**

2011 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2011 Montmains from Domaine Raveneau is much more closed at the present time than the *villages*, but the wine shows off superb intensity on the palate and excellent cut and drive. These vines were planted in 1990, so they are now over twenty years of age and really now starting to come into their own. The reticent nose offers up a deep and classy mélange of apple, lemon, white flowers, orange zest and a beautifully complex base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really very long, with lovely backend minerality, fine focus and excellent grip on the perfectly balanced finish. I would be inclined to tuck this wine away in the cellar for just a year or two and let its secondary layers start to emerge, but this lovely wine will not demand a lot of patience. 2014-2035. **91+.**

2011 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Raveneau

As the Vaillons hails from older vines, there is a bit more mid-palate depth here than in the lovely Montmains in 2011. The nose is excellent, wafting from the glass in a blend of pink grapefruit, apple, a lovely base of limestone, beeswax and a topnote of lemon zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, snappy acids and excellent length and grip on the beautifully focused and racy finish. This really has excellent snap for the vintage, and I would not hesitate to tuck this lovely Vaillons away in the cellars for a handful of years before really having at it in earnest, as this wine should blossom beautifully with bottle age. 2016-2040. **92.**

2011 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Raveneau

The oldest vines at the domaine consistently turn out one of the great premier cru bottlings in all of Chablis and the 2011 vintage is no exception. The nose is closed and nicely primary in its aromatic blend of apple, candied lemon, a touch of licorice, a beautiful base of minerality, citrus zest and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still shut down, with a rock solid core of fruit, laser-like focus and great cut and grip on the very, very long and primary finish. This is a superb wine in the making- as it is year in and year out! 2017-2040+. **93+.**

2011 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2011 Montée de Tonnerre was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but with a little swirling in the glass, its exceptional quality became quite apparent. This young and stunning wine offers up a superb bouquet of apple, lemon, a touch of sweet grapefruit, crystalline minerality, spring flowers and a gentle topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven, with a racy personality, excellent mid-palate concentration, excellent focus and balance and simply superb backend cut and energy on the long and youthful finish. Great juice. 2017-2040+. **94.**

2011 Chablis “Blanchots”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2011 Raveneau Blanchots was also a touch reduced in November, but like the Montée de Tonnerre, with a bit of swirling in the glass, this wine roared to life. This very deep and broad-shouldered wine offers up a lovely bouquet of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, chalky soil tones, beeswax and a touch of licorice in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very primary, with a rock solid core of fruit, outstanding focus and grip and a very, very long, racy and impeccably balanced finish. What a great bottle of Blanchots this will be with a few years of cellaring! 2018-2045. **94+.**

2011 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Raveneau

Of the three grand crus in the Raveneau cellars, the Valmur was the most on form at the time of my visit and this will clearly be a great wine. The simply stunning nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of lemon, tangerine, a great base of chalky minerality, a bit of anise and a beautiful floral topnote redolent of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is stunningly deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great mineral drive, laser-like focus and simply superb cut and grip on the huge, mineral bath of a finish. This is a brilliant vintage of Valmur for the Raveneaus. 2020-2050. **96.**

2011 Chablis “Clos”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2011 Clos from Domaine Raveneau is another great wine in the making, but like the Blanchots, this was a tad reduced at the time of my visit and required a bit of coaxing to blossom in the glass. The bouquet is a classically reserved and bottomless blend of green apple, grapefruit, lemon, kaleidoscopic, chalky minerality, a hint of licorice and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and reserved, with a great core, stunning focus and grip and a very, very long, racy and youthful finish. Amazingly, this seems to be even a touch longer than the brilliant 2011 Valmur! A great, great wine in the making. 2020-2050+. **97.**

Gevrey-Chambertin:

Domaine Denis Bachelet (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Denis Bachelet started his harvest on August 31st of 2011, and once again, Monsieur Bachelet has produced absolutely stellar wines in this vintage. There are a few changes afoot chez Bachelet with the 2011 vintage, as there is a new wine in the cellars starting with this year, a bottling of Gevrey-Chambertin “Evocelles” that is being produced from a small parcel of fifty to fifty-five year-old vines that the domaine has purchased. Evocelles actually lies over the Gevrey boundary in the village of Brochon, adjacent on the slope to the Gevrey premier crus of les Goulots and Champeaux. It is a beautifully-situated vineyard that typically offers up a very lovely mélange of pure black cherry fruit and a classic signature of Gevrey’s (or I suppose, Brochon’s) black minerality. I have always liked the bottlings that I have tasted at Domaine Alain Burguet (this is now blended into the Mes Favorites cuvée, but was bottled on its own for a handful of vintages) and at Domaine Louis Boillot. Based on the 2011, Denis Bachelet now offers up another absolutely stellar example of this really lovely terroir and it is a most welcome new addition to the domaine’s portfolio. These are beautiful 2011s, with all of the classic, pure black fruity character and superb signatures of soil that lovers of Denis Bachelet’s wines have come to expect year in and year out from this maestro in Gevrey-Chambertin. I am always a fan of the “cooler” fruit tone vintages chez Bachelet- not that the riper years like 1999 or 2005 are not stunning as well- as these years age so beautifully and offer up stunning elegance and refinement at their apogees. 2011 looks likely to be one of the very special years here in that style!

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The 2011 Bourgogne rouge was showing a deep and meaty personality at the time of my November visit, offering up a fine bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of espresso, a bit of grilled beef and a fine base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and black fruity, with lovely shape and bounce, good acids and fine length and grip. This will want a year or two in the cellar to really develop its secondary layers of complexity, but

structurally, it should prove to be quite precocious for this bottling *chez* Bachelet. 2013-2020+. **88.**

2011 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The parcel of vines for Denis Bachelet's Côte de Nuits Villages also hails from the village of Brochon, and it is consistently one of the best values one can find for red Burgundy anywhere! The 2011 is another absolutely lovely bottle, offering up a deep and refined nose of dark berries, black cherries, grilled meat, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and just a touch of chocolate. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with a sappy core of fruit, a svelte personality, moderate tannins and a long, focused and bouncy finish. Give this lovely wine at least a few years to drop its tannins. 2015-2030+. **89+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The 2011 Vieilles Vignes bottling was raised in thirty-five percent new wood this year, which is customary these days *chez* Bachelet. The superb bouquet is pure and fairly reserved, delivering scents of cassis, black cherries, incipient notes of the meatiness to come, French roast, black minerality and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave and pure on the attack, with a fine core, excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and a very long, primary and classy finish. This will be a very elegant vintage of the Bachelet Vieilles Vignes bottling when it has reached its apogee. 2019-2040. **91+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "les Evocelles"- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The new addition in the cellars in 2011 is excellent. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in an old vine, creamy blend of black cherries, a bit of dark plum, coffee bean, grilled meats, a bit of new wood and a lovely, complex base of dark and classy soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very classy, with lovely mid-palate depth, suave, well-integrated tannins and excellent grip and focus on the long and classy finish. This too will be a very elegant bottle of Gevrey at its peak of maturity. 2019-2040. **91+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "les Corbeaux" V.V.- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The 2011 les Corbeaux is another exceptional wine in the making, with a very pure and minerally profile wrapped up behind its youthful front. The deep and properly reserved nose wafts from the glass in a refined blend of cassis, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, black minerality and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and primary, with a rock solid core of fruit, great transparency, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the very minerally finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2020-2045+. **93+.**

2011 Charmes-Chambertin "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The 2011 Charmes V.V. from Denis Bachelet is another great wine in the making. The deep and youthful nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of dark berries, black cherries, cassis, grilled meats, coffee bean, black minerality, woodsmoke and a nice touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant this year, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine-grained and ripe tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very long and very beautiful finish. This will be a stunning wine in the fullness of time. 2022-2065+. **95.**

Domaine Fourrier (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Not surprisingly, Jean-Marie Fourrier's extremely refined style of Burgundy has captured the supremely elegant side of the 2011 vintage, and these were among the most beautiful wines that I tasted during my visit in November. In fact, the wines were so memorable that I had to open a bottle of 1999 Champeaux from Monsieur Fourrier over the holiday season to relive some of the magic of these 2011s. Not only is the Fourrier cellar full of beautifully

sappy, precise, red fruity and transparent classics from the domaine's old vines holdings in Gevrey, Morey, Chambolle and Vougeot, but there are now three new négociant bottlings made from purchased grapes by Jean-Marie to add to the fireworks in the cellars. These include a new Chambolle premier cru of "Aux Echanges", that lies sandwiched between Beaux Bruns and Combottes on the slope, as well as two new grand crus to augment the Fourrier lineup- Echézeaux and Clos Vougeot. There are only a few barrels of each wine in the cellars, but they are a most welcome addition to the Fourrier lineup and all three wines were exceptional and every bit as fine as the wines Jean-Marie has crafted in 2011 from his family parcels. As is so often the case in Burgundy in November, the cellars were a beehive of activity when we arrived to taste on the fourteenth of the month, with Jean-Marie's lovely wife, Vicki Fourrier, hosting a group of visiting tasters from the United Kingdom, while Jean-Marie was in the midst of a film interview by Daniel Johnnes and one of his associates, which will be used in some form for the very popular Paulée events which Daniel organizes here in the states. We happily waited in one section of the cellar while Jean-Marie wrapped up his film interview, which served as a perfect warm-up for the always expansive Professor Fourrier to discuss the style of the 2011 vintage.

Not surprisingly, Monsieur Fourrier is very content with the size and shape of the 2011s, which he finds lack for absolutely nothing in their more feline profiles, and like so many of the very best vignerons in Burgundy, he is extremely sanguine for the potential of these beautiful 2011s. I have to apologize for once again not having more precise notes in my book concerning his reflections on the vintage, but it is always such a great pleasure to taste and listen to Jean-Marie when I am visiting, that I tend to chat away very happily and never get most of his most memorable quotes written down for future attribution in the ensuing article. But, as the photograph below will attest, he was in fine form and as insightful as always, and we were all very content to work our way through his superb lineup of 2011s on a relaxing November afternoon. So I do not have notes on whether or not Jean-Marie decided to chapitalize at all in 2011 (I suspect he did just a touch, but I may be wrong), or whether or not any of the wines in the cellar had yet been racked (again, I think that nothing had yet been racked, as he generally prefers to leave the wines resting on their fine lees under their CO2, rather than rack them off and have to add sulfur at this stage in the élevage). The three négociant wines in the cellar were a bit behind the other wines in the cellar in terms of evolution, as they were located in a particular cold corner and their malolactic fermentations were a bit behind the rest of the cave. These are utterly beautiful, transparent and often very sappy 2011s that luxuriate in their pure red fruit tones and they should prove to be stunningly elegant and perfumed middleweights at their apogees. At this early stage, it is hard to say that these wines are not every bit as fine as his brilliant 2010s! I did not taste the Morey "Clos Sorbés" on this visit, as we overlooked it early on and it would not have been fair to taste it after several of the top Gevrey premier crus!

2011 Morey St. Denis "Clos Solon"- Domaine Fourrier

There is a beautiful sappiness and purity to the low fat Clos Solon that is typical in the Fourrier cellars this year. The really lovely and quite complex nose offers up a red fruity blend of cherries, pomegranate, cocoa, pretty soil tones, smoke and violets. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and elegant, with a sappy core, just a touch of tannin, fine focus and impressive length and grip. This is a flat out delicious bottle of village wine that will delight right out of the blocks, but I would be inclined to give it a handful of years in the cellar and allow its secondary layers to emerge. 2016-2035. **89+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Fourrier

The old vine Chambolle AC shows a decided touch of plumminess on the nose in 2011, wafting from the glass in a pretty and still quite primary mix of red and black cherries, the aforementioned plums, raw cocoa, gentle smokiness, violets and a nice touch of *terres blanches*. On the palate the wine is medium-full, nicely reserved and again shows good sappiness at the core, with a bit more tannin than the Clos Solon, equally fine focus and very good balance on the long and youthful finish. This will be lovely as well, but it will not provide the same temptation to drink immediately as is evidenced with the Clos Solon. 2017-2035. **89.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Aux Echézeaux”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Aux Echézeaux” from Domaine Fourrier- hailing from old vines planted in 1928, is even a bit more reserved on both the nose and palate than the first two village wines, but it too will be a very fine bottle with a bit of cellaring. The deep and red fruity nose offers up scents of strawberries, cherries, mustard seed, a fine base of soil, vinesmoke and a dollop of celery seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and very transparent, with a fair bit of ripe tannin, fine balance and a long, primary finish. This will be good juice. 2018-2035+. **89.**



The professor holding court- Jean-Marie Fourrier (second from right) in his cellars in Gevrey.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2011 Gevrey Vieilles Vignes from Jean-Marie Fourrier is the finest of this lovely quartet of village wines, with a bit more mineral drive and precision than the other three this year. The bouquet is a fine mélange of cherries, strawberries, a touch of grilled meat, lovely minerality, roses and fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tangy, with a fine core, lovely transparency, moderate tannins and a long, youthful and vibrant finish. Lovely *villages*. 2020-2040. **90+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Fourrier

Jean-Marie has produced a simply lovely and very transparent example of Gruenchers in 2011. The beautiful and quintessentially Chambolle bouquet jumps from the glass in a red fruity mélange of cherries, strawberries, blood orange, lovely minerality, a touch of raw cocoa, violets and just a bit of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure, with a fine core, ripe, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the poised and well-balanced finish. A total thoroughbred. 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Fourrier

As Jean-Marie Fourrier likes to joke, he has “two premier crus in Chambolle amongst his family’s vines- the Gruenchers and the Petits Vougeots and his Petits Vougeots is his better bottling!” As many Burgundy lovers will already know, Petits Vougeots is geologically identical to most of the top premier crus in Chambolle, and it lies alongside Amoureuses on the slope as one continues across the boundary from the village of Chambolle to Vougeot. Most commentators feel that Petits Vougeots is only part of Vougeot proper so that the village could have a premier cru! The 2011 from Domaine Fourrier is a beautiful wine, delivering a deep, red fruity and sappy nose of cherries, blood orange, violets, a great, complex base of chalky soil tones, a touch of cocoa and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows superb transparency, with a sappy core of fruit, supreme elegance, fine-grained tannins and stunning purity on the focused and very long finish. This is every bit as refined and complex as the Gruenchers! 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cherbaudes”- Domaine Fourrier

The Cherbaudes *chez* Fourrier is often one of the least elegant Gevrey premier crus out of the blocks, as this *terroir* often shows a bit of youthful *herbacité* that perhaps shows off its proximity to Mazis-Chambertin. These are not young vines, as Jean-Marie’s grandfather replanted this parcel in 1940. The 2011 is quite classic in its aromatic profile, offering up a complex bouquet of cherries, mustard seed, incipient notes of game, a lovely base of soil, vinesmoke, a touch of cedar and a topnote of cherry skin. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and soil-driven, with fine mid-palate depth, chewy tannins and a long, youthful and focused finish. This will need eight years or so in bottle to really start to blossom, but it will be a lovely wine. 2012-2050. **92**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Goulots”- Domaine Fourrier

As long-time readers of the newsletter are already well aware, I absolutely adore the Fourrier Goulots, which I find to be one of the most elegant and compelling *terroirs* to be found in all of Gevrey. The 2011 is another classically elegant rendition of this beautiful vineyard, offering up a pure, sappy and very floral nose of red and black cherries, chalky soil tones, a touch of gamebird, roses, violets, a touch of nutskin and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and still quite primary, with a sappy core, excellent focus and balance, ripe tannins and a long, transparent and tangy finish. Just a gorgeous bottle in the making! 2020-2050. **93**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Fourrier

Champeaux is another of my favorite premier crus in Gevrey and the Domaine Fourrier version is one of the finest with which I am familiar. The 2011 is a stunning wine, soaring from the glass in a complex mélange of sappy red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, glorious, dark soil tones and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with ripe tannins, lovely focus and balance and a very long, transparent and very complete finish. Glorious juice. 2023-2060. **94.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combes aux Moines”- Domaine Fourrier

If anyone makes a finer example of Combes aux Moines than Jean-Marie Fourrier, I am blissfully ignorant of this fact. The 2011 is another absolutely beautiful bottle in the making, offering up a deep and very elegant nose of black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a touch of grilled meat, black minerality, woodsmoke, fresh thyme and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with great focus and purity, ripe, seamless tannins and stunning length and grip on the still quite primary finish. A classic! 2022-2060. **94.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Fourrier

Last year’s commemorative bottling of the one hundred year-old vines in the Fourrier section of Clos St. Jacques is now a thing of the past, and there is once again only a single cuvée of Clos St. Jacques in the cellars in 2011. Oh, but what a wine! The deep, transparent and magical nose wafts from the glass in a very sappy blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, grilled meats, black minerality, woodsmoke, fresh thyme and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a great core, a properly reserved structure, exceptional focus and a very long, chewy and still quite primary finish. This is going to be an absolutely brilliant wine at its apogee. 2023-2075. **95.**

2011 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Fourrier

The 2011 Fourrier Griotte-Chambertin is another stellar wine in the making, offering up a very youthful and captivating bouquet of red and black cherries, red plums, a great base of chalky soil tones, a touch of meatiness, woodsmoke and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a rock solid core, suave, but substantial tannins, laser-like focus and brilliant length and grip on the youthful and very promising finish. This is a great wine, but exercise some patience and give it a sufficient period of hibernation in the cellar before pulling corks! 2025-2075+. **96.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “aux Echanges”- Domaine Fourrier

The few versions of aux Echanges I have tasted from other *vignerons* have always shown this wine to be a fairly black fruity rendition of Chambolle, and this is the case with Jean-Marie Fourrier’s inaugural vintage as well (though some of this black fruity personality may be attributable to the later malo here). The nose is deep and complex, offering up scents of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, gamebird and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a good core, ripe tannins and fine balance and grip on the long and primary finish. 2018-2035+. **91+.**

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Fourrier

I do not know how I managed to not write down from which *lieu à dit* Jean-Marie Fourrier’s new example of Echézeaux, nor how old the vines are at the present time, but I will make sure I know this information when I return from my next visit to the domaine. In any event, this is a superb version, wafting from the glass in a deep and youthful blend of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, vinesmoke, dark soil tones, incipient notes of the venison to come, fresh

herbs and a nice touch of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved in profile, with a lovely core, ripe, firm tannins and excellent focus on the long, balanced and soil-driven finish. A fine bottle of Echézeaux. 2025-2065+. **94.**

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Fourrier

While I did not jot down the information on the Echézeaux, I was a little bit better on the new Clos Vougeot *chez* Fourrier. This bottling comes from three tiny parcels scattered in different sections of the Clos, with one right down by the RN 74, another located up high on the southern side by Grands Echézeaux and the third just below the château. The 2011 Fourrier Clos Vougeot (I love how that sounds!) is a superb wine in the making, offering up a deep and complex bouquet of red plums, black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a classy base of soil, fresh thyme and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with lovely transparency, a rock solid core, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This will be one of the best wines in the cellar this year. 2025-2075. **94+.**

Domaine Armand Rousseau (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The 2011 Domaine Rousseau wines are splendid, with the elegance and refinement of this vintage very much in evidence. Eric Rousseau has produced a stunning range (no surprise there!) of very sappy, pure and potentially silky wines that will deliver outstanding expressions of terroir and great refinement at their apogees. The entire cellar had been racked in early June of 2012, as the malolactics here had completed by the end of March, and all of the wines were singing at the time of my visit, with the exception of the Cazetiers, which was quite reduced in need of a second racking. There are very subtle changes afoot chez Rousseau that I expect will take a domaine that has been at the top of its game for decades to an even higher level of quality, as Eric Rousseau has begun to use just a touch less new oak for a few of the cuvées that traditionally were raised in very high percentages of new wood in the past. For example, the 2011 Clos des Ruchottes bottling received only twenty-five percent new wood this year (and, my word, this wine was absolutely stunning at the time of my visit!) and the Clos St. Jacques, which had traditionally been raised in one hundred percent new oak since the 1989 vintage, saw eighty percent new wood in both 2009 and 2011, and only seventy percent in 2010. I have never had any issues with the use of new oak at Domaine Rousseau, as Charles and Eric Rousseau have always been as skilled in the use of new wood as anyone could ever hope for, and yet, I have little doubt that the high percentage of new wood used here for the top wines is unnecessary and does not necessarily add anything to the equation when the wines are fully resolved. Having tasted the brilliant 2011 Clos des Ruchottes this past November, I could not help fantasizing about the Clos St. Jacques also being raised in the same twenty-five percent new wood sometime in the future, as the terroir was just shining in the Clos des Ruchottes this year and it would be very, very intriguing to taste the Clos St. Jacques with the terroir similarly placed in the young wine. But, I have absolutely no complaints with how things have been done here in the past and cherish my Rousseau bottles in the cellar- I only wonder if less wood here in the future could produce even more brilliant wines! That said, the 2011s chez Rousseau are very close in quality to the domaine's great range in 2010.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The Gevrey villages bottling is consistently excellent *chez* Rousseau and the 2011 is another stellar success, offering up a pure and sappy nose of cherries, red plums, cocoa, a lovely

base of soil, mustard seed and whisper of cedar (all from older barrels I might add). On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and beautifully balanced, with beautiful focus and length, a very sappy core, excellent grip, bright acids and lovely soil inflection on the long, silky and modestly tannic finish. This will make a beautifully complex middleweight in about four or five years. 2015-2030+. **89+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2011 Lavaux St. Jacques from Domaine Rousseau was showing very well indeed in November, wafting from the glass in a deep and classy nose of red and black cherries, cocoa, a touch of the meatiness to come, dark soil tones, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate concentration, with excellent focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and outstanding balance on the very long and quite youthful finish. This wine is quite a bit more closed today than the Gevrey AC and closes with a fine note of bitter chocolate that I find augurs very well for its future development in bottle. This cuvée seems to have grown exponentially in quality in the last several vintages here and is really going to be superb in 2011. 2017-2040. **91**.

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The Charmes, Mazis and Clos de la Roche were all raised in one wine barrels in this vintage, as has been the case for several years *chez* Rousseau, and I love how the wood plays a beautiful supporting role to the *terroir* in each wine. All three of these crus seem to be getting better with each passing vintage these days, as I find more intensity here than was routinely the case a decade ago, without any of the cuvées losing any of the elegance that has defined them for a generation. 2011 Rousseau Charmes-Chambertin is another absolutely lovely wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a refined mélange of red and black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a complex base of soil, a hint of vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with a fine sense of reserve, ripe and beautifully integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the elegant and intensely flavored finish. This is a superb Charmes! 2020-2050. **92**.

2011 Mazis-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The Domaine Rousseau Mazis-Chambertin this year has really benefited from the inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage and this is an amazingly suave and classy young wine. The beautiful bouquet offers up a very refined mélange of plums, black cherries, a touch of grilled meat, black minerality, herbs, woodsmoke and a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively tangy, with great purity on the attack, lovely mid-palate concentration, ripe tannins and great backend energy on the long and superbly focused finish. This is a great vintage for the Mazis *chez* Rousseau. 2020-2050+. **92+**.

2011 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2011 Clos de la Roche was also singing at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, a lovely base of minerality, fresh herb tones, violets and just a touch of spicy oak (again, this was raised entirely in one wine barrels and saw no new wood). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with outstanding intensity, lovely complexity and outstanding focus and grip on the suavely-tannic and very, very long finish. A supremely elegant and very intense young Clos de la Roche. 2021-2050+. **93**.

2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin “Clos des Ruchottes”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

As I noted in the introduction, the domaine’s use of less new wood has really ratcheted up the expression of the underlying soil in the 2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin- at least to my palate-

and this is probably the finest young vintage of Rousseau Clos des Ruchottes that I have ever had the pleasure to taste! The brilliant nose offers up a sappy and very transparent blend of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, a touch of gamebird, magically complex soil tones, a deft framing of vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary in personality, with a great core of fruit, ripe, fine-grained tannins, vibrant acids and outstanding focus and grip on the very long and very energetic finish. At this point in time, this wine truly looks to be superior to the excellent Clos St. Jacques in 2011, and I would have to guess that part of this is the purity of *terroir* that is brought about by less new wood in the mix. A great wine. 2023-2060. **94+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2011 Rousseau Clos St. Jacques is also excellent, but it does not show quite the same sappiness and purity at the moment as the stunning Ruchottes. The wine is a touch marked on the nose by its new wood at this time, but will have no problem integrating this component with further time in the cellar, and offers up fine complexity in its mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meats, dark chocolate, fresh herb tones, soil and quite spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite solid at the core, with excellent focus and balance, tangy acids and a very long, ripely tannic and youthful finish. This will be an excellent wine with bottle age, but if I had to only choose one between the Ruchottes and CSJ this year, I would unhesitatingly take the former for my own cellar! 2022-2060. **94**.



Charles Rousseau, still hail in his 89th year, greeting visitors at Domaine Armand Rousseau.

2011 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

This year, Eric Rousseau retained ten percent of the stems for the Clos de Bèze. This is a very exotic and stunning young wine, but it was starting to already shut down for a bit of winter hibernation at the time of my visit in early November and it will want a good dozen years in the cellar to really start to blossom and drink at or near its true potential. The superb nose is a blend of red plums, blood orange, grilled meats, raw cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil, coffee bean and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, bright acids and stunning length and grip on the very youthful finish. This is one of the more structured 2011s that I crossed paths with on this trip- albeit with all of the potential elegance and precise expression of *terroir* still very much in evidence as coming down the road with sufficient bottle age! A great wine- but a fair bit of patience will be necessary. 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

With the addition of another parcel of Chambertin that arrived with the 2009 vintage (sufficient to provide another five *pièces* to the estate's production), Domaine Rousseau now owns fully 2.55 hectares of vines in this magical grand cru, and I cannot think of better hands to have this much Chambertin in! The 2011 is utterly brilliant, soaring from the glass in a stunning blend of red plums, cherries, blood orange, cocoa powder, grilled meats, a gloriously complex base of soil and a suave framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very pure and sappy at the core, with stunning transparency, great structural elegance, very suave tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and still very young finish. This is really not far off the magical quality of the 2010! 2025-2075. **97.**

The Salon de Gevrey-Chambertin

The growers' association in Gevrey-Chambertin came up last year with a presentation of the village's 2010s to be shown to visitors during Hospices de Beaune festivities, and this year they and put together another tasting of the 2011s from several members. As was the case last year, the event was held in Beaune on the Friday of the Hospices weekend at the Hotel de la Poste. As was the format last year, most of the participating growers provided one village wine, one premier cru and one grand cru to be tasted from the 2011 vintage, so this was a good chance to check in on several producers who I do not get a chance to visit every year and handicap a few of their 2011s. It was my impression this year that the samples were not showing quite as well as last year (perhaps the earlier malos for most 2011s made these samples a bit more fragile than last year's 2010s?), and so I felt compelled to pick and choose a bit from the lineup and only take notes on wines that seemed to me to be sound examples. This is far from an exact science, as several of these growers I do not visit with any frequency, and so these notes should be assumed to be highly provisional in nature. I noted that Domaine Rousseau did not send samples to this year's event, but that Cecile Trémblay had generously sent a sample of her Chapelle-Chambertin from the 2011 vintage (which was not showing very well, but I was happy to be able to make a comparison to this example and the wine from barrel, as I had an appointment at the domaine a couple of hours after I had attended the Salon). It seems quite clear to me that if the growers' association in Gevrey is going to continue these tastings, they need to make some changes to ensure that the samples arrive and remain in good condition during the duration of the tasting, as the room was quite warm where the event was held and I am not really sure what good it does anyone to show warm samples of wines that often seemed to have been drawn from cask several days previously and were often a bit tired already. The idea

of the Salon remains a very good one, but I was a bit disappointed that more of the samples were not in pristine condition, as I tasted an awful lot of wines that I have not written up below, owing to the fact that the samples were so obviously out of condition. I left the tasting wishing I had scheduled an additional domaine visit instead of reserving time for this tasting, given how some of the samples showed so poorly. I have listed the notes below alphabetically by the domaine's name, though I worked around the room sampling all the village wines first, then the premier crus and finally, the grand crus.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Philippe Charlopin-Parizot

The 2011 Charlopin-Parizot Gevrey V.V. is a bit modern in style, but very well done in its stylistic predilection. The deep and sappy nose offers up a complex blend of black cherries, chocolate, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, polished and quite fruit-driven in personality, with a good core, soft tannins and a long, velvety and spit-polished finish. A bit of the backend tannin is derived from the wood, but the oak seems well-integrated and it is more a textural distraction than an overt flaw with the finish. This is a well-made wine of some merit, but made in a style that would never having me adding any to my own personal cellar, as the wine is simply a bit too slick for my tastes. 2013-2025+. **88.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Bel Air”- Domaine Philippe Charlopin-Parizot

The 2011 Bel Air from Philippe Charlopin is a lovely wine that seems just a touch more traditionally-styled than the old vine village bottling. The deep and vibrant nose offers up a sappy mélange of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, black minerality, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively transparent, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, complex and classy finish that is showing just a touch of uncovered wood tannins on the long and chewy backend. I am sure that the new wood will fully integrate here with more vatting and this wine will prove to be a very good example of the vintage. 2020-2045+. **91.**

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Philippe Charlopin-Parizot

The 2011 Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Philippe Charlopin-Parizot was struggling a bit under its heavy lumber of new oak, but it probably has the stuffing to eventually do the heavy lifting required and absorb all of its wood. The nose is deep, complex and very sappy, offering up scents of cassis, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, grilled meats, dark soil tones and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite transparent in personality, with a good core and focus, but currently quite “pinched” on the backend by non-integrated oak tannins that leave the wine quite rigid on the backend. I am sure the wood here will eventually be absorbed, but it would have been a lot better with less new wood and a less obtrusive type of new wood as well. 2022-2050? **89-92?**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Geantet-Pansiot

The 2011 Gevrey “V.V.” from Domaine Geantet-Pansiot was showing pretty well at the tasting, but it also seemed to be a wine rather heavily marked by its spicy new wood and perhaps a bit over-oaked when all is said and done. The bouquet is a blend of red and black cherries, nice soil tones, mustard seed, grilled meats and plenty of cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, suave on the attack and nicely transparent, but with a fair bit of uncovered oak tannin currently sticking out on the long finish. If this fully absorbs all of its new wood (perhaps this sample was taken exclusively from a new barrel?) then my score will seem conservative, but based on this sample, I am not sure that it will be able to do so. 2016-2035. **87+?**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Poissenot”- Domaine Geantet-Pansiot

Like the old vine Gevrey above, there seems to be a very fine wine underneath the onslaught of new oak in the 2011 Poissenot from Geantet-Pansiot. The nose is quite marked by its wood, but down below shows fine notes of red and black cherries, a touch of venison, vinessmoke, herbs and soil tones- to go along with a lot of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary on the attack, with a good core, but a very rigid backend from uncovered wood tannins. Will this ever resolve its oak? If it does, it could be lovely, but man, this wine really cries out for less new wood! 2020-2040+? **87-90+?**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

I will be visiting and tasting the entire range of 2011s from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy in March, but was happy to have a chance to taste a few of Monsieur Harmand’s wines at the Salon. The 2011 Vieilles Vignes bottling was showing beautifully, wafting from the glass in a mix of red plums, cherries, raw cocoa, mustard seed, dark soil tones, a touch of cedar and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a lovely sense of sappiness at the core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. Good juice! 2016-2035. **90+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

I love top flight examples of Champeaux- which I find to be one of the great, under the radar *terroirs* in Gevrey- and the 2011 from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy is exceptional. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, dark soil tones, a touch of meatiness, mustard seed and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a lovely sense of reserve, a sappy core, bright acids and superb length and grip on the focused and ripely tannic finish. This is excellent! 2020-2050. **93.**

2011 Mazis-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2011 Mazis-Chambertin from Monsieur Harmand was showing superb potential, but it seems quite a bit more new wood than the Champeaux, and I would love to see this fine *terroir* with less new wood and more soil tones front and center! The deep, young and very promising nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, grilled meats, espresso, dark soil tones, herbs and plenty of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, primary and nicely transparent, with a sappy core, chewy tannins, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the classy and young finish. This carries a high percentage of new oak with great aplomb, but it is quite young and will need plenty of time in the cellar to fully blossom. Perhaps I am underrating it a tad, but today, it does not seem a huge step up from the superb 2011 Champeaux from this domaine. I will look forward to tasting it again in March. 2023-2055+. **93+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Denis Mortet

I had tried to make an appointment at Domaine Mortet for this trip, but our schedules did not align and I will probably try to make another attempt to taste the full range of 2011s in March. In any case, this was a very good 2011 Gevrey old vine bottling, offering up a deep and classy nose of red and black cherries, plums, dark soil tones, grilled meats, mustard seed and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite structured, with fine depth and soil signature, chewy tannins and a long, nascently complex and well-balanced finish. This is done in a more extractive style, but it is a very good example of its genre. 2018-2035+. **90.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Denis Mortet

The 2011 Champeaux from Domaine Mortet is a very good wine in the making- probably with a bit more new oak than it really needs, but with plenty of stuffing to eventually absorb its new wood completely and resolve into a very tasty wine. The deep bouquet offers up scents of red plums, cherries, mocha, violets, dark soil tones and plenty of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite youthful in profile, with a fine core, good soil signature and a long, chewy and well-balanced finish. This will be very good, but it will need some cellaring time. 2020-2045+. **91+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Denis Mortet

The sample of the 2011 Domaine Mortet Lavaux St. Jacques was showing a slight bit of fatigue, but it was quite clear that this is a very successful wine. The nose is a blend of red and black cherries, grilled meat, chocolate, a fine base of soil, fresh herb tones, violets and a generous coating of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very sappy at the core, with a fine base of soil, ripe tannins and fine focus and grip on the long and chewy finish. Good juice. 2020-2045+. **92**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Etelois”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

I was disappointed that I could not get around to this fine domaine for a full cellar visit on this trip, but will be there in March and was happy to see the 2011 aux Etelois on display at the Salon tasting. The nose is deep and youthful, offering up a pretty and red fruity mélange of cherries, strawberries, cocoa, a touch of meatiness, mustard seed, stylish soil tones and a hint of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a lovely signature of soil, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the focused finish. Good juice. 2017-2035. **90+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Serafin

I am not sure if this sample was on form, as the nose showed superb fruit and floral tones, but the new wood was out of balance and the wine was quite dry-edged from uncovered oak tannins on the palate. Again, perhaps this is a sample taken solely from a new barrel? The very pretty bouquet is a blend of cherries, red plums, violets, cocoa and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish and quite fruit-driven in personality, with a good core, but rather a simple personality that seems rather devoid of *terroir* at the present time (particularly in this very transparent vintage!) and is quite scarred by uncovered backend oak tannins. ???

Morey St. Denis

Domaine Dujac (Morey St. Denis)

The vast majority of the cellar at Domaine Dujac has not been racked at the time of my November visit, and there was plenty of discussion amongst, Jeremy, Diana and Alec if they should be done shortly after the crowds of November has found their way back to their own homes around the globe. Diana Seysses took us around to taste the 2011s this year, as she said that “she had not tasted through the entire cellar in some time and she needed to get a sense of where everything was in its stage of evolution. A handful of wines were showing some reduction at the time of my visit, and I suspect that the whole cellar has already been racked by the time I am writing this. Where a wine was a bit reduced, I generally have scored them within a range and would expect them to all place at the upper limit of this when they are totally on form. There

is a new wine in the Dujac Fils et Père lineup this year, as a premier cru in Nuits St. Georges has been added from the vineyard of les Damodes, which lies at the Vosne end of the village at the top of the slope above other premier crus of Chaignots, la Richemone, aux Cras and les Boudots. The parcel of vines that the domaine purchases fruit from lie right above Cras and are planted with twenty to sixty year-old vines (as the parcel was replanted in three stages), and this new Nuits is a welcome replacement for the lovely bottling from Thorey that Domaine Dujac made only in the 2005 vintage. As is always the case at Domaine Dujac, the wines continue to be fine-tuned with each passing vintage, and I noted that one or two of the cuvées in 2011 were raised in a touch less new wood than has been the case in the past, and of course, these days, not all of the wines are entirely fermented with the stems, as the Seysses family prefers to decide on this each year depending on the quality of the stems and the style of the vintage in each climat. 2011 will be another absolutely superb vintage at Domaine Dujac, and it may be noteworthy down the road for being the first year where the Clos St. Denis steals top honors as the very greatest wine in the cellar in this vintage! It is still very early on in the evolution of all of these wines (and there are a large number of truly brilliant 2011s lying in barrel here!), but at the time of my mid-November visit, there was no doubt that the 2011 Clos St. Denis showed simply tremendous potential and it may well be that this supremely elegant terroir is inherently a perfect match with the style of the year.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2011 Dujac Fils et Père Gevrey was a tad reduced at the time of my visit, so I may be underestimating it just a touch. Underneath the touch of reduction is a very pretty wine, offering up notes of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and mustard seed. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and quite long, with a nicely reserved personality and good focus and grip. This will certainly be tasty, but give it a four or five years of bottle age. 2017-2035. **88-89.**

2011 Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2011 Morey AC from Dujac Fils et Père is quite young, but was showing well at the time of my visit. The nose is a pretty blend of cherries, pomegranate, coffee, gamebirds, a fine base of soil and a nice, youthful touch of stems in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary, with a bit of ripe tannin, good focus and a long, well-balanced and promising finish. Good juice in the making. 2017-2035. **89.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père

Again, the 2011 Dujac Fils et Père bottling of Chambolle *villages* was a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but showed very good potential underneath. The nose is a blend of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebirds, pomegranate and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and nascently complex, with a very good core, suave tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. This seems likely to be the pick of the litter amongst the three very good Fils et Père bottlings of village wines this year. 2017-2035. **89-90.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Damodes”- Dujac Fils et Père

There are four and a half barrels-worth of the new les Damodes bottling from Dujac Fils et Père, with two of the barrels new (one of which is 300 liters in size, rather than the standard 225 liter Burgundy *piece*), so the percentage of new wood hovers around forty-nine percent for this bottling. It was produced with fifty percent whole cluster in 2011 and offers up a superb nose of black cherries, cassis, espresso, venison, dark soil tones, a touch of new oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very primary in personality, with a fine

core, ripe, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and well-balanced finish. This is a young wine that should prove outstanding with bottle age, but in proper Nuits fashion, it will need the better part of a decade to blossom fully. 2022-2050+. **92.**



Diana Seysses in the cellars at Domaine Dujac- standing in front of barrels of the Fils et Père Chambolle.

2011 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

I have always found the Dujac Morey AC one of the most refined and elegant versions in the village and the 2011 will be excellent. The deep and classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of plums, cherries, cocoa, lovely soil tones, a touch of blood orange and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very elegant, with a good core, moderate tannins and fine grip on the tangy and focused finish. This will be a lovely village wine! 2018-2040. **90.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Dujac

There was just a touch of reduction showing in the domaine's own Chambolle AC at the time of my visit, but hardly anything worthy of distraction, as this wine will clearly be lovely. The sappy nose is a blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, a touch of new oak, woodsmoke, superb minerality and another distinctly violet topnote. On the palate the wine is dupe, medium-full and intensely flavored, with lovely transparency, fine mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and elegant finish. Lovely juice. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2011 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine Dujac

The Domaine Dujac premier cru bottling is comprised of parcels in Sorbés, Millandes, Charrières and Ruchots and is always a quintessential example of Morey premier cru. The 2011 was showing brilliantly at the time of my visit, offering up a deep and very classy nose of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil, woodsmoke, vanillin oak and violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with superb transparency, suave, ripe tannins and excellent focus on the long and very well-balanced finish. This will be a really lovely wine seven or eight years down the road. 2020-2045. **92+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 Gruenchers was the most reduced and cranky wine in the Dujac cellars at the time of my visit, and it was really not possible to take a proper note on the wine at that time. It was long, pure and sappy on the palate, with ripe tannins and lovely balance, so I am sure this will be beautiful, but it was not in a very good mood when I tasted it.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Dujac

The Combottes 2011 was showing quite young at the time of my visit, as this was probably one of the later wines to finish up its malo in the cellars this year. The very pure and primary nose offers up scents of red and black cherries, gamebirds, coffee bean, a lovely base of soil tones, woodsmoke and a judicious framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and tangy, with a fine core, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This will be a fine bottle. 2022-2045+. **92.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Dujac

The inherent elegance and red fruity character of the 2011 vintage is quite striking in some of the more normally reserved and black fruity crus such as Beaumonts, and the Dujac version is all suave personality out of the blocks. The deep and beautifully pure nose offers up scents of cherries, blood orange, dark soil tones, cocoa, gamebirds, smoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off beautiful mid-palate depth, with lovely focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and superb length and grip on the properly reserved and very promising finish. Like the Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat Beaumonts, the 2011 from Domaine Dujac is very red fruity in profile in this vintage. Lovely juice. 2020-2050+. **92+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 Malconsorts from Domaine Dujac is a beautiful wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a glorious perfume of sappy raspberries and cherries, cocoa, duck, a great base of complex minerality, Vosne spices, vinesmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a fine core of fruit, laser-like focus, suave tannins and stunning length and grip on the very pure and refined finish. A beautiful wine. 20121-2055+. **94+**.

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac

Like the Domaine Dujac Beaumonts, the 2011 Echézeaux has taken on the elegance of the vintage at a very early age and is a great wine in the making. The deep and stunning nose offers up a glorious mélange of plums, black cherries, cinnamon, cocoa, lovely minerality, smoke, gamebirds and a stylish base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and supremely elegant, with a lovely core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the poised and properly reserved finish. This will be a great bottle of Echézeaux. 2024-2060. **95.**

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 Charmes was one of the last wines in the cellars to finish up its malo this year and there was still just a touch of gas evident on the backend, but this wine will clearly be lovely. The nose is a very precise and classy blend of cherries, blood orange, a touch of grilled meat, mustard seed, complex soil tones, vinesmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite transparent, with a very youthful personality, a fine core and a long, ripely tannic and very focused finish. I love the red fruity personality of the Charmes this year. 2022-2050+. **93.**

2011 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

I have a fair bit of Dujac Clos St. Denis in my cellar, but I cannot recall any previous vintage as promising as the 2011 showed at the time of my visit in November. This is one of the most elegant of all the grand crus in the Côte de Nuits and this has obviously dovetailed brilliantly with the style of the 2011 vintage. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a glorious mélange of cherries, blood orange, gamebirds, cinnamon, roses, beautiful minerality, cocoa, peonies and a discreet base of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely ethereal in style, with great mid-palate depth and nascent complexity, laser-like focus, suave tannins and magical grip and focus on the very, very long and very transparent finish. This beautiful wine already dances across the palate and it will be a legend in the years to come! 2022-2065. **96.**

2011 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 Clos de la Roche from Domaine Dujac is another superb bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in a deep and youthful blend of plums, black cherries, beautifully complex soil tones, gamebirds, coffee, a touch of citrus, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still very young (this too was late finishing up its malo and shows still a touch of gas on the backend), with a very soil-driven personality, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the youthful and very promising finish. In purely objective terms, this is probably every bit as fine as the 2011 Clos St. Denis, but the style of the Clos St. Denis just seems so perfectly suited to the size and shape of the vintage this year. 2025-2075. **95.**

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 Dujac Bonnes-Mares is another absolutely stellar wine in the making, offering up a deep and classic bouquet of red and black cherries, gamebirds, mustard seed, beautifully complex soil tones, coffee, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and transparent, with a great core of fruit, excellent focus and grip, ripe, firm tannins and outstanding focus on the very long and well-balanced finish. This is still a puppy, but it will be a great wine in the fullness of time. 2025-2075. **95+.**

2011 Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

Like the Bonnes-Mares, the 2011 Dujac Chambertin is a properly reserved and absolutely beautiful wine in the making. The brilliant nose offers up a very pure and aristocratic blend of red and black cherries, red plums, a touch of meatiness, a very complex base of soil, coffee, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite closed, with a great core of pure fruit, laser-like focus, fine-grained tannins and stunning length and grip on the seamless and profound young finish. 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Dujac

The 2011 RSV from Domaine Dujac is also quite primary at the present time, but this will be a magical wine with sufficient bottle age. The beautifully pure and reserved nose offers up scents of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spice, lovely minerality, duck, roses, new wood and a

gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with suave tannins, tangy acids, laser-like focus and brilliant length and grip on the young and endless finish. The epitome of style and elegance! 2025-2075. **95+**.

Domaine des Lambrays (Morey St. Denis)

Thierry Brouin was a bit less enthusiastic about the 2011 vintage than many of his neighbors this past November, which he termed “very good wines, but not a great vintage.” However, at the time of my visit, Monsieur Brouin seemed more focused on the devastation of the domaine’s Puligny vineyards in 2012, as the production levels were so catastrophically low from hail damage that he wonders how he is ever going to take care of clients for the superb Folatières and Clos des Caillerets bottlings made at Domaine des Lambrays when it is time for the release of the 2012s. The 2011 white wines at the domaine were splendid, with the more forward style of the vintage very much in evidence and these will be two great Puligny premier crus that will offer up superb drinking right from the moment of release. The reds of 2011 had not yet been racked at the time of my visit, but were scheduled for racking in early December. There is also a very unique wine in the cellars in 2011, as Monsieur Brouin practices a saignée for his reds and made a small bit of Bourgogne Rosé in this vintage from the juice that he bled off from the vats. It was quite tasty. While Domaine des Lambrays made what I feel are the greatest young wines I have ever tasted at the estate in 2010- which would be a hard act to follow for anyone, I was more enthusiastic for the 2011s here than Monsieur Brouin seemed to be at the time of my visit, as they showed lovely underlying terroir, great potential for elegance and lovely nascent complexity across the board. I think he was being a bit hard on the wines, as these are lovely examples of the vintage that show plenty of potential, and while they may not be quite in the same legendary class as the 2010 Domaine des Lambrays wines, I felt these were excellent 2011s. I strongly suspect that the wines will open up more and gain a bit more dimension once they are racked and start to please Monsieur Brouin a bit more than they seem to do today. I certainly was quite fond of them. I also had a chance to revisit the two 2010 white wines and the Clos des Lambrays on this visit, with the Pulignys showing superb potential and the 2010 Clos des Lambrays now beginning to shut down for a period of hibernation. I implore anyone with 2010 Clos des Lambrays in the cellar to not waste bottles opening this legendary wine early on, as it is going to be a very long-lived and magical wine, and to open bottles now is infanticide. (Just pretend they cost the same as bottles of La Tâche and the temptation to open them early will fall by the wayside!) I have printed my note on the 2010 Folatières below, as the wine had only been recently bottled last November and was not available for tasting, but have not included notes on the other two 2010s tasted on this vintage, as they showed consistently with last year’s notes.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine des Lambrays

The 2011 Folatières from Domaine des Lambrays is a beautiful and utterly complete example of the vintage, offering up a complex nose of tangerine, white peach, a gentle touch of leanness, spring flowers, chalk and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a wide open personality, lovely depth at the core and fine cut and grip on the long and focused finish. This is a lovely wine that will be wearing its heart on its sleeve from the moment it is released, but is so beautifully balanced that it will have no troubles aging gracefully- if one can keep their hands off of the wine! 2013-2025. **93**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos des Caillerets”- Domaine des Lambrays

The 2011 Clos des Caillerets is also a stunning young wine that will drink beautifully from the outset. The deep and very refined nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of lemon, pear, complex, chalky minerality, orange zest, vanillin oak and a lovely, floral topnote redolent of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with excellent complexity, fine mid-palate depth, crisp acids and lovely length and grip on the soil-driven and supremely elegant finish. A beautiful wine. 2013-2025. **94.**

2010 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine des Lambrays

I was delighted to have a chance to taste the 2010 Folatières on this trip, as it had just been bottled last year. The wine is simply stunning, offering up a complex and primary blend of apple, lemon zest, sweet grapefruit, a lovely base of *terres blanches*, vanillin oak and spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy, with more overt structure than the seductive 2011, a fine core, lovely transparency and a very long, focused and snappy finish. This will drink well in a couple of years and is a superb example of this great vintage. 2015-2030+. **93+.**

2011 Morey St. Denis- Domaine des Lambrays

The 2011 Morey AC from Domaines des Lambrays is quite red fruity again this year, as it was in 2010, and is a very tasty village wine in the making. The bright and inviting nose offers up scents of cherries, pomegranate, cocoa, pretty soil tones and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with a fairly closed personality, a bit of ripe tannin and very good length and grip on the finish. This will be tasty and only need four or five years of bottle age to really start to drink well. 2017-2035. **88+.**

2011 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine des Lambrays

The 2011 Morey Premier Cru bottling was showing lovely style and potential at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, blood orange, vinesmoke, fresh herb tones, a lovely base of soil and just a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a sappy core, fine-grained tannins, tangy acids and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This is going to be lovely. 2018-2040. **91.**

2011 Clos des Lambrays- Domaine des Lambrays

The 2011 Clos des Lambrays is a very red fruity and transparent young vintage for this wine. The pure and classy bouquet offers up a mélange of cherries, blood orange, mustard seed, coffee, a complex signature of its underlying *terroir*, smoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very young, with lovely soil signature, a fine core and a fair bit of chewy tannins perking up the focused and long and tangy finish. This is going to be a lovely, soil-driven middleweight at its apogee, with excellent complexity and breed. 2022-2060. **93.**

Domaine Ponsot (Morey St. Denis)

As I had not managed to taste the 2010s at Domaine Ponsot during my handful of trips to Burgundy last year, I was very happy to find my schedule dovetailing with Laurent Ponsot's this November. There are a couple of new wines in the Ponsot lineup since I last tasted the 2009s here back in November of 2010, with a lovely new St. Romain Blanc added to the lineup, as well as a small cuvée of Le Montrachet (which I did not get a chance to taste). There is also now a bottling of Chambertin “Clos de Bèze” in the cellars here, which again is new either this vintage or last, and which was absolutely stunning. As is Laurent Ponsot's wont, he harvested much later in 2011 than any of his neighbors, with the harvest starting here on September 15th and the last grapes brought in at the start of October! Consequently, the 2011s from Domaine Ponsot are

probably the only wines that I tasted on this trip that I would term “big” wines, as they show off the sappy opulence that has been the calling card of the Ponsot wines for many decades. The very old Aligoté vines in Monts Luisants celebrated their 100th anniversary in this vintage, having been planted in 1911, and I am sure that Laurent Ponsot will have some sort of commemorative label prepared to celebrate this milestone for the wine- which is indeed outstanding in this vintage. Some of the wines had just been racked here, while a couple of others were a bit reduced and ready for their racking, so one had to jump around a bit in the cellars and we did not taste through every wine in the lineup. But, what we did taste was very, very fine and quite atypical of the style of the vintage elsewhere, as Monsieur Ponsot’s late harvesting has certainly produced some opulent and sappy wines that are quite impressive. I really enjoyed the tanginess that many of these wines displayed, despite their opulent, later-harvested fruit tones, and one has to assume that a judicious touch of acidulation was carried out here to give these creamy and seductive wines some bounce on the backend. This is a very, very impressive range of 2011s in the classic Ponsot style.

2011 St. Romain Blanc- Domaine Ponsot

The new St. Romain Blanc in the Ponsot lineup (which began either in 2011 or in 2010) is really a lovely wine, offering up a bright and pure bouquet of apple, white peach, citrus blossoms and a fine base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and almost silky on the attack, with a good core and lovely length and grip on the bright and focused finish. A lovely example. 2013-2025. **89.**

2011 Morey St. Denis “Clos du Monts Luisants” Blanc- Domaine Ponsot

The Clos du Monts Luisants Blanc was showing a bit of reduction at the time of my visit, but this is clearly going to be a lovely vintage for this fine, old vine Aligoté, and it will be very much worthy of a special label to designate its centenary vintage. The wine offers up a classy nose of lemon, peach, a touch of beeswax, beautiful soil tones, dried flowers and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very long, with lovely, bouncy acidity, fine focus and a long, minerally finish. Fine juice. 2013-2030. **91.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Ponsot

I love the new Corton-Charlemagne in the Ponsot lineup and the 2011 is going to be a stunning wine. The deep and classically reserved nose offers up a fine mélange of apple, a touch of tangerine, a superb base of stony and chalky soil tones, smoke and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very long, with superb elegance on the attack, a rock solid core, great mineral drive on the backend and a very beautifully balanced and structured finish. This is an old school Corton Charlie that should age beautifully. 2018-2040. **94+.**

2011 Corton “Cuvée Baurdon”- Domaine Ponsot

As Laurent Ponsot related when I tasted the inaugural vintage of 2009 of this wine back in the winter of 2010, it is bottled under the name of “Cuvée Baurdon” to protect the identity of the proprietor from which the grapes are purchased. The 2011 had just been racked the week before our visit, but was showing quite well despite this, offering up a deep and sappy nose of black cherries, dark berries, chocolate, some resinous tones and a deep base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and very sappy at the core, with good acids, ripe tannins and very fine length and grip. Today the wine is quite fruit-driven in personality, but I am sure that is simply a result of its recent racking and more of its soil personality will come to the fore as it bounces back from the racking. 2021-2050. **92.**

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot

The 2011 Charmes-Chambertin had not yet been racked and was really singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a complex and refined blend of red and black cherries, grilled meats, French roast, a beautiful base of dark soil tones, fresh herbs and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and tangy, with a sappy core of fruit, suave tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and very promising finish. This will be a great bottle of Charmes. 2020-2050. **94.**

2011 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot

The 2011 Ponsot Griotte was also showing very well, offering up a fine bouquet of cherries, red plums, a fine base of soil, incipient notes of grilled meat, coffee and mustard seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with fine focus, ripe tannins and excellent grip on the well-balanced and very long finish. This should prove to be a very red fruity vintage of Griotte *chez* Ponsot and an outstanding wine in eight to ten years. 2020-2050. **94.**

2011 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot

The 2011 Chapelle is another very deep, ripe and sappy wine, with the customary opulence of a young Ponsot wine very much in evidence in this vintage. The superb nose is a blend of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, a touch of grilled meat, a beautiful base of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with lovely focus and nascent complexity, suave tannins and beautiful length and grip on the very pure finish. This is lovely. 2022-2055+. **94.**

2011 Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot

The 2011 Chambertin was really singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in blaze of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, plums, grilled meats, a beautiful base of dark soil tones and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with the opulent fruit on the attack giving way to beautiful, black mineral drive on the finish. The tannins are ripe and well-integrated and the wine is showing a lovely tanginess on the long backend. Fine juice. 2025-2075. **95.**

2011 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Ponsot

The new addition to the Ponsot lineup is absolutely stunning in 2011, as the Chambertin “Clos de Bèze” offers up a brilliant bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, grilled meat, woodsmoke, a beautifully complex base of dark soil tones, espresso and fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and sappy at the core, with a great base of minerality, ripe tannins and superb focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Ponsot

After all of the vinous fireworks in the range of Gevrey grand crus in the Ponsot cellars, the closed and grumpy Clos Vougeot was in a difficult tasting spot in the lineup! But, this will be an excellent wine in its own right, as it (albeit reluctantly) offers up a complex nose of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke and a beautiful base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary, with a fine, sappy core of fruit, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the youthful and well-balanced finish. I would love to see this wine again when it is in better sorts, as the potential here looks to be outstanding and I may well be a bit conservative with my score at the present time. 2020-2050+. **91-92+.**

2011 Clos St. Denis Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Ponsot

After the totally stunning range of 2011s from Gevrey, I was wondering how the two grand crus in Morey would stack up, but these wines had no difficulties following up on the very

strong lineup that preceded them. The 2011 Clos St. Denis Vieilles Vignes is a brilliant wine in the making, offering up a beautiful bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, chocolate, dark soil tones and incipient notes of the gamebird to follow. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy, with plenty of suave, seamless tannins, superb focus and grip and a long, tangy and black fruity finish. A very classic and superb Ponsot Clos St. Denis. 2022-2075. **96.**

2011 Clos de la Roche Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Ponsot

The 2011 Clos de la Roche is also stunning *chez* Ponsot, soaring from the glass in a deep and very sappy blend of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, game, woodsmoke, a beautiful base of soil tones and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and sappy at the rock solid core, with ripe, well-integrated tannins, beautiful balance and nascent complexity and a long, opulent finish that shows off superb focus and grip. Another classic Ponsot big boy in the making. 2025-2075. **96.**



Domaine Cecile Trémblay (Morey St. Denis)

2012 was a very, very busy year for Cecile Trémblay, as she has moved her cellars from rented space in the center of Gevrey-Chambertin to the cellars of a new house she is building in Morey St. Denis on the Rue de Très Girard, with construction still taking place in the living quarters, but with the cellars having been completed just in time for the harvest of 2012. In addition, her first child was born in July of 2012, a daughter named Eleanor, so Madame Trémblay has been happily kept very busy throughout the course of this past year. Perhaps no

one is more content about the new and quite a bit more spacious cellar than her lovely dog, who now happily has plenty of room to romp around and chase rocks or corks while visitors are tasting out of barrel. The harvest here started on September 1st of 2011, but Cecile and her team made three distinct passes through the vineyards over the course of the first two weeks of the month, as maturity was at different stages at the start of the month, and several of her cooler climats were not picked until the middle of the month, as she was very careful to shoot for optimal ripeness in each parcel. There was a new wine in the cellars in 2011- a lovely Chambolle-Musigny AC bottling that will be dubbed “la Cabotte” and which hails from three different lieux à dits in the village, including les Fremiers. The malos here were quite late by the standards of the 2011 vintage, with most not finishing up until September of 2012 and the cellar had not yet been racked at the time of my November visit. My notes do not indicate if the 2011s were chapitalized or not, but I am guessing that they were chapitalized a very small amount just to prolong the fermentations. Certainly, several of the wines showed a bit of nutskin in their aromatics, which I find to be a signature of this vintage in the cellars with low octane wines, so I would guess if chapitalization was exercised here, it was done to a very, very minimal degree. A few of the wines still had a bit of CO2 present on the backend from their late malos, but it was very easy to see the quality here. I did not taste the Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard” bottling on this visit- though I cannot recall at the time I am writing up my notes if it was reduced, or still a bit marked by its malolactic fermentation. In any event, the entire range of 2011s that I did taste here is very lovely, with the wines exuding the vintage’s inherent elegance and transparency down to the respective terroirs of each wine. I should note that Madame Trémbly very graciously sent along samples of her 2011 Chapelle-Chambertin to be poured at the Salon de Gevrey tasting held in Beaune on the Friday of the Hospices de Beaune weekend, but the sample did not show at all well at the tasting and seemed quite tired and unrepresentative. I was very happy to see the wine again in the cellars, for it is a stellar example of the vintage!

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

At the time of my visit, the 2011 Bourgogne from Cecile Trémbly was still a bit marked by CO2 on the backend from its recent malo and was not entirely happy to be tasted, but its potential was easy to read. The nose is a lovely blend of plums and black cherries, chocolate, a nice touch of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite long, with just a touch of tannin and lovely focus and grip on the classy finish. This is very, very good for its genre. 2014-2025+. **88.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “la Cabotte”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

The new Chambolle AC bottling is excellent in 2011, offering up a lovely and pure bouquet of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a fine base of soil and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and beautifully transparent, with a good core of fruit, just a touch of tannin and fine focus and grip on the long and dancing finish. This will want five or six years of bottle age to fully blossom, but I suspect that many bottles will be drunk in the blush of youth, as it is already quite accessible and succulent. 2018-2035+. **90+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

The 2011 old vine bottling of Vosne-Romanée AC was really singing at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a beautiful mélange of plums, black cherries, dark chocolate, a superb base of soil, violets and just a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a very suave structure, a good core of fruit, fine focus and a long,

vibrant and modestly tannic finish. A lovely wine that I would be inclined to again, cellar for several years, but which will be accessible sooner. A lovely wine. 2019-2035+. **91.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

Cecile Trémbly's 2011 Feusselottes is a very, very elegant and transparent example of the vintage. The deep, pure and classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, beautifully complex soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and intensely flavored, with a lovely core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, excellent focus and delightful backend mineral drive on the very long, vibrant and dancing finish. Quintessential Chambolle in the making! 2020-2050. **92+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

The 2011 Beaumonts from Domaine Cecile Trémbly is an absolute classic example of this fine premier cru, delivering a complex and black fruity bouquet of black cherries, dark plums, duck, a complex base of dark soil tones, a touch of nutskin and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven, with an excellent core, fine-grained tannins, good acids and lovely length and grip on the tangy finish. This too will be excellent in eight to ten years. 2021-2050. **93.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Rouges Dessus”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

As I noted last year, this very small premier cru (part of this vineyard is also classified as *villages*) lies at the very top of the slope, above the section of Echézeaux known as Rouges du Bas. This is a very steep section of the Flagey *vignoble*, with as steep an exposition as neighboring Beaumonts and it is a relatively cool *climat* and was one of the last parcels to be picked in 2011. The wine is lovely, offering up a complex and stylish bouquet of red and black cherries, gamebirds, a touch of raw cocoa, a great base of very stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very mineral in personality, with excellent mid-palate depth, refined tannins, lovely grip and a very long, focused and perfectly balanced finish. The Beaumonts may have just a touch more breed in 2011, but this, too, is fine juice. 2022-2050. **92+.**

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

Cecile Trémbly's parcel of Echézeaux lies in the *lieu à dit* of Du Dessus, which lies right above Grands Echézeaux and her vines are now closing in on their fiftieth birthday. The 2011 Echézeaux was showing stunning potential at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a blaze of plums, red and black cherries, nutskins, a complex base of soil tones, violets, cocoa and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with great transparency, ripe and utterly suave tannins, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the nascently complex finish. This will be a great bottle of low fat Echézeaux at its apogee. 2023-2060. **95.**

2011 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

These fifty-six year-old vines in Chapelle-Chambertin have turned out a brilliant wine in 2011 and I was very happy to find that the slightly oxidative sample at the Salon de Gevrey was simply unrepresentative. The 2011 Chapelle was raised in fifty percent new oak. This is a brilliant wine in the making, offering up a complex and very pure nose of red and black cherries, blood orange, cocoa powder, a touch of nutskin, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with a very suave attack, ripe, classy tannins on the backend and superb focus on the very long, youthful and vibrant finish. This will be an absolutely stunning wine, but it will want at least a decade in the cellar to truly reach its apogee. 2024-2060. **96.**

Chambolle-Musigny

Domaine Ghislaine Barthod (Chambolle-Musigny)

Ghislaine Barthod's 2011s were another set of wines that were showing so beautifully in November that it was hard not to imagine drinking a great many of them right off of the boat when they are released later this year. The malolactic fermentations were early here in the Barthod cellars, so the entire range of 2011s had been racked at the end of August of 2012 and most of the wines had bounced back nicely and were showing very well indeed in the latter half of November. I may be wrong, but I have the impression that with each passing vintage, Madame Barthod's wines are getting more and more refined, and running through the range of these beautifully transparent and site-specific 2011s was like taking a master's class in the terroirs of Chambolle-Musigny! Most of the wines are very red fruity and transparent in character, with very fine focus and intensity of flavor, moderate tannins and bright acids to add clarity to the underlying expressions of terroir. Most of the premier crus in the Barthod cellars this year are not going to be wines to drink right out of the blocks (there are a few exceptions), but rather wines that will really start to blossom around age eight or nine. I did not write down if Madame Barthod chapitalized in 2011, but if she did, it was a very modest amount, as most of these wines are in the 12.5 percent alcohol range and seem utterly complete at this level. Like so many other top cellars, there is a great purity to the expressions of fruit in each wine here this year, with a few showing a touch of nutskin, and each and every wine simply screaming out the character of its soil. These are beautiful wines that perfectly synthesize the elegance of the vintage and of the village of Chambolle!

2011 Bourgogne “Bons Batons”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Barthod Bourgogne rouge is a very pretty and red fruity wine this year, offering up a stylish nose of cherries, pomegranate, roses and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh, long and transparent, with just a whisper of tannin and pretty good focus and grip. This will be a very fine example of its appellation, but I would try to give it at least a year to add more nuance on both the nose and palate. 2014-2020. **87.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Chambolle AC is a lovely wine, and perhaps as fine an example as one can find this year of a village wine in this lovely commune. The vibrant and very pure bouquet offers up a mix of cherries, red plums, a touch of cocoa, a lovely base of minerality, violets and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure, with a fine core, lovely soil signature, bright acids and lovely bounce and focus on the long and very modestly tannic finish. This is really a lovely village wine. 2018-2035+. **90.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Combottes from Domaine Barthod shares the lovely red fruity and forward personality of the fine AC bottling, as it wafts from the glass in a classy mélange of strawberries, cherries, orange zest, roses and chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off a lovely core of red fruit, with gentle tannins, fine focus and balance and a long, nascently complex finish. This will evolve into a very pretty and red fruity middleweight of great charm, but it is not a dramatic step up from the *villages* in terms of potential complexity or depth. 2018-2040. **91.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Chatelots”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Chatelots is a bit more reserved in personality than the Combottes, offering up lovely purity and concentration in its bouquet of red and black cherries, cocoa, violets, a lovely base of soil, a touch of nutskin and a delicate framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a fine core of pure fruit, suave tannins and excellent focus and grip on the well-balanced, long and still quite youthful finish. This will be a lovely wine. 2020-2045+. **92.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Beaux Bruns”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Beaux Bruns was a bit more cantankerous at the time of my visit, as this wine has been slower to bounce back from the end of summer racking, and with the temperatures starting to fall in the cellars here in the third week in November, it is likely to hunker down now until spring. However, under its reticence is clearly a lovely wine in the making, offering up scents of black cherries, pomegranate, lovely soil tones, cocoa, woodsmoke and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite closed at the present time, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on what will eventually be a quite sappy finish. This will want eight years or so to blossom, but should drink beautifully once it comes around. 2021-2045+. **92.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 les Baudes from Ghislaine Barthod is a superb bottle in the making, and here, the wine is wide open and easy to taste. The beautiful nose wafts from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, red plums, a beautiful base of soil, a touch of nutskin, raw cocoa and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in style (though not particularly closed at the present time), with a sappy core of fruit, fine focus and a long, youthful and ripely tannic finish. This is going to be a superb bottle. 2021-2045+. **92+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

As this parcel of vines has now been a few years under the watch of Madame Barthod, the quality has really jumped to the fore and this is now clearly one of the very top wines in the domaine’s lineup. The 2011 is a gorgeous wine, delivering a lovely and very red fruity bouquet of cherries, strawberries, blood orange, complex soil tones, a touch of violet, nutskins and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with a beautiful signature of soil, bright acids, lovely focus and grip and a long, suavely-tannic and very poised finish. This is my kind of Chambolle! 2020-2045+. **93.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Charmes from Ghislaine Barthod is a beautiful wine in the making, with an absolutely archetypical profile on both the nose and palate. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, beautiful minerality, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with superb transparency, a great core, fine-grained tannins and exceptional length and grip on the focused and very, very classy finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2021-2045+. **93+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” - Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

I always find it interesting to compare and contrast les Fuées and les Cras in the Barthod cellars, as they are two of the finest *terroirs* in Chambolle, and with the former more *terres rouges* and the latter predominantly *terres blanches*, they make for a fascinating comparison. The 2011 Barthod les Fuées is stunning, offering up a deep and very pure nose of black cherries, pomegranate, raw cocoa, fresh herb tones, a gloriously complex base of soil, violets and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved in profile, but with a

flamboyantly sappy core of fruit, superb soil signature, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the nascently complex and very poised finish. This is going to be a great vintage for the les Fuées! 2021-2050. **93+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Veroilles”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Veroilles is another fine wine in the making, but this is always a bit slower to unfold out of the blocks than the other premier crus in the lineup. Only .37 hectares of this vineyard is classified as premier cru (with the rest all *villages*), with the premier cru section lying right above the *terres blanches* section of Bonnes-Mares. Domaine Barthod owns all of the premier cru section of this vineyard. The 2011 offers up a very pure bouquet of cherries, strawberries, red plums, mustard seed, woodsmoke, chalky soil tones and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with a fine core, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the nascently complex finish. The inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage has really produced a very suave Veroilles this year *chez* Barthod. 2020-2045+. **92**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2011 Barthod les Cras is a stunning wine and the very finest of a great range in this vintage. The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a touch of nutskin, violets, a beautifully complex base of chalky soil, gentle notes of mustard seed and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, superb transparency, fine-grained tannins and laser-like focus on the youthful, tangy and very long finish. This is a great bottle in the making! 2022-2050. **94**.

Domaine Louis Boillot (Chambolle-Musigny)

Louis Boillot began harvesting on August 28th in his Côte de Beaune vineyards, and on September 2nd in the Côte de Nuits. He was quick to observe that he did not want to risk losing the inherent elegance and balance of the 2011s by too aggressive of an extraction, and he limited his usual punch-downs during fermentation to one a day, rather than the customary two. As was the case in so many cellars this year, Louis Boillot's 2011s also were quite early with the completion of their malolactic fermentations, and he was able to rack the entire cellar at the end of April and the beginning of May of 2012, so the wines were showing very well in November. Monsieur Boillot was a bit pressed for time during our tasting, as he needed to finish up in time to dash down to Beaune and pick up his daughter from school at 6:00 PM, so we did not taste the full range and skipped over one or two of the wines I would normally right up, so that he could be on time for the school dismissal. Often being on exactly the same schedule at that time in the afternoon, I could more than understand the need to be to the school on time! The 2011 Volnays chez Boillot are a uniformly black fruity, suave and very soil-driven set of wines, with their medium to full-bodied formats destined to deliver superb complexity in their maturity as intensely flavored middleweights. The Pommards in the cellar are a bit more fleshy, as one would expect, but with the same graceful sense of place and the same inherent elegance.

2011 Beaune “Epenotes”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 Epenotes is a lovely wine, offering up a complex and vibrant nose of cherries, woodsmoke, a nice touch of nutskin, fresh herb tones, a bit of gamebird and a refined base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure on the attack, with a good core of fruit, fine focus and just a touch of tannin perking up the long and classy finish. This will be a very

lovely middleweight and should start to drink very well indeed in only three or four years. Fine juice. 2016-2035. **89.**

2011 Volnay “les Grands Poisots”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 Grands Poisots is a lovely wine in the making, with superb transparency and lovely purity to the fruit tones. The excellent bouquet offers up a deep, pure and nicely reserved blend of black cherries, a touch of dark berry, smoke, dark soil tones, nutskin and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very soil-driven in personality, with a good core of fruit, bright acids and lovey focus on the gently tannic and well-balanced finish. This is a lovely village wine. 2018-2035+. **89+.**

2011 Volnay “les Angles”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 les Angles from Domaine Boillot is a very pure, complex and black fruity example of the vintage, offering up a mix of dark berries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, herb tones, dark soil and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and very nicely structured, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection, excellent focus and grip and a very long, suavely-tannic finish. This will be a very intensely flavored middleweight when it has fully blossomed in six or seven years, with great purity and complexity in its soil-driven personality. A really lovely bottle of Volnay in the making. 2019-2040. **91.**

2011 Volnay “les Brouillards”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 les Brouillards is more open today than the les Angles, as these sixty year-old vines have produced a lovely synthesis of pure fruit and stunning expression of underlying soil in this vintage. The very classy nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, fresh thyme, a lovely base of dark soil tones and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and more reserved than one would expect from the inviting nose, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance, moderate tannins and a very long, soil-driven finish. Classy juice. 2020-2050. **91+.**

2011 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 Boillot Caillerets will be an excellent wine. It is a bit more hidden behind its fine structure than the les Angles and the les Brouillards at the present time, but underneath lies a beautiful bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, notes of gamebird and woodsmoke, stony soil tones, espresso and a touch of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite closed, with a fine core of black fruit, lovely transparency and a very long, youthful and ripely tannic finish. This is a classic example of Caillerets in the making and will want fully seven or eight years of cellaring to start to blossom, but it should age very gracefully and be a superb wine at its apogee. 2020-2050. **92.**

2011 Pommard “les Fremiers”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The seventy-one year-old vines in Fremiers have produced a very red fruity and transparent wine in the 2011 vintage. The pure and very complex nose offers up scents of red plums, cherries, quince, woodsmoke, gamebirds, coffee, lovely minerality and a deft framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very precise, with a rock solid core of fruit, beautiful balance and nascent complexity and a very long, suave and ripely tannic finish. This is another 2011 Pommard that shows an awful lot of early elegance, due to the style of this lovely vintage. Fine juice! 2020-2050. **91+.**

2011 Pommard “la Croix Noire”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 la Croix Noire is an absolutely brilliant wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, a touch of blood orange, woodsmoke, gamebirds, fresh herbs and a very stylish base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-

bodied and very pure on the attack, with stunning transparency, great mid-palate depth and a very long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. This is probably the greatest example of Pommard I tasted on the entire trip! Great wine! 2020-2055+. **94.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2011 Domaine Boillot Gevrey AC has turned out very well indeed, jumping from the glass in a classy blend of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, a touch of grilled meats, woodsmoke, mustard seed and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a fine core of fruit, a lovely sense of reserve and fine length and grip on the moderately tannic and very well-balanced finish. I would give this excellent village wine about five years' worth of bottle age to really let its secondary layers of complexity emerge. 2018-2035+. **90.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "les Evocelles"- Domaine Louis Boillot

Monsieur Boillot reports that the sixty year-old vines in Evocelles, which is a lovely *terroir* that produces a classic Gevrey (despite the vineyard lying in Brochon) synthesis of black minerality, grilled meats and sappy black cherry fruit. The 2011 from Monsieur Boillot is excellent, offering up a very beautiful blend of red and black cherries, dark, racy soil tones, incipient notes of meatiness, raw cocoa, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and refined, with a sappy core, modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the soil-driven and very classy finish. This will be a beautiful bottle. 2017-2035+. **90+.**

2011 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 of the Gevrey premier crus, with Monsieur Boillot's parcel of vines being forty-five years of age. The 2011 is superb, wafting from the glass in a red fruity blend of cherries, red plums, grilled meat, black minerality, coffee bean, woodsmoke and a touch of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. I really like the shape and bounce of this wine this year, which will drink relatively early and offer up fine cellaring potential as well, as it is a beautifully balanced wine. 2019-2040+. **92.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "les Cherbaudes"- Domaine Louis Boillot

The Boillot parcel of old vines in Cherbaudes will celebrate their hundredth anniversary in the 2012 vintage. The 2011 is a superb bottle in the making, offering up a deep and very refined bouquet of red and black cherries, a touch of plum, grilled meats, coffee, dark soil tones, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with superb, nascent complexity, great soil signature, excellent focus and balance and impressive grip on the very long and ripely tannic finish. The acids here are bright and bouncy as well, which just adds to the vibrancy of the fruit and the purity of the soil expression. This is a beautiful bottle of Gevrey. 2021-2050. **93.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges "les Pruliers"- Domaine Louis Boillot

The old vines in the Boillot plot of vines in Pruliers have also really delivered the goods in the 2011 vintage. The deep and very black fruity nose offers up scents of dark berries, black cherries, a touch of venison, dark soil tones, vinesmoke, herb tones and a gentle topnote of nutskin. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with lovely focus and grip on the very long, ripely tannic and soil-driven finish. Great juice! 2022-2060+. **94.**

Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier (Chambolle-Musigny)

Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier began his harvest in 2011 on the second of September, and as his malos finished up at varying times over the course of the spring and early summer of 2012, most of the wines were racked at different times this year. In fact, the 2011 les Fuées had not yet been racked at the time of my visit at the tail end of November. As Monsieur Mugnier commented, “I chapitalized a very little bit in 2011, though I really do not know why- I suppose because we are taught to do so at school- as the wines were really perfectly balanced without any chapitalization and probably did not need any.” As I noted in the introduction to the vintage, Monsieur Mugnier finds that the 2011s are a bit similar to the 2007s here, “except that the 2011s have more depth, more tension, more structure and more energy than the 2007s- so I suppose they are really not at all like the 2007s!” As Jacques-Frédéric is a man who values elegance and purity of terroir above all else in his wines, he is very, very content with the style and quality of the 2011s here and he finds that the vintage has excellent potential. The Musigny and Bonnes-Mares had the latest malolactics in the cellar this year, with both wines not racked until September, but they had recovered nicely at the time of my visit. The Amoureuses had been racked once in the late spring, but Monsieur Mugnier felt it would probably want a second racking prior to bottling, as it was getting just a touch reduced. The Clos de la Maréchale Blanc had already been assembled in tank and was to be bottled in January. This is a stellar range of 2011s!

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Mugnier

The 2011 Chambolle AC chez Mugnier had been racked in June and was showing very well in November, offering up a deep and classic nose of cherries, strawberries, a touch of nutskin, lovely, chalky soil tones and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is pretty, medium-full and bouncy, with a very good core, lovely focus and balance, sound acids and just a whisper of tannin perking up the long and soil-driven finish. This will be a lovely village wine. 2017-2035. **89+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées”- Domaine Mugnier

The 2011 les Fuées from Domaine Mugnier had not yet been racked, but was absolutely singing at the time of my visit and showed no signs of reduction or immediate need for a decanting. The beautifully pure and transparent nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, blood orange, vinesmoke, gamebirds, coffee, mustard seed and a hint of new wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and intensely flavored, with a fine core of fruit, superb soil signature, suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. This should blossom into a beautiful middleweight of great breed and classic Chambolle complexity. A lovely wine in the making. 2019-2040. **91+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Clos de la Maréchale”- Domaine Mugnier

The 2011 Clos de la Maréchale had already been racked in the summer and was showing very well indeed. There will be no Clos des Fourches in 2011. The superb nose is a fine mélange of red and black cherries, nutskins, coffee, mustard seed, a beautifully complex base of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very classy, with lovely mid-palate depth and transparency, moderate tannins and excellent focus and balance on the very long and soil-driven finish. The inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage is very much in evidence in this lovely example of Clos de la Maréchale. 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Mugnier

The 2011 Bonnes-Mares has bounced back beautifully from its September racking and was absolutely singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a vibrant mélange of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a complex base of soil, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant, with a sappy core of fruit, excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and exceptional grip on the long and classy finish. This will be a really lovely bottle of Bonnes-Mares in about a decade. 2022-2050+. **93+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Mugnier

Despite the 2011 Amoureuses chez Mugnier being ready for a racking and just a touch reduced, it is pretty easy to see that this will be a marvelous wine. Underneath the dollop of reduction is a beautiful blend of red and black cherries, blood orange, beautiful minerality, woodsmoke and gamebirds. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very soil-driven, with superb intensity of flavor, a sappy core, tangy acids and excellent focus and grip on the very long, suavely-tannic and stunning finish. An utterly classic bottle of Amoureuses in the making. 2020-2050. **93-94**.

2011 Musigny- Domaine Mugnier

Like the Bonnes-Mares, the 2011 Musigny had been racked in September and had bounced back brilliantly. This is a stunning wine, soaring from the glass in a magical blend of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, gloriously complex minerality, just a touch of blood orange, fresh herbs, vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent, with a sappy core, beautiful focus and elegance and a very, very long, poised and complex finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and tremendous grip. A beautiful bottle of Musigny! 2022-2075. **96**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Clos de la Maréchale” Blanc- Domaine Mugnier

The 2011 Clos de la Maréchale Blanc is going to be a very refined and beautiful wine that drinks exceptionally well right out of the blocks. The deep and very floral nose wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, acacia blossoms, lovely soil tones, a dollop of beeswax and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very elegant, with good mid-palate depth, bright, framing acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and complex finish. Fine juice. 2013-2023. **91+**.

Domaine Georges Roumier (Chambolle-Musigny)

Christophe Roumier had not yet racked any of his 2011s at the time of my visit in November, as his malolactic fermentations were very late here by the standards of the vintage, with most of them only finishing up at the end of August of 2012. As he noted, “everything is now ready for a racking, but I have been so busy with tastings that I will not get a chance to start the racking until next week, but I will have everything finished up by the first week of December.” Christophe began picking in 2011 on the third of September, and I did not take note if he decided to chaptalize or not in this vintage. The wines in general are in the 12.2 to 12.6 percent alcohol range in this vintage and offer up simply lovely purity of fruit (most of it quite red in tone) and truly exceptional signatures of terroir. There is a lovely sappiness at the core of many of the wines in the range this year, but what truly stands out front and center (as is the case in many of the very top domaines in 2011) is the great individuality of each cru, as the underlying soil of each vineyard so beautifully defines each wine in this vintage. The structural style of the 2011 vintage will make some of these wines a bit more accessible early on than is customary chez Roumier, but I would be very inclined to age most of the wines a minimum of six to ten years in

the bottle to allow their full expressions of complexity and terroir to emerge. This is a very beautiful and classically elegant range of 2011s, which of course should come as a surprise to no one, as Christophe Roumier has been at the top of his game for decades by now and always seems to manage to capture the full potential of each vintage. Glorious wines and a very fine follow-up to the brilliant 2010 Roumiers, which along with the 2005s, will probably be judged as the greatest set of wines to emerge from these cellars since Christophe took the reins of the family domaine in the early 1980s.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2011 Chambolle-Musigny AC *chez* Roumier is a beautiful wine in the making, offering up a deep and very sappy nose of red and black cherries, lovely minerality, a touch of nutskin, fresh herbs and a nice topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and very transparent, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip and just a touch of tannin perking up the long and very elegant finish. A very classy middleweight in the making. 2017-2035+. **90.**

2011 Morey St. Denis “Clos de la Bussière”- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2011 Clos de la Bussière had only finished up its malo seven or eight weeks before our visit and was one of the few wines in the cellar still a little agitated from the malo. Underneath is a very good wine, delivering notes of black fruit, espresso, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and venison. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely focused, with a good core, a soil-driven personality and very good structure on the long finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and fine minerality. This will be very good for sure, but as it was in a bit of a grumpy stage, I have scored it in a range. 2020-2050. **89-91.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Georges Roumier

In contrast to the still agitated Clos de la Bussière, the 2011 Combottes was absolutely singing at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a beautifully complex and red fruity mélange of cherries, blood orange, nutskins, a fine base of soil, gamebirds, coffee and a touch of woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and very mineral in personality, with very good, but not great depth at the core, fine focus and grip and a very long, moderately tannic and bouncy finish. This will be an absolute charmer in five or six years' time! 2018-2040. **91.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2011 les Cras was also in beautiful form at the time of my visit, offering up a deep and very sappy nose of red and black cherries, red plums, a touch of cocoa, a beautifully complex base of chalky soil tones, fresh herbs and a nice topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and offers up very sappy depth in the mid-palate, with beautiful transparency, fine-grained tannins and truly exceptional focus and grip on the perfectly balanced, suave and ripely tannic finish. This will make a supremely elegant les Cras in the fullness of time. 2020-2060. **92+.**

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier

The 2011 Roumier Charmes-Chambertin was really showing beautiful potential at the time of my visit. It is a bit more reserved in profile than any of the Chambolle premier crus, but equally pure and classy, as it offers up scents of cherries, blood orange, a touch of gamebird, a wonderfully complex base of soil, coffee and smoky overtones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a lovely lightness of step, a fine core, very refined tannins and excellent length and grip on the tangy and well-balanced finish. This will be a lovely wine. 2020-2050. **92+.**



2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier

The 2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin *chez* Roumier is also stunning, as the inherent elegance of the vintage has dovetailed nicely with the style of this vineyard. The deep, pure and truly lovely nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a beautiful base of soil, just a whisper of the grilled meats to come, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very minerally in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, great focus and incipient elegance and a very long, fine-grained and classy finish. This reminds me very much of the superb 1991 Roumier Ruchottes-Chambertin in its youth! 2022-2060. **93+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Georges Roumier

Despite the malo just finishing up on the 2011 Amoureuses at the end of July, the wine was showing beautifully in November. The gorgeous nose delivers a beautiful blend of red and black cherries, a nice touch of red berries, cocoa, marvelously complex soil tones, woodsmoke and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and complex, with a very sappy core, superb soil drive, suave tannins and a very, very long, laser-like and youthful finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2022-2060. **95**.

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Georges Roumier

After tasting the two constituent components (the *terres rouges* and *terres blanches* sections of the vineyard), it is very easy to appreciate that the blended Bonnes-Mares is superior to either component on its own, and the 2011 is going to be a stunning wine! The glorious and

youthful nose offers up a magical mélange of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, brilliant minerality, woodsmoke, gamebirds, mustard seed and a delicate framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly complete, with a rock solid core of sappy fruit, stunning soil inflection, ripe tannins and great focus and grip on the very long, suave and still quite primary finish. A great wine. 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2011 Musigny from Christophe Roumier is also brilliant, soaring from the glass in a blaze of sappy red and black cherries, red and black plums, cocoa, a beautiful base of soil, woodsmoke, incipient notes of gamebird and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly suave on the attack, with a sappy core, great transparency, fine-grained tannins and stunning length and grip on the young and very, very promising finish. This is a superb vintage for the Roumier Musigny. 2025-2075. **98.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2011 Corton Charlie had already been assembled in tank for bottling early in the new year and was showing very well at the time of my visit. The classy bouquet offers up scents of apple, pear, a touch of nutskin, white soil tones, orange peel, spring flowers and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully transparent, with fine acidity, lovely focus and impressive complexity already showing on the long and delicious finish. Structurally, this reminds me of the beautiful 1992 Roumier Corton-Charlemagne (which was a stunning drink in its youth), but with more of a soil-driven personality and probably even greater elegance and breed than the '92 showed at a similar stage of development. Fine, fine juice. 2013-2025+. **93.**

Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé (Chambolle-Musigny)

The Comte de Vogüé cellars were in the process of just finishing up the racking at the time of my visit, with the Chambolle AC having just been completed, and all of the other cuvées having been finished up shortly prior to our arrival. The team had begun racking at the start of November and I tasted here on the 15th, so the wines that were racked the earliest here had bounced back the best, but everything was still a bit reserved from the recent racking. So the cellar was one of those on this trip that was not in an ideal moment for tasting, but enough wines were in fine form to see that this is another excellent vintage for Domaine de Comte de Vogüé. I have been so content with the slight change in stylistic direction at this important domaine that commenced with the 2007s and has gained steam with each passing vintage, as the more powerfully-styled wines here from the immediate vintages preceding the 2007s were less to my taste than the more elegant-styled wines fashioned here in the last several years. According to Chef de Cave, François Millet, the wines came in around twelve percent natural alcohol in 2011 and he chapitalized just a tiny amount to keep the fermentations going a bit longer, with most of the finished wines topping out around 12.2 percent in this vintage. The malos here were quite late, as the cellars here are cold, with most of them finishing up in the month of August, rather than in the spring. Across the board, there is lovely purity coupled to a nice touch of sappiness to the fruit, and though the wines will not be overtly powerful in style, there is great intensity of flavor and an absolutely impeccable sense of balance to all of these wines that suggests that they will age long and very gracefully. Even though I caught these wines at an inopportune moment, right after the racking, I have little doubt that 2011 is going to be a very strong vintage for the Domaine de Comte de Vogüé.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine de Comte de Vogüé

As the 2011 Chambolle AC had just been racked, it was a bit disjointed and not happy about being tasted, but one could clearly see that this is going to be a tasty bottle. The nose is a deep blend of red and black cherries, a touch of pomegranate, lovely soil tones, a touch of cocoa and a delicate framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tangy and quite sappy at the core, with moderate tannins and good bounce and grip on the focused finish. 2018-2035+. **88-90.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Domaine de Comte de Vogüé

The cellar team was in the process of racking the premier cru bottling from 2011 at the time of my visit, so we were able to taste this wine from a barrel that had not yet been racked. This is a lovely and very suave middleweight in the making, offering up a classy bouquet of cherries, pomegranate, a touch of red plum, nutskin, woodsmoke, soil and a stylish base of new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very suave on the attack, with good mid-palate depth, modest tannins and fine length and grip on the tangy and focused finish. This too has a nice touch of sappiness at the core that is very attractive. 2020-2040+. **90+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Comte de Vogüé

The 2011 Amoureuses from Comte de Vogüé is another really elegant and succulent example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a lovely and very floral blend of red and black cherries, violets, roses, beautiful soil tones, a touch of coffee and a nice framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and very intensely flavored, with lovely focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, vibrant and youthful finish. This will be lovely, but it will need a good eight to ten years to really blossom and come into the fullness of maturity. 2021-2050. **93.**

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine de Comte de Vogüé

The 2011 Bonnes-Mares from the Comte de Vogüé is also excellent, offering up a deep and almost crunchy nose of black cherries, blueberries, a bit of plumminess, cocoa, gamebirds, a superb base of soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy and youthful core, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and still quite primary finish. This will prove to be a very elegant and exceptional vintage for this domaine's Bonnes-Mares. 2023-2055+. **94.**

2011 Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine de Comte de Vogüé

The 2011 Comte de Vogüé Musigny V.V. shows off a superb sense of both depth and harmony and this will be a quintessential example of Musigny with sufficient bottle age. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a pure mélange of red and black cherries, plums, lovely spice tones, a complex base of soil, violets, cocoa and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent, with superb mid-palate depth, ripe, utterly suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. This will be a great wine. 2025-2075. **95+.**

Vougeot

Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat (Vougeot)

Charles Van Canneyt, the grandson of Alain Hudelot, has been in charge of this fine estate for a few years now and the wines continue to be amongst the finest in the Côte d'Or. I was remiss in calling Monsieur Van Canneyt by the last name of Hudelot for a couple of years before he politely corrected me on this visit. The 2011s here in the cellar were in varying stages of evolution at the time of my visit, with a few wines a touch reduced, but rackings were scheduled for not long after the crush of visitors in November. The wines are very classic

examples of the 2011 vintage, with relatively low alcohols, great purity of fruit coupled to striking expressions of terroir, and these should be amongst the most elegant and perfumed wines to be found in this lovely vintage. Most of the wines were chapitalized just a touch to keep the fermentations going, but the vast majority of the wines here are well under thirteen percent alcohol. The 2011 Hudelot-Noëllat wines are across the board very red fruity this year, with even the traditionally black fruity wines such as the Vosne premier crus of Beaumonts and Suchots very much marked by red fruity characteristics this year, which I find very, very appealing. A few Burgundy enthusiasts with whom I am friendly still talk nostalgically of the days when Pierre Navrocki was in charge of the winemaking duties here at Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat in the latter half of the 1990s and early 2000s, but to my palate, the wines here have never been better than they are today, and as much as I am enjoying my Hudelot-Noëllat wines in the cellar that were made during Monsieur Navrocki's tenure at the estate, I find even greater refinement and precision in the wines being fashioned today by Monsieur Van Canneyt and his team, led by Vincent Meunier, (who handled the winemaking duties at the domaine between Monsieur Navrocki's departure in 2005 and the arrival of Monsieur Van Canneyt full-time at the domaine in 2008 or 2009). One of the changes that I find quite compelling here is the decrease in the percentage of new wood used for the wines since the days of Monsieur Navrocki, with most of the premier crus now raised in thirty percent new wood (down from fifty to seventy-five percent in the past) and the grand crus typically raised in fifty percent new oak, down from one hundred percent back in the day. Additionally, the Hudelot cellar team is now starting to use a bit of whole cluster fermentation, so that for instance, in 2011, the Suchots includes twenty percent whole clusters. There is little doubt to my mind that the team of Messieurs Van Canneyt and Meunier bring as much winemaking talent to the table here at the domaine as has been the case any time in its history, and I have the sense that with each passing vintage here, Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat continues to climb up the hierarchy of greatest estates in the Côte d'Or.

2011 Bourgogne- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

I have consistently enjoyed the Bourgogne bottling from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat and the 2011 is another lovely example. The very pretty nose offers up scents of cherries, strawberries, lovely soil tones and a touch of violet in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and tangy, with a nice touch of tannin on the backend, good focus and very good length and grip for its level. This will need a year or two in the cellar to fully blossom and should prove to be a lovely middleweight. 2014-2020+. **87.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2011 Hudelot-Noëllat Chambolle AC has a lovely sappiness to its fruit component on both the nose and palate. The very pure and expressive nose wafts from the glass in a red fruit blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, lovely soil tones and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and intensely flavored, with a sappy core, fine transparency, a touch of ripe tannin and very fine length and grip on the bouncy finish. This is a very classic example of Chambolle. 2016-2035. **89+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2011 Vosne-Romanée AC from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat is another absolutely lovely village wine, offering up a pure and perfumed bouquet of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spice tones, a lovely base of soil, violets and a faint touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and tangy, with a fine core, excellent focus and balance, moderate tannins and lovely, nascent complexity on the long and classy finish. Fine juice. 2017-2035. **89+.**



Charles Van Canneyt, current proprietor at Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat in Vougeot.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Au Bas de Combe”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

As readers may recall, the *lieu à dit* of Au Bas de Combe is one of the best-situated in all of Nuits St. Georges, lying immediately downslope from the premier cru of Boudots, right on the Nuits-Vosne border. The domaine has been using the name of the *lieu à dit* on the label since the 2008 vintage. The 2011 is a lovely wine in the making, and though it is a bit more closed aromatically than either the Chambolle or the Vosne *villages* cuvées, it too shares the striking purity of the vintage. The excellent nose offers up a primary mélange of red and black cherries, nutskins, violets, a touch of game, dark soil tones and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and youthful, with a very soil-driven personality, lovely mid-palate depth, ripe, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused finish. Fine juice. 2018-2035. **90.**

2011 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The domaine’s parcel of vines in this lovely premier cru are now in the twenty-five to thirty year range, and the depth and complexity of this bottling has been increasing noticeably as the vines come into their prime. The 2011 Petits Vougeots is excellent, offering up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, a touch of cocoa, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke and a topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a very good

core, great transparency, fine focus and grip and a very long, moderately tannic and beautifully balanced finish. This is a lovely wine in the making. 2017-2035+. **91.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Murgers”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2011 Murgers is a very pure and nicely reserved example of the vintage, offering up a fine nose of red and black cherries, a nice touch of blood orange, nutskin, a superb base of soil, woodsmoke and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with tangy acids, fine focus and lovely length and grip on the ripely tannic and classy finish. This will be a lovely bottle of Murgers, but give it six or seven years to fully blossom. 2018-2050. **91+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2011 Hudelot-Noëllat Chambolle “Charmes” is an extremely floral and elegant rendition of this lovely vineyard, wafting from the glass in a classy bouquet of cherries, pomegranate, roses, violets, pretty soil tones and a touch of spicy new oak. This is the only premier cru in the cellar in this vintage that was raised in more than thirty percent new wood, as the domaine utilized fifty percent new oak for the Charmes this year. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannin, bright acids and very good focus on the long and tangy finish. A classic bottle of Chambolle in the making that carries its slightly higher percentage of new wood with no deleterious effects. 2018-2040+. **91+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

Beaumonts, which actually lies in Flagey, rather than in Vosne proper, is often one of the most black fruity premier crus in the village, but the very red fruity character of the 2011 vintage is very much in evidence with this lovely Hudelot Beaumonts. The very pure, impressively complex and classy nose delivers a fine mélange of raspberries, cherries, blood orange, a lovely base of soil, Vosne spices, a touch of vanillin oak and a topnote of cherry blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a sappy core of fruit, racy acids, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the very soil-driven finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Beaumonts. 2020-2050. **92+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

Suchots can also often be quite black fruity in personality, but this is not the case with the 2011 Hudelot version, which offers up a fine bouquet of cherries, blood orange, Vosne spice, fresh herb tones, fine soil nuances and a bit of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with ripe tannins, bright acids and excellent grip and focus on the long and dancing finish. A very elegant and intensely flavored Suchots. 2021-2050. **92+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat’s Malconsorts is always a lovely, lovely wine and it is a pity that there is not more of it in the cellar (sadly, in this vintage there are only two barrels). The 2011 is a classic in the making, jumping from the glass in a beautiful and sappy nose of cherries, raspberries, blood orange, gamebirds, great minerality, roses and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and wonderfully transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and a very long, tangy finish. A superb example of this great premier cru. 2022-2050+. **93+.**

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

This is one of my favorite examples of Clos Vougeot year in and year out and the 2011 is another classic in the making. The beautifully refined nose delivers scents of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, gamebirds, a complex base of soil and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved, with excellent purity and focus, fine mid-palate

concentration, ripe, firm tannins and excellent grip on the well-balanced and very long finish. Fine juice. 2023-2060+. **94.**

2011 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

I have always been a very big fan of the Romanée-St.-Vivant from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat, but now that the new wood here has been reduced to fifty percent, the expression of the underlying, magical *terroir* of this great grand cru has really jumped to the fore. I wish other owners of RSV could take their cue from this domaine, as it seems to me if there was ever a *terroir* in Vosne-Romanée that begged for smaller percentages of new wood, it is RSV. The 2011 version from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat is stunning, offering up a beautiful nose of sappy raspberries and cherries, Vosne spice tones, a touch of woodsmoke, great minerality, cedar and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, strikingly pure and rock solid at the core, with a lovely sappiness and transparency, ripe tannins and a very long, tangy and still quite primary finish. This will be a great, great wine in the fullness of time. 2024-2075. **96.**

2011 Richebourg- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2011 Richebourg from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat is another absolutely stellar example of the vintage, and this wine too has really benefited to my palate from the diminution of its new wood percentage. The reserved and very classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red plums, cherries, gamebirds, a touch of nutskin, a beautiful base of soil, citrus zest and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very pure, with a superb core, ripe, suave tannins, very fine acidity and excellent focus and grip on the soil-driven, very long and perfectly balanced finish. A young Richebourg fully worthy of the exalted reputation of this cru. 2025-2075. **96.**

Vosne-Romanée

Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair (Vosne-Romanée)

Louis-Michel Liger-Belair has followed up his magical 2010s with another absolutely stellar lineup of 2011s. Like several cellars I visited in November, the wines were in varying stages of evolution, as the first six wines we tasted in the cellars had been racked already, while the remainder of the cellar was destined to have this procedure done right after the crowds of November had thinned out a bit in the cellars. The only wine that had already been bottled here from 2011 was the Vosne-Romanée “Clos du Château”, which had been bottled in mid-September. Monsieur Liger-Belair continues to use a bit of whole cluster fermentation for certain cuvées, and this is particularly true of wines like the premier cru Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”, which included twenty percent whole clusters in 2011. There will be a new wine at Domaine Liger-Belair in 2012, as Louis-Michel has purchased the monopole of Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grives” (actually located in Prémieux) that used to be owned by the Moillard family, and which lies just below the Clos des Corvées. This is a superb lineup of 2011s from bottom to top, with each and every wine showing off beautiful purity and bounce. The wines are structurally fairly forward in nature, but so beautifully balanced that I would be inclined to give them a handful of years in the cellar- even the village wines- just to let their secondary layers of complexity emerge and add to the fireworks in the glass. But, for those who really like drinking some of their red Burgundies on the young side, the three beautiful village wines here in 2011 are going to be very tempting from the outset! But, if you are inclined to give into temptation and drink some of your red Burgundies young, at least keep the top tier Liger-Belair premier crus and grand crus in the cellar until they peak, as they are a stunning set of wines and really not far off the brilliance of the magical 2010s here!

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 Vosne-Romanée *villages* from Domaine Liger-Belair was raised in eighty percent new oak, but carries this generous dose of new wood with ease. The deep and sappy nose offers up scents of sappy black cherries, raspberries, herb tones, Vosne spice, pretty soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with moderate tannins, perfectly respectable mid-palate depth and good length and bounce on the finish. This is a very pretty village wine that will need a handful of years in the cellar to fully mature. 2017-2035. **88.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “la Colombière”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 la Colombière was showing very well at the time of my visit, with better depth at the core than the straight Vosne AC and a really lovely sense of balance and potential elegance. The very classy bouquet offers up scents of black raspberries, cocoa, cherries, Vosne spices, a touch of duck and a well-measured base of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with good sappiness at the core, moderate tannins and lovely focus and grip on the tangy finish. A lovely wine in the making. 2018-2035+. **90.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Clos du Château”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

For having just been bottled in September, the 2011 Clos du Château was really showing beautifully in mid-November, with great style and grace in evidence on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a very classy blend of plums, raspberries, coffee, underbrush, lovely soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, suave and very seductive, with a sappy core of fruit, sound acids and excellent length and grip on the modestly tannic finish. Like these first few wines in the Liger-Belair lineup, the 2011 Clos du Château will drink very well from the outset, but a few years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to emerge strikes me as the proper course for this wine. 2017-2035+. **90+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The vineyard of Chaumes can be one of the most easy-going of the premier crus in Vosne, and I notice that both Louis-Michel Liger-Belair and Jean-Nicolas Méo have begun to incorporate a bit of stems in the fermentation of their versions- perhaps with an eye to giving the wine just a bit more structural integrity. The 2011 from Domaine Liger-Belair is a lovely wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a fine blend of plums, red and black cherries, a touch of cinnamon (from the twenty percent of stems included?), lovely soil tones, vinesmoke, duck and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and again, very sappy at the core, with suave, moderate tannins and lovely focus and balance on the long and tangy finish. Good juice in the making here! 2018-2040. **91.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

While I tasted a couple of examples of Suchots this year that were uncharacteristically red fruity out of the blocks (the Hudelot-Noëllat version for example), the 2011 from Liger-Belair is classically black fruity in profile and a superb wine in the making that really luxuriates in the elegant side of the vintage. The beautiful nose offers up scents of black raspberries, dark plums, gamebirds, French roast, a beautiful base of minerality and a well-judged base of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and spicy, with a superb core, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. This too is going to offer up a lot of early, seductive appeal, but it really should be kept in the cellar for a handful of years to allow all of its complexity to blossom. 2020-2055. **93+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “aux Brûlées”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 Brûlées from Louis-Michel Liger-Belair is quite a bit more closed and reticent than the Suchots, but it too was showing exceptional potential. The deep and beautifully suave nose delivers a complex and youthful mélange of dark plums, black cherries, duck, dark soil tones, Vosne spice and plenty of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and almost silky on the attack, with a fine core of black fruit, ripe tannins, lovely balance and outstanding grip and focus on the very long and youthful finish. This will be superb, but it is more structured than the Suchots and it will not offer the same temptation to drink it too early. 2022-2055+. **93+.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

In the last several vintages, I have been struck by how much the young Nuits “aux Cras” from Liger-Belair reminds me of the young Nuits “Murgers” from Henri Mayer back in the day, but I suppose this should not come as any surprise, as Cras is sandwiched between Murgers and Boudots on the slope. The 2011 Cras is really a special and elegant young bottle of Nuits, soaring from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, dark berries, venison, dark soil tones, herbs and a nice base of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a beautiful core of fruit, stunning length and grip on the backend that is perked up with firm, but ripe and very well-integrated tannins. The inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage is going to make this a very special wine in the fullness of time, but it will demand a bit of cellaring. 2022-2055+.

93.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 Liger-Belair Petits Monts is another truly stunning wine in the making, but this too has a nice sense of reserve that will beg for some bottle age before it fully blossoms. The simply beautiful nose wafts from the glass in a classic mélange of black cherries, black raspberries, espresso, duck, black minerality, Vosne spice tones and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with a sappy core of black fruit, tangy acids, suave tannins and great backend mineral drive on the focused and very long finish. This is a gorgeous young bottle of Petits Monts. 2020-255+. **93+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “aux Reignots”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 Liger-Belair Reignots is pure magic and a wine of grand cru dimension and beauty this year, as the more classic side of the growing season has really allowed this beautiful *terroir* to shine front and center in the way a more fruit-driven vintage such as 2009 could never accomplish. The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a haunting mélange of black raspberries, dark plums, a stunningly complex base of soil, Vosne spices, some very elegant, savory herb tones, duck and a stylish base of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly pure and refined, with laser-like focus, fine-grained tannins and superb length and grip on the tangy and stunning finish. What a beautiful wine! 2022-2055+. **95.**

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 Echézeaux from Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair is another superb example of the vintage. The glorious bouquet offers up a blend of red and black raspberries, a touch of blood orange, duck, great minerality, woodsmoke, Vosne spice and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with a rock solid core of fruit, exceptional focus and balance, ripe tannins and a long, pure and youthful finish of magical promise. A great bottle of Echézeaux in the making. 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 La Romanée- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair

The 2011 La Romanée is gorgeous, with a bit more sense of reserve than the Echézeaux out of the blocks, as well as a more refined and precise impression on both the nose and palate. The stunning bouquet delivers a suave mix of black plums, red and black raspberries, duck, a gloriously complex base of soil, exotic spices, a touch of lead pencil, fresh herb tones and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and hauntingly pure on the attack, with a bottomless core of sappy fruit, brilliant soil inflection, very fine-grained tannins and stunning length and grip on the tangy and youthful finish. This is awfully close in quality to the seamless and unearthly beauty of the 2010 La Romanée! 2025-2075+. **98.**

Domaine Méo-Camuzet (Vosne-Romanée)

At the time of my early November visit, Jean-Nicolas Méo was on his way to a major winemakers' conference in Italy this year, along with his neighbor, Louis-Michel Liger-Belair, and only had a moment to drop by in the cellars and say hello on his way out the door. I had the pleasure to taste with the domaine's Cellar Master, Per, who was very high on the quality and style of the 2011s chez Méo. I did not take notes of when the domaine began harvesting in 2011, but the malolactic fermentations here were early- as was the case virtually everywhere in this vintage- with the cellar finishing up in the spring of 2012 and every wine having been racked in August. There was a welcome new addition in the Méo-Camuzet cellars this year, as Jean-Nicolas has made a Corton-Charlemagne from purchased grapes in 2011. There are only five pièces in the cellar, with the wine having hailed from two different sources in very small quantities, so that two barrels' worth of the grapes came from a parcel on the Ladoix side of the hill and three barrels' worth from Aloxe-Corton. The wine has turned out splendidly and is a most welcome addition, though I suppose the writing was on the wall that this appellation would eventually be produced here, as the domaine has beautifully augmented its lineup of red Corton bottlings in the last few years. I love to think that if the estate of the Prince de Merode had shown the good sense to approach Jean-Nicolas to manage their vineyards when the burden of owning some of the greatest vineyard parcels on the hill of Corton became too much for the family, then we would not have seen their great parcels of Clos du Roi, Bressandes and Renardes all blended into a single, generic Corton bottling! Like so many of the top examples from 2011, the red wines here simply scream out their respective terroirs, and this was very clear in the lovely range of village wines now offered by the domaine, as it was fascinating to run the gambit from Marsannay up to Vosne-Romanée amongst the various AC bottlings and see wines that so very much spoke of their respective villages of origin. I would love to have a mixed case or two of only the Domaine Méo-Camuzet village wines in this vintage- just to make this same sort of tasting run at intervals of several years and see if they can all retain such sparkling expressions of their underlying terroirs. I know most fans of the domaine focus on the higher level appellations here, but it really needs to be said that the Méo-Camuzet village wines receive every bit as much care and attention to detail as the Cros Parantoux and Richebourg and they really are superb examples of their respective appellations!

2011 Bourgogne Blanc "Clos St. Philibert"- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Clos St. Philibert is a very pretty wine, offering up a vibrant nose of apple, peach, spring flowers, a nice touch of soil and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and nicely balanced, with very good depth in the mid-palate, crisp

acids and nice bounce and focus on the backend. A very stylish Bourgogne Blanc. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Corton-Charlemagne from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is outstanding and along with Laurent Ponsot's version, this has to be the most exciting new addition to the Corton Charlie firmament in years! In 2011, there are five barrels, three of which are new. The superb nose is deep, ripe and very classy, offering up scents of apple, tangerine, a touch of peach, a superb base of stony soil, a stylish base of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core of fruit, excellent, ripe acids and superb focus and balance on the very long and youthful finish. This is a classic, structured 2011 white, which will need three or four years in the cellar to fully blossom, but will drink gorgeously far sooner than a wine from a vintage such as 2007 or 2008. 2015-2035. **93.**

2011 Marsannay- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Marsannay *villages* bottling from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is a very stylish middleweight in the making, offering up a meaty nose of red and black cherries, grilled meat, mustard seed, a fine base of soil and a cedary topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, robust and tasty, with moderate tannins, a solid core and sneaky length and grip on the focused finish. This will drink well from day one and is a very good example. 2013-2025+. **87+.**

2011 Fixin- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Fixin from Jean-Nicolas Méo is also a very fine example in the making, wafting from the glass in a black fruity mélange of dark berries, espresso, bonfires, a touch of venison and a lovely base of soil that will take on autumnal shadings fairly quickly. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and very well-balanced, with a good core, moderate tannins and fine grip and length on the focused and black fruity finish. Another lovely Méo-Camuzet *villages* for early drinking. 2014-2025+. **87+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Méo-Camuzet Chambolle AC is a very pretty and perfumed example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a classy, red fruity blend of cherries, strawberries, coffee, woodsmoke and a lovely base of chalky, Chambolle soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, juicy and very suave on the attack, with gentle tannins, a pretty core of fruit, fine focus and nascent complexity and very good length and grip on the focused finish. Lovely wine. 2015-2035. **88+.**

2011 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Morey AC is again, excellent. The deep and already quite complex nose offers up a stylish blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, mustard seed, a touch of clove, a fine base of soil and a hint of the venison to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and beautifully balanced, with a good core, modest tannins and sneaky length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This is another absolutely lovely village wine. 2015-2035. **89+.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

While the previous village wines are made from purchased fruit, the Nuits AC and the Vosne-Romanée *villages* originate from the domaine's own vineyards. The 2011 Nuits is superb, offering up a classic and "cool vintage" profile of dark berries, black cherries, coffee bean, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with lovely precision, fine-grained tannins and impressive grip on the very long and suave finish. This is not quite as forward in style as the previous village wines, but

it is outstanding and will be a terrific example with four or five years of bottle age. 2017-2040. **90.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Vosne-Romanée AC from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is excellent and the pick of the litter amongst this truly impressive range of village wines. The gorgeous nose wafts from the glass in a mix of plums, black cherries, dark chocolate, smoke and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and potentially very silky, with a fine core, a lovely sense of reserve and very good length and grip on the moderately tannic and very poised finish. This is a very classy bottle of Vosne AC, and ranks right up there with the Mugneret-Gibourg version as the best I tasted on this trip. 2017-2035. **90+.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Chambolle “les Cras” was raised in sixty percent new wood this year- perhaps more than I might personally choose, but down decidedly from the “everything in new oak” days of yesteryear at this estate. The wine is excellent, offering up a deep and classy bouquet of red and black cherries, gamebirds, woodsmoke, coffee, incipient notes of *sous bois*, mustard seed and a deft framing of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively complex, with lovely focus and balance, ripe tannins and a very long, classy finish. This will need time in the cellar and be well worth the wait! 2020-2050. **92.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Feusselottes”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

Whereas the entire range of village wines *chez* Méo and the les Cras were singing at the time of my visit, the 2011 Feusselottes was absolutely hunkered down and in no mood for company! The very closed and reticent nose reluctantly offers up scents of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a lovely base of soil, herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is long, full-bodied and very shut down, but with a good core and very superb, backend energy on the chewy finish. I am quite confident that this will be excellent, but it was very shut down in early November. 2020-2050. **90-92.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Argillières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Argillières” from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is a lovely wine that shows off a bit of its close proximity to Clos de l’Arlot in its black fruity and elegant aromatic profile of black cherries, dark berries, coffee bean, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sports lovely mid-palate depth, with a nicely reserved personality, a bit of firm tannin and fine focus on the long, young and well-balanced finish. This will be lovely, but give it a good eight to ten years to blossom. 2022-2050+. **92.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières” is, surprisingly, just a bit more forward structurally than the above wine, but shares the same suave tannic structure and potential for long-term cellaring as so many of the top wines *chez* Méo in this vintage. The very classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, quince, a touch of nutskin, gamebirds, woodsmoke, lovely soil tones and a fine base of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with excellent balance, a fine core of fruit and a long, focused finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and lovely grip. Good juice. 2020-2050. **92.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

For me, it is always interesting to follow the progression in the Méo cellars from the sturdy elegance of the Prémieux premier cru of Argillières, to the classic, central Nuits structure of the Perrières to the more plummy and elegant side of the village as one approaches the Vosne

border with the two domaine holdings in Boudots and Murgers. The 2011 Boudots is a superb wine in the making, offering up a deep, classy and quite black fruity this year nose of black cherries, a touch of cassis, espresso, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke, herb tones and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and potentially very refined, with a fine core of fruit, shave tannins and lovely backend minerality on the long and youthful finish. This will be fine juice. 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “aux Murgers”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Murgers is a bit more closed at the present time than the Boudots, but also perhaps even a tad longer and more precise on the backend. The superb nose is still in hiding a bit, but delivers scents of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of game, bitter chocolate, herbs a touch of cedar and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with very good mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the very well-balanced finish. Lovely wine in the making. 2020-2050. **92+**.



2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Méo-Camuzet Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes” included between ten and fifteen percent whole clusters this year, which is designed to give this pretty easy-going premier cru a bit more spine. This cuvée has benefitted in recent years from a parcel of forty year-old vines that reverted back to the domaine in 2007, after having been in *mettayage* to Domaine Jean Tardy. The 2011 Chaumes offers up a superb and very red fruity mélange of raspberries, red

plums, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil, gamebirds, herbs and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and quite transparent in personality, with well-measured tannins, lovely focus and very good length and grip on the minerally finish. A lovely wine and every bit a match for the outstanding quartet of premier cru Nuits in the cellar (which was not always the case for the Chaumes in the past). 2018-2045. **92.**

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

Like the Chambolle “Feusselottes”, the 2011 Méo Clos Vougeot was not at the top of its game at the time of my visit, but here, rather than being completely shut down, the wine was simply in a phase where its new oak component was not yet fully absorbed into the base of the wine and it was showing a bit woody. The nose is a blend of cherries, red plums, mustard seed, coffee and plenty of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very suave on the attack, with a good core, tangy acids and a long, tangy and nicely focused finish. I have little doubt that this wine will integrate its new oak component seamlessly with a bit more vatting time and turn out to be very good, but if there was ever a wine that cried out for an *elevage* in one wine barrels, I would think the superbly elegant Clos Vougeot *chez* Méo would be that wine! 2022-2060. **92+.**

2011 Corton “Perrières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Corton “Perrières” from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is lovely, wafting from the glass in a fine mix of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, stony soil tones, French roast, fresh herbs and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very well-balanced, with ripe tannins, fine focus and superb grip on the long and youthful finish. This will be a lovely bottle of Corton in a decade or so. 2022-2060. **92+.**

2011 Corton “Clos Rognet”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

As was the case with the 2010 Clos Rognet, the 2011 has really benefitted from the elegant side of the vintage and is a very refined example of this lovely vineyard. The classy nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark plums, dark chocolate, incipient notes of roasted venison, a deep base of soil, smoke and a judicious base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and a long, youthful and very suave (particularly for a young Clos Rognet!) finish. A very refined vintage for this consistently excellent, but sometimes rather burly, wine. 2020-2060. **93.**

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Echézeaux *chez* Méo was showing superb potential at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a deep and black fruity mélange of cassis, dark berries, espresso, fresh herbs, dark soil tones, a touch of bonfire and plenty of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very elegant, with a fine core, suave tannins and a long, transparent and tangy finish. Lovely juice in the making. 2020-2060. **93.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Brulées”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Méo-Camuzet Vosne-Romanée “les Brulées” was the most cantankerous wine in the cellar this year, and was quite reduced at the time of my visit and really not in a proper condition on which to take a precise note. The wine is very long and seems likely to be very pure and complex underneath the reduction, and I have little doubt this will be superb, but I saw no reason to try and take a complete note on a wine that was to be racked not long after my visit.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Cros Parantoux”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Cros Parantoux also included some whole clusters in this vintage, with ten to fifteen percent of the stems retained. The young and superb nose delivers an excellent young mélange of black raspberries, red plums, duck, a touch of blood orange, beautifully complex

minerality, Vosne spices and smoky new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, great elegance and focus, fine-grained tannins and superb length on the tangy and soil-driven finish. A beautifully suave young Cros Parantoux! 2022-2060. **94+**.

2011 Richebourg- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2011 Richebourg from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is stunning, soaring from the glass in a classy blend of black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, a touch of violets, a lovely base of soil, fresh herbs and a judicious base of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sports lovely depth at the core, with a very refined personality, lovely, nascent complexity, fine-grained tannins and superb grip on the young, transparent and laser-like finish. This is a stellar young Richebourg that may end up stylistically quite similar to the lovely 1993 version. 2022-2065+. **95**.

Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret (Vosne-Romanée)

I actually made two visits to Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret on this trip- not an easy thing, given how ridiculously packed my schedule was in November- as the 2011 samples had not been prepared for my first visit. I will be writing an historic feature on the domaine in the spring of this year, and I had asked their American importer when they were making the appointment for me to taste the 2011s to see if it would be possible to taste a few older vintages as well while I was there, so that I could start to accrue some notes for the future piece. The Mongeards very graciously put together a mini-vertical of their fine premier cru of les Orveaux for my first stop, but they had not planned on my also tasting their 2011s during the same visit! As the wines were not stored in the cellars under the family house, there was no way to do the 2011s on that same day. So, we checked schedules and I was back a couple of days later to work through a selection of their 2011s late on a Saturday morning, which worked out very well indeed. The domaine has made lovely wines in the 2011 vintage, but, as nothing had yet been racked, a few of the wines were showing a bit of reduction at the time of my visit. Like many domaines, racking was scheduled to start here as soon as the crush of visitors in November had thinned out a bit. I did not have a chance to ask Vincent Mongeard if he had chapitalized in 2011, but my impression was that he had done so just a touch for some of the wines. It is my understanding that the estate used to de-stem almost entirely, but my notes show this year that a few of the top cuvées included a fair bit of whole clusters, and the Richebourg was not de-stemmed at all in this vintage. I did not taste the entire range, as one of the domaine's English importers was tasting before me on this Saturday, and several of the samples had been selected to reflect the wines that they carried in the UK. I also did not take a proper note on the 2011 Vosne-Romanée "les Maizières Hautes" cuvée (a village wine made from seventy-two year-old vines and bottled on its own in addition to the straight Vosne AC), as it was the one 2011 sample that was just a bit too reduced to really get a read on at the time of my visit.

2011 Fixin- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

Last year, I included a note on the *lieu à dit* bottling from Fixin called les Fondemens (though, of course, I misspelled the name) from the 2010 vintage. The family also makes a straight Fixin AC bottling, and it was the 2011 version of this cuvée that I tasted on my recent visit. The 2011 Fixin from Mongeard-Mugneret is going to be a very elegant middleweight in a few years, as it offers up a complex bouquet of cherries, strawberries, fresh herbs, a nice base of soil and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and complex, with modest

tannins and nice shape and bounce on the long finish. This will be quite silky with a bit of bottle age. Good juice. 2015-2035. **87+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Plateaux”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The 2011 Nuits St. Georges AC bottling from les Plateaux is going to be a very good wine and an excellent value. The lovely nose jumps from the glass in a mix of black cherries, dark berries, venison, bonfires, dark chocolate, a touch of fresh herbs and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and already nicely complex, with moderate tannins, good mid-palate depth and fine length and grip on the well-balanced finish. 2017-2035. **89**.

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The 2011 les Vergelesses from Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret, which hails from a plot of fifty year-old vines, was showing excellent promise at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a complex mélange of black cherries, plums, gamebird, lovely soil tones, woodsmoke and just a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety, with a fine core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and very good focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This again is an outstanding value! 2016-2035. **90**.

2011 Vougeot “les Cras”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The domaine has thirty-five year-old vines in les Cras, which makes this one of the younger parcels in their lineup. The sample on the 2011 was still a bit marked by gas and cranky from a late malo, but it should be a good bottle. The nose offers up scents of cassis, black cherries, espresso, lovely soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and nicely balanced, with good depth at the core, modest tannins and very nice back end persistence on the soil-driven finish. Good juice. 2017-2035+. **88-90+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Orveaux”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The 2011 les Orveaux was one of the later wines in the cellar to finish up its malolactic fermentation and was still retaining a bit of gas, but the wine should prove to be very good indeed in this fine vintage. Under the touch of CO₂ is a lovely and quite black fruity nose of cassis, dark plums, woodsmoke, venison, espresso, dark soil tones and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and will be quite velvety on the attack, with a good core, suave tannins and lovely transparency and grip on the long and classy finish. This will be lovely and should not take too many years in the cellar to really start to drink well. 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

I did not get a chance to taste the domaine’s 2011 Suchots in this visit, but Vincent Mongeard was very kind to hop in his truck and go get a sample of the Petits Monts from the family’s other cellar while I was working through the first handful of wines in the lineup. The Mongeards have only a tiny parcel of fifty year-old vines in Petits Monts, and this is a wine that travels quite a bit below the radar, but I have always liked it on the occasions that I have crossed paths with it. The 2011 Petits Monts was just a touch reduced, but underneath is a lovely wine that offers up scents of raspberries, cherries, raw cocoa, a pretty base of soil, Vosne spice tones, herbs and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and already quite silky on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, fine soil inflection and very good length and grip on the suavely tannic finish. This will be a lovely example of this beautiful premier cru. 2021-2050. **92+**.

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The domaine has two parcels of Echézeaux that are used for this bottling- one in the *lieu à dit* of Clos St. Denis that lies between Suchots and les Treux, and a second parcel in the *lieu à dit* of les Pouallières, which lies up slope from Grands Echézeaux, with the vines in the two plots

ranging from twenty-five to fifty years of age. The 2011 was just a tad reduced at the time of my visit, but the wine will be excellent, as it offers up a fine bouquet of dark berries, cassis, venison, woodsmoke, espresso, dark soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and nicely balanced, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and very fine length and grip on the soil-driven finish. 2020-2060. **93.**

2011 Echézeaux “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The old vines here were planted in 1929. This is a different *lieu à dit* from the other two parcels, with these venerable old vines planted right in the heart of the vineyard, as the bottom of the parcel of les Rouges du Bas. The 2011 old vine bottling includes forty percent whole cluster this year and was showing excellent promise, jumping from the glass in a serious mélange of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, bitter chocolate, game, dark soil tones, fresh herbs and a nice touch of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, fine focus and balance and excellent mineral drive on the very long and youthful finish. This will need a few more years to come around than the straight Echézeaux, but it too will be outstanding. 2022-2060+. **93+.**

2011 Grands Echézeaux- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The Mongeards make my favorite example of Grands Echézeaux and their 2011 is going to be stunning. This wine included thirty percent whole clusters this year. The superb nose delivers a youthful and very classy mélange of black cherries, plums, game, complex, dark soil tones, chocolate, cedar and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with suave, fine-grained tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very long, transparent and still quite primary finish. A very classy grand cru. 2022-2065. **95.**

2011 Richebourg- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret

The 2011 Richebourg is all whole cluster this year and was showing enormous potential at the time of my November visit. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, dark plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds, coffee bean, a beautiful base of soil and a fine framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and nascently complex, with great inherent elegance, superb mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and outstanding focus and balance on the very, very long, elegant and classy finish. A beautiful bottle of Richebourg in the making! 2025-2070. **96+.**

Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg (Vosne-Romanée)

The Mugneret sisters have made absolutely beautiful 2011s, which comes as no surprise, as this great old domaine has been on a hot streak since at least the 1998 vintage and is so consistently excellent year in and year out these days that it is never a chore to taste the new vintage in their deep cellars in Vosne-Romanée. On our visit on the 19th of November, Madame Jacqueline Mugneret, Dr. George Mugneret's wife and the sisters' mother joined us for the tasting, as she commented that she had not yet tasted the full range of the 2011s and it was high time to taste through the entire range. The wines were showing absolutely beautifully, as the malos here were early in 2011 and the whole cellar had been racked in July of 2012 and was really back in balance post-racking and every single wine was singing. The 2011 vintage will be the last for the Gevrey-Chambertin “Premier Cru” bottling from the domaine produced from the young vines in Ruchottes-Chambertin, as the replanted section of the family's parcel in the vineyard has now reached a good age and these vines will be blended back into the Ruchottes-Chambertin cuvée again starting with the 2012 vintage. As was the case with several other vigneronns with whom I visited on this trip, the Mugneret sisters noted that the vintage really did

not start to show all of its quality until the wines had spent several months in barrel, and they kept continually deepening and blossoming as the élevage went along and today, the wines must certainly be ranked as one of the great recent successes at Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg. The 2011s are very pure, perfumed and strikingly transparent wines that will blossom into very elegant thoroughbreds with sufficient bottle age, but have lovely structures and will not share the immediate accessibility of some of the wines found in the Côte de Nuits in this vintage. They will not quite rank up there with the 2010s, but I like them better than the 2009s and right up there with the 2008s as some of the most classic recent vintages chez Mugneret. In terms of size and shape, they may have some similarities with the fine 2007s from the domaine, but with far greater precision to their underlying expressions of terroir than the earlier vintage, and also fresher fruit aromatics and flavors. In particular, the three Nuits St. Georges bottlings chez Mugneret showed off the elegant side of this vintage and are amongst the most polished and perfumed young examples of Nuits that I can recall tasting. The 2011s from Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg are amongst the finest wines I tasted on this trip- but, that is nothing new!



Marie-Andrée, Jacqueline and Marie-Christine Mugneret in the domaine's cellars in Vosne-Romanée.

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2011 Bourgogne Rouge from Domaine Mugneret-Gibourg was showing beautifully at the end of November, offering up a deep and perfumed bouquet of plums, cocoa, violets and a lovely base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and quite silky on the

attack, with fine focus and just a touch of backend tannin perking up the long and soil-driven finish. Lovely juice that will want a couple of years of bottle age to fully blossom. 2014-2020+. 87+.

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

I have a lot of the domaine's Vosne-Romanée *villages* bottling in my own personal cellar, as I find this to be the finest AC bottling in the commune. The 2011 is another stellar success, offering up a lovely and quite complex nose of black cherries, plums, a beautifully refined base of soil, just a touch of vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and elegant on the attack, with fine mid-palate intensity, suave tannins and fine focus and grip on the very long, young and potentially elegant finish. This will be a lovely wine and make a very strong argument why it makes sense to cellar top village wines! 2017-2035. 90.

2011 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The Mugnerets' 2011 Nuits old vine bottling from the *lieu à dit* of Bas de Combe on the Vosne border has turned out beautifully, jumping from the glass in an extremely elegant (particularly for young Nuits St. Georges) bouquet of dark plums, black cherries, a lovely base of soil, dark chocolate, woodsmoke and a gently floral topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seductive on the attack, with excellent mid-palate depth, suave tannins and very fine length and grip on the youthful and very refined finish. Great juice. 2016-2035+. 90+.

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Vignes Rondes"- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2011 Vignes Rondes shares the uncanny elegance of all the young Nuits St. Georges bottlings *chez* Mugneret this year, offering up a lovely nose of dark berries, black cherries, coffee bean, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. A fine wine in the making. 2020-2050. 91+.

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots"- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2011 Mugneret Chaignots is also outstanding, offering up a lovely bouquet of black cherries, dark plums, gamebirds, violets, dark chocolate, coffee bean, soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with very good mid-palate concentration, excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and great breed and nascent complexity on the long and utterly refined finish. Young Nuits St. Georges does not come any more elegant than this superb wine! 2020-2050+. 92.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes"- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

I love the Feusselottes *chez* Mugneret and the 2011 is another classic in the making, wafting from the glass in a very elegant mélange of red and black cherries, plums, violets, dark chocolate, woodsmoke, soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very elegant on the attack, with fine mid-palate depth of sappy fruit, suave tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and complex finish. Give these girls some vines in Musigny, please! 2020-2050+. 93.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Premier Cru"- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

How quickly ten years can go by the wayside! It has been a decade since the diseased section of vines in Ruchottes was grubbed up and replanted and the cuvée of "Ruchottes Jr." in the Mugneret cellars will be no more after the release of the 2011, as these vines are now ready again for the big time. The 2011 Premier Cru is outstanding, offering up a deep and very pure nose of cassis, dark plums, grilled meats, black minerality and just a touch of new wood. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with nascent complexity, fine mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and excellent focus and balance on the long and soil-driven finish. This is clearly grand cru quality again! 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The last vintage bottled exclusively from the old vines here is magical. The pure and very classy bouquet offers up a complex mélange of black cherries, a touch of black raspberry, incipient notes of grilled meat, black minerality, mustard seed, coffee bean and a suave base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven in personality, with a rock solid core, great refinement and superb balance, fine-grained tannins and stunning length and grip on the dancing and still quite youthful finish. A brilliant wine! 2022-2075. **95+**.

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The only wine that was a bit cranky at the time of my visit to the Mugnerets' cellars was the 2011 Echézeaux, which was in a bit of an adolescent funk and not happy being disturbed. However, its eventual excellence is easy to read, as the wine offers up an aromatic blend of dark berries, black cherries, woodsmoke, cool soil tones, gamebirds, espresso and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved, with a superb core, ripe and perfectly integrated tannins and fine grip and focus on the long and transparent finish. This will be lovely, but give it nine or ten years of bottle age. 2022-2060+. **94**.

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2011 Clos Vougeot is as close as one can come to Musigny in the Mugneret lineup at the present time, as this wine simply exudes a degree of complexity and nuance that is not equaled anywhere else in the Clos. The 2011 is a stunning young wine, soaring from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, plums, a touch of nutskin, a beautifully complex base of soil, woodsmoke, gamebirds and new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very elegant, with a rock solid core, ripe, classy tannins and laser-like focus on the beautifully balanced and wonderfully complex finish. The epitome of elegance! 2022-2075. **96**.

Domaine Georges Noëllat (Vosne-Romanée)

I was introduced to young Maxime Cheurlin in November of 2011 and I had a chance to visit and taste his 2010s in March of last year. I had intended to visit his cellars in the spring to taste his 2011s, but we ran into each other at Jacques Lardière's retirement celebration and he graciously made time to see me at the end of a very long day of tasting at the tail end of my trip. When we arrived to taste, there was already a contingent of tasters in the cellars from the United Kingdom in the cellars, so we had a chance to visit with Monsieur Cheurlin's grandmother, Madame Noëllat, from whom Maxime has taken over the winemaking duties in 2010. The 2011 Domaine Georges Noëllat 2011s look likely to be a very strong set of wines and a very good follow-up to the 2010s here, but we did not arrive at the most propitious time for tasting, as several of the wines had just been racked only a couple of weeks prior to our visit and they were clearly not yet bounced back from the process. Others were due for their racking right after the press of visitors in November had gone back home, so other wines were a bit reduced and cranky as well. But, enough wines were in good form to get a feel for the overall success here in 2011, and it seems quite clear to me that Maxime Cheurlin has done a very good job with his 2011s and that this will be a very successful second vintage for the young Vosne vigneron. I noted that the perception of new oak in the wines was less than had been the case in a few of the 2010s, and when I mentioned this to Monsieur Cheurlin, he observed that "several barrels needed replacing from his grandmother's era and he was obliged to use more new wood than he would have liked

in 2010, as there was no other choice, but he was happy to not need so much new wood in 2011 and plans on using less new wood in the coming vintages as well. Monsieur Cheurlin is a very young vigneron- probably in his very early twenties right now- and his wines are only going to get better as he gains in experience with the passing years. Given how well he has started with his first two vintages, this is clearly a domaine to keep both eyes on now and on into the future, as despite the cellar being in a far from optimal moment for tasting, there were a lot of very promising 2011s here.

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2011 Vosne-Romanée from Domaine Georges Noëllat had only been racked three weeks prior to my visit and was waiting to settle in tank for bottling some time after the first of the year. The wine seemed quite promising, despite its shaken state, offering up scents of black cherries, plums, pretty soil tones, woodsmoke and a hint of new oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and nicely balanced, with a good core, soft tannins and very nice length and grip on the finish. I am sure this will be quite good, as these are sixty year-old vines and I see nothing here in this still unsettled wine (from the recent racking) that would indicate anything but a positive evolution ahead. 2015-2035. **88-89+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Georges Noëllat

In contrast to the Vosne AC, the 2011 Nuits *villages* bottling was still in cask and just a touch reduced in late November. Underneath is a wine that shows very fine potential, offering up scents of black cherries and plums, venison, dark soil tones, a bit of bonfire and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite suave on the attack, with a very good core, moderate tannins and very fine length and grip on the focused and fairly forward finish. This should only take a few years to come forward and should drink very well from an early age. 2015-2035. **88-89+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2011 les Chaumes from Maxime Cheurlin was raised entirely in one year-old barrels in this vintage, but was still showing a bit of influence from the toasty barrels on both the nose and palate at the time of my visit. The bouquet is a complex blend of black cherries, plums, dark soil tones, a bit of espresso and toasty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a good core, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the classy finish. I would expect that the oak influence here is going to dissipate a bit as the wine sees a bit more *elevage*, as these are not even new barrels, and if the wood recedes a bit, then my score will seem conservative, as there really is a lovely combination of pure fruit and fine soil tones here as well. 2018-2040. **89+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

Sadly, the 2011 Petits Monts had been racked only two weeks before my visit and was still quite shaken up from the procedure. However, there is a very good wine under the agitation and I would expect this wine to be one of the stars in the cellar in this vintage. The bouquet is a complex blend of black raspberries, dark berries, espresso, lovely minerality, woodsmoke and a dollop of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with lovely transparency, a good core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This will be very, very good. 2017-2040. **92**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Beaumonts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

I did not get a chance to try the 2010 Beaumonts last spring, but was very happy to taste the 2011 version. This wine was raised in fifty percent new oak in 2010 and had not yet been

racked. The wine was showing very well indeed, with a lot more of a red fruity personality than is typical of this *terroir* in most vintages (but which I also found in a few other 2011 versions that I tasted on this trip) offering up a complex and vibrant nose of raspberries, cherries, cocoa powder, Vosne spices, a fine base of soil, fresh herbs and a stylish base of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very suave on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, fine minerality, good focus and grip and a nice touch of backend, ripe tannin on the long finish. This is a very fine example of Beaumonts. 2018-2040. **92+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

I had not loved the 2010 Boudots from Monsieur Cheurlin, as I found it the one wine that was having a hard time carrying its new wood at the time of my visit last spring. This year, the 2011 Boudots was again raised in more new oak than the Vosne premier crus- seventy-five percent versus fifty percent for the Petits Monts and Beaumonts- but it was showing lovely balance and had no difficulties carrying its new wood. The deep and stylish nose offers up a fine mélange of red and black cherries, a touch of nutskin, a bit of citrus zest, a lovely base of soil and a fine framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a good core, moderate tannins and fine focus and balance on the long and promising finish. This is going to be a lovely example of the vintage, as it shares the elegance of 2011 and the generosity of top-notch Boudots. 2018-2040. **91+**.

2011 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat

As I noted when tasting the 2010 version, 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. Normally there will be four barrels of Echézeaux in the cellars in an average vintage, but there was a tractor accident in the vines in 2011, so that the production is way down for this vintage and there is only a single barrel. The barrel is new, but is nicely integrated, and Monsieur Cheurlin used about fifteen percent whole clusters for this wine in 2011. This was still in barrel and had not yet been racked at the time of my visit and was showing very well indeed. The bouquet is superb, offering up a deep and sappy nose of red plums, cherries, duck, lovely soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite elegant on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, fine focus and very good length and grip on the well-balanced and moderately tannic finish. This is a very classy bottle of Echézeaux in the making. 2020-2050. **93+**.

2011 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 2011 was also still in barrel and showing very good potential, despite being a touch reduced and ready for its racking (which was scheduled for the week after my visit). The deep and classy nose under the touch of reduction is a fine mélange of red and black cherries, venison, red plums, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil, Vosne spices and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with fine mid-palate depth, lovely focus and a bit of ripe tannin to resolve on the very long and classy finish. This will be a lovely example as well. 2022-2050+. **94**.

Nuits St. Georges

Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils (Nuits St. Georges)

Bertrand Chevillon is very happy with the quality of the 2011 vintage, which he calls a “Bon Surprise”, as the wines have continued to blossom in barrel over the course of their élevage and are now truly top-notch. As he recounts, “right after malolactic fermentation, the wines were not particularly precise or deep and we did not really have a sense of what we had,

but over the last several months, they have gotten better and better and now look to be like a combination of 2000 and 2001- with the lovely fruit of 2000 and the superior depth and structure of 2001.” This sounds like a pretty good combination to me, though I have a gut feeling that the 2011s chez Cheillon may end up even a bit better than either of those vintages when all is said and done! The generous fruit here of 2011 strikes me as a bit more pure than was the case in the very strong 2000 Cheillon wines at a similar stage of their development, and there is probably just a touch more inherent elegance to be found in the 2011s than is the case with the superb 2001s here. Monsieur Cheillon chose to chapitalize just a tiny amount in this vintage, so as to prolong the fermentations just a bit longer. The young 2011s at Domaine Cheillon were absolutely singing at the time of my November visit, with the great elegance and purity of the vintage very much in evidence here. As is the case with several other top estates in the village of Nuits St. Georges, there is a lot of sappy red fruit to be found in many of the Domaine Cheillon 2011s, which I always take to be a good sign with young Nuits and which augurs very well for their refinement at their apogees of peak maturity. As was the case with the excellent 2000 vintage chez Cheillon, the 2011s here seem likely to offer up fairly early accessibility, with their suave tannins likely to be always covered with the beautiful fruit of the vintage, but I would be very inclined to try and hold off opening too many of these very, very promising 2011s until they start to close in on ten years’ worth of bottle age, as there is simply stunning potential here!



Bertrand Cheillon in the family cellars in Nuits St. Georges.

2011 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2011 Nuits V.V. from Domaine Chevillon is a very lovely example of the vintage. The deep and quite red fruity nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, pomegranate, nutskins, a beautiful base of soil tones and a nice touch of fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and nicely focused, with a sappy core of fruit, impressive transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very long and classy finish. A lovely village wine. 2018-2040. **89+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

Chaignots is often the most forward and sappy of the premier crus *chez* Chevillon, but the 2011 version strikes me as tad more structured out of the blocks and seems destined to really be a great vintage for this lovely premier cru. The outstanding nose offers up great purity in its mélange of red and black cherries, blood orange, a beautiful base of minerality, nutskins, a deft framing of vanillin oak and a gently floral topnote that reminds me of peonies. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with outstanding mid-palate depth, excellent focus and grip, and a very long, fine-grained and utterly refined finish. This will give the stellar 2010 Chevillon Chaignots a run for its money with a bit of bottle age. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Busselots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

Busselots lies just downslope from the premier cru of Aux Thorey, at the end of the band of premier crus on the northern side of the village, with the lower section of Chaignots its immediate neighbor to the north. The 2011 from Domaine Chevillon was showing outstanding promise at the time of my visit, delivering a complex and very pure bouquet of red and black cherries, a touch of dark berry, deep soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a deft framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more reserved out of the blocks than the Chaignots, with a lovely core of fruit, moderate tannins and very fine backend length and grip. This will be a lovely wine, but I might give a very slight nod to the Chaignots this year in the Chevillon cellars. 20121-2050. **91+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2011 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières” from Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils is simply superb, with the red fruity side of this great premier cru very much in evidence on both the nose and palate in this vintage. The outstanding bouquet jumps from the glass in a mix of cherries, pomegranate, blood orange, a great base of stony minerality, coffee, roses, herb tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine, sappy core of fruit, excellent soil inflection, ripe tannins and exceptional length and grip on the beautifully focused finish. A superb Perrières in the making. 2022-2060. **93.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Roncières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

Roncières is one of the smaller premier crus in Nuits, but it is beautifully-situated between les Pruliers and les Porrets on the band of premier crus to the south of the center of the village. The Chevillon vines in Roncières range from forty-five to nearly seventy years of age, and the last few vintages of this bottling have been as promising as any I have ever tasted from the domaine. The 2011 Roncières is superb and nicely reserved, offering up a pure and sappy bouquet of black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a beautiful base of soil, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with great focus, ripe tannins and a very long, beautifully balanced and very soil-driven finish. This is an outstanding wine in the making and not far off the brilliant 2010, which is the greatest young Roncières I have ever had the pleasure to taste from Domaine Chevillon. 2022-2060. **93.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Pruliers”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2011 Chevillon Pruliers is a classic in the making, with its very black fruity and soil-driven personality delivering a complex and very pure bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, gamebirds, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and coffee bean. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite broad-shouldered, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent soil drive, ripe tannins and a very long, precise and transparent finish. Like the 2010 Pruliers, the 2011 is a very elegant young rendition of this fine wine. 2025-2060+. **93.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

Monsieur Chevillon commented that the 2011 les Cailles was already beginning to close down for the winter and that the wine was quite a bit more expressive a few weeks before my visit. Given how beautifully this great wine in the making was showing, I would have loved to have seen it when it was really on form! The stunning and very sappy nose offers up scents of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, a touch of meatiness, coffee bean, nutskins, a dollop of vanillin oak and a simply stunning signature of soil. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and youthfully structured, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe and suave tannins, lovely focus on the soil-driven finish. The 2011 is a great young Cailles that may not quite match the brilliance of the 2010 version, but is an absolute reference point example of this superb *terroir*. 2025-2070. **94+.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2011 Chevillon Les St. Georges is a brilliant wine in the making. The deep and stunning nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, pomegranate, stunningly complex soil tones, a touch of nutskin, gamebirds, pungent violets and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and nascently complex, with a very sappy and deep mid-palate, ripe, seamless tannins, laser-like focus and magical length and grip on the very soil-driven, refined and intense finish. A brilliant wine in the making! 2025-2075. **96.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2011 Vaucrains from Domaine Chevillon is a superb example of the vintage, delivering a deep and very youthful blend of red and black cherries, plums, gamebirds, raw cocoa, a very minerally expression of dark soil, nutskins and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a sappy core of fruit, an outstanding signature of soil, firm, ripe tannins, exceptional focus and balance and stunning mineral drive on the very, very long and classy finish. Stunning young Vaucrains. 2025-2075. **95.**

Domaine Henri Gouges (Nuits St. Georges)

A year ago, when I was tasting the domaines 2010s out of barrel, Grégory Gouges intimated that the 2011s from his family’s domaine were showing exceptional promise as well, and one year on, it is quite clear that these wines are very, very close in quality to the stunning 2010s produced here. Like several of the vignerons who I visited with in November, he was very content with the ripeness levels of the wines, despite relatively low sugars, and consequently, only the Bourgogne rouge and Nuits AC bottlings were chapitalized a very tiny amount, with all of the premier crus unchapitalized in this vintage. The natural alcohol levels for the premier crus chez Gouges in 2011 range from 12.3 to 12.7 percent and share the stunning purity and elegance of the very best wines of this vintage. I love the synthesis of the refinement of a year such as 2011 with the structural integrity of top Nuits St. Georges, and it seems pretty clear that fifteen or twenty years down the road, it is going to be a difficult decision whether one prefers the 2010s or the 2011s at this estate- that is how good these 2011s have turned out! As can often be the case here in November, a few of the 2011s in barrel were a bit reduced at the time of my visit, as the

wines had not yet been racked for the most part and were destined to have this operation performed right after the wave of November tasters had receded a bit. Nevertheless, it was very easy to see that the 2011 Gouges wines are going to be absolutely stunning and will rank up there with the very best wines produced in this excellent vintage. Virtually across the board, I was quite struck with how beautifully floral so many of the 2011 Gouges wines were at the present time, with a handful of the premier crus showing an overt and very beautiful violet topnote that is really quite rare and special in young Nuits St. Georges. I do not know if this quality will continue to be so dominant in the wines as they evolve with bottle age (I certainly hope this will be the case!), but all of these violets in the glass right now seems to speak of absolutely perfect ripeness and great promise for elegance down the road for the 2011 Gouges wines. This great estate has been at the top of its game for many years, but it is hard to imagine that the great wines produced here in 2008, 2010 and 2011 will not eventually rank up there with the very greatest wines ever produced in the illustrious history of Domaine Henri Gouges!

2011 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2011 *villages* bottling of Nuits St. Georges from the Gouges family was just a tad reduced at the time of my visit, but it was pretty clear that this is going to be a lovely wine. The pure and quite deep nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, coffee bean, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a good core of fruit, chewy tannins and fine focus and grip on the long and well-balanced finish. This will need five or six years in the cellar to really start to blossom and should prove to be an excellent village wine. 2018-2040. **89+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Chaignots”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2011 Gouges les Chaignots is a beautiful wine in the making. The deep and very transparent nose delivers a complex mix of black cherries, a touch of cassis, dark chocolate, incipient notes of gamebird, smoke and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with superb transparency, ripe, firm tannins, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the poised and beautifully finished finish. This is a bit more structured out of the blocks than the version from Domaine Chevillon, but both should prove to be reference point examples of this lovely premier cru. 2020-2060. **92**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Chaines de Carteaux”- Domaine Henri Gouges

There are only four or five owners of vines in this lovely, small premier cru, with the Gouges family owning twenty-five percent of the vineyard. It is located right above Les St. Georges on the slope, so one could not ask for a better location and the wine really should be better known than it is these days. The 2011 from Domaine Gouges is excellent, jumping from the glass in a mélange of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a nice touch of espresso in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very elegant out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, impressive, nascent complexity and impressive focus and balance on the very long and structured finish. This is going to be a superb wine in eight to ten years. 2020-2060. **92**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Porrets”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2011 Clos des Porrets is destined to be a legendary vintage of this great premier cru that lies alongside les Cailles on the slope. The bouquet is very deep and simply stunning, offering up a very refined blend of black cherries, a touch of pomegranate, dark soil tones, fresh herbs, dark chocolate, violets and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied,

pure and rock solid at the core, with great delineation, ripe, firm tannins and excellent grip and soil signature on the very long and classy finish. The 2010 version of Clos des Porrets is absolutely stellar, but the 2011 may well be every bit as fine in the fullness of time! 2022-2060+. **93+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Henri Gouges

I have to confess that normally, les Pruliers is not a Nuits St. Georges premier cru that I would typically rank amongst my favorites in the village, as the wine is often a bit dense and animal out of the blocks and does not seem to offer the same inherent complexity found in wines such as Clos des Porrets or Perrières for example. However, I should note that I have never drunk really old examples of this premier cru, so perhaps I have simply not seen a wine mature enough to deliver its full potential. That said, the 2011 Pruliers from Domaine Gouges is really quite stunning, as it jumps from the glass in a complex nose of red and dark berries, black cherries, lovely minerality, espresso, woodsmoke and violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and delivers outstanding mid-palate depth, with the minerality of the nose carrying through in the mouth. The finish is very long, ripely tannic and beautifully transparent. There is a refinement here that (at least in my experience) is very rare in young Pruliers! 2022-2075. **93+**.



Grégory Gouges, with a few of his magical 2010s that we revisited after working through the beautiful 2011s.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Henri Gouges

As is typical with this great premier cru, the 2011 Gouges Vaucrains is quite a bit more reserved and structured out of the blocks than either the Clos des Porrets or the Pruliers this year. The nose offers up stunning promise, delivering scents of red and black cherries, pomegranate, dark soil tones, incipient notes of bonfire, gamebirds, a touch of blood orange, raw cocoa and again, plenty of violets in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and strikingly pure and soil-driven, with a rock solid core, stunning focus and balance, firm, chewy tannins and brilliant length and grip on the very youthful finish. 2025-2075+. **95.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The supreme elegance of the 2011 vintage has found its perfect match in the glorious complexity of Les St. Georges and the version *chez* Gouges is a brilliant young wine. The stunning nose soars from the glass in an utterly captivating mélange of red and black cherries, pomegranate, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds, violets and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is very pure, soil-driven and full-bodied, with laser-like focus, stunning depth at the sappy core, suave, firm tannins and magical length and grip on the still quite primary, but, oh so promising finish. This is going to be an absolutely magical wine in the fullness of time! 2025-2075+. **96+.**

Domaine Alain Michelot (Nuits St. Georges)

Elodie Michelot and her team began harvesting in 2011 on September 3rd. As is customary in November, none of the wines in the cellars had yet been racked, but with the malos on the early side in this vintage, the cellar was showing a bit less recalcitrant than it often can be at this time of year. The Michelot cellars are usually quite cold, so it is not a rare occurrence to find the wines quite shut down and sometimes a bit reduced and in need of a racking in November. This year, only one or two wines were at that stage- perhaps because the cold winter weather had not yet really arrived across Burgundy in mid-November, and the wines were showing very well indeed. In any case, racking was scheduled to get underway the week after my visit, so any vestiges of reduction will be long gone by this time. This is one of my very favorite producers in Nuits St. Georges, and it strikes me that the wines are better today than they have ever been in the history of the domaine. There is a veritable treasure trove of brilliant premier crus from Nuits St. Georges to be had here, but the two wines from Morey St. Denis should emphatically not be overlooked either! The old vine Nuits AC bottling, which is produced from fifty-plus year-old vines was one of the finest village wines I tasted on this trip and will clearly reward those savvy enough to cellar it for five or six years. The new addition of Clos Vougeot in the cellars was showing superbly well in its second vintage here, and the 2011 will be a reference point example of this grand cru. Across the board, 2011 is an excellent vintage chez Michelot and these wines come very, very highly recommended.

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Alain Michelot

I cannot tell if I am just paying more attention to the Michelot Bourgogne rouge these days or if the wine has jumped up in quality, but I have really liked the last few vintages of this wine! The 2011 is really lovely, offering up a pretty aromatic blend of cherries, a touch of strawberry, meaty tones, a fine base of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and very nicely styled, with a touch of tannin, good depth and impressive grip on the long and tasty finish. Give this a year or two of cellaring to allow it to really blossom. 2014-2025. **87.**

2011 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2011 Morey AC was one of the wines that was a tad reduced in November, so it was tough to get a precise read on the wine at the time of my visit, but it was certainly long, pure and shapely in the mouth. This wine hails from a parcel of fifty-plus year-old vines that lie towards the Gevrey border. The nose on the 2011 Michelot Morey *villages*, under the touch of reduction is a blend of cherries, mustard seed, vinesmoke and a nice base of soil. On the palate the wine is long, pure and full, with good structure, modest tannins and very good length and grip. I am sure this will be at least very good and perhaps outstanding for its appellation. 2018-2035. **88-89+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The old vine bottling of Nuits AC from Domaine Michelot is also made up of vines in excess of fifty years of age, and in contrast to the slightly cranky Morey AC, this wine was singing in November. The deep and sappy nose offers up a lovely mélange of cherries, red plums, a touch of nutskin, a lovely base of soil and a bit of woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a good core and a classic, sturdy Nuits backend of moderate tannins and lovely soil drive. This is a classy juice. 2018-2040. **89+**.

2011 Morey St. Denis “les Charrières”- Domaine Alain Michelot

As I noted last year, the 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, and includes Clos des Ormes, les Façonnières, les Millandes, and a little bit further on to the south both Clos Sorbés and les Ruchots. This is the “Gold Coast” of premier crus in Morey. The 2011 Michelot Charrières was just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, so I may be underrating this wine a touch as a result. The nose is a superb blend of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebird, fresh herbs and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a very good core of fruit, suave tannins and impressive length and grip on the focused finish. This will be quite velvety at maturity. 2019-2040+. **90+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Michelots’ parcel of les Cailles is situated alongside that of Bertrand Chevillon’s in the heart and soul of the vineyard, though the Chevillon vines are in excess of eighty-five years of age and a portion of the Michelots’ parcel was replanted in 1968 (though the other section dates from 1938), so there is not quite the same old vine sappiness in their version. The 2011 Michelot Cailles is excellent, offering up a lovely and quite sappy bouquet of cherries, red plums, nutskins, incipient notes of gamebird and a beautifully complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and potentially very elegant, with lovely focus and mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the classy finish. The inherent elegance of this fine premier cru are already very much in evidence here. 2020-2050. **92**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “la Richemone”- Domaine Alain Michelot

La Richemone is one of those very elegant premier crus located on the Vosne side of Nuits St. Georges, and the 2011 from Domaine Michelot has really turned out beautifully. The pure and elegant nose wafts from the glass in a classy blend of cherries, blood orange, nutskin, lovely minerality, smoke and a bit of roasted quail in the upper register (which it would go marvelously with a decade from now). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite transparent, with fine focus and balance, ripe, well-integrated tannins and excellent length and grip on the classy and youthful finish. All this needs is some time in the cellar. 2019-2050. **92+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Champs Perdrix”- Domaine Alain Michelot

Along with the older section of the Michelots’ parcel in Les Cailles, these are the oldest vines at the domaine, having been planted in 1937. This is the smallest premier cru in Nuits St. Georges, lying up slope from Chaignots, with a very stony soil composition that is more limestone than clay, making this one of the raciest premier crus in the village. The bouquet on the 2011 Michelot Champs Perdrix is really gorgeous, jumping from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cocoa, gamebirds, a touch of citrus zest, stony soil tones and a nice touch of violet. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a fine core of fruit, lovely mineral drive, suave tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully balanced finish. Fine, fine juice in the making. 2020-2050+. **92+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2011 Michelot Chaignots is a fine example of the vintage, with a very nice sense of reserve (not always evident with this sometimes flamboyant premier cru) that augurs very well for its cellaring potential. The deep and beautiful nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, nutskins, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely delineated, with excellent mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the elegant finish. Lovely Chaignots. 2020-2050. **92**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Porrets St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot

A year ago, I reported that the 2010 would be the last vintage of les Porrets St. Georges at Domaine Michelot, as the vines are reverting to a younger cousin, but apparently, I misunderstood last year and 2011 is to be the last vintage here for this cru. The 2011 les Porrets offers up a very deep and sappy nose of plums, black cherries, dark soil tones, incipient notes of venison, coffee bean and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary in profile, with a rock solid core, firm, well-integrated tannins, bright acids and excellent grip on the long and pure finish. Another outstanding premier cru. 2021-2050. **92+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot

Elodie Michelot noted that the domaine’s parcel in Les St. Georges had been replanted in 1978, so the vines are now over thirty years of age and in her estimate, they are just now starting to deliver the depth and intensity that is possible in this great *terroir*. The 2011 is an excellent wine, offering up a stunning and sappy nose of red and black cherries, a touch of nutskin, red plums, a very complex base of soil and a very floral topnote that is redolent of both roses and violets. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with a sappy core of fruit, beautiful transparency, suave tannins and a very, very long, focused and classy finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2020-2050. **93**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Alain Michelot

Like the domaine’s parcel in Les St. Georges, the Michelot vines in Vaucrains are coming into their prime at age thirty-five and the 2011 has really turned out beautifully. The deep, black fruity and properly reserved nose offers up scents of black cherries, gamebirds, deep, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite closed and primary in personality, with a rock solid core of fruit, firm, ripe tannins and a very long, chewy and soil-driven finish. This will be excellent, but give it time. 2022-2050+. **93+**.

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Alain Michelot

As I noted last year, the vines for the new Michelot Clos Vougeot lie right below Grands Echézeaux at the top of the slope on the southern side of the Clos and were planted in 1972. While this is only the second vintage of this wine to be produced *chez* Michelot, I do not think it is too early to state that this is one of the top four or five examples of Clos Vougeot being

currently produced in the Côte d'Or, and the 2011 is a superb follow-up to the inaugural 2010. The beautiful and reserved nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red berries, cherries, coffee, gamebirds, a beautifully complex base of soil, a hint of violet and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a fine core of fruit, superb backend energy, refined tannins and excellent length and grip on the bouncy, focused and suave finish. Very high class Clos Vougeot! 2022-2070. **95.**

Savigny-lès-Beaune

Domaine Camus-Bruchon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

Guillaume Camus had racked most of the 2011s in the cellar three weeks prior to my visit on November 9th, so some of the wines had obviously not bounced back completely and were still a little out of sorts from their racking. The only exceptions to this were the premier crus of Gravaains (which was very late on its malolactic fermentation and was just finishing up at the time of my visit), the Lavières (also just finishing malo in November), the Narbantons (malo finished in September) and les Arvelets (which was also just finishing its malo) and these wines had consequently had not yet been racked. All the other malos here finished up on the early side, as was typical in this vintage, with most winding down in the late spring of 2012. As a result of the recent racking on many wines, coupled with the just completed malos on several others, the Camus-Bruchon cellars were not in a great stage for tasting, but the quality of these lovely 2011s was quite obvious- even with the wines in slightly cranky states. The quality here has been absolutely smoking since the 2005 vintage and fans of this estate are not going to be disappointed with the great range of wines in 2011, as Guillaume Camus has captured ever bit of potential in this lovely vintage. He was suffering from the flu at the time of my visit in November, so I did not pester him with tons of questions during our tasting, as it was pretty obvious that he was headed straight back to his sickbed after we finished up. Consequently, I did not ask if he had chapitalized in this vintage, but I would guess that he had taken the tack of many other vigneronns and added just a touch of sugar to keep the fermentations going a bit longer. The wines are classic examples of 2011, with great purity and elegance, coupled to silky palate impressions and great individuality in their expressions of their underlying terroir. This domaine made some of the most profoundly beautiful 2010s that I tasted a year ago, and the 2011s are a more than worthy follow-up to the 2010s here and are another group of absolutely beautiful young wines. It is pretty hard these days not to come to the conclusion that Domaine Camus-Bruchon is one of the finest domaines in all of Burgundy today.

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The Camus Bourgogne in 2011 is a very pretty wine in the making, offering up a red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, roses, lovely soil tones and just a touch of raw cocoa in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and vibrant, with lovely shape, silky tannins and a nice touch of youthful Savigny spice perking up the long finish. A very classy rendition of its appellation. 2014-2030+. **88.**

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is another very expressive wine that was really singing at the time of my visit and not showing any ill effects from its recent racking. The perfumed nose jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of cherries, a touch of blood orange, lovely minerality, roses, a touch of vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and velvety on the attack, with a pretty core of fruit,

nice acids and just a touch of backend tannin to add shape and grip on the long finish. This is a beautiful bottle of Chorey and one of the great steals of the vintage! 2014-2030+. **90.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2011 Camus family's Savigny-lès-Beaune *villages* was a bit more reserved than the Chorey at the time of my visit- no doubt a bit more cranky after its recent racking. However, the wine is very pure and refined underneath, offering up a lovely bouquet of cherries, red currant, stony soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a hint of vanillin oak (despite the wine being raised solely in four and five wine barrels). On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very elegant for a young Savigny, with a sappy core of fruit, a bit of modest tannin and a long, soil-driven finish. This is again a lovely *villages*. 2015-2035. **90+.**



Guillaume Camus outside of the domaine's office in Savigny-lès-Beaune.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Pimentiers” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

Since I began visiting this domaine several years ago- at the instigation of Claude Kolm, to whom I will forever be indebted for his suggestion that I add this estate to my itinerary- I have always found both the Pimentiers and the Grands Liards old vine bottlings to be premier cru quality, and this is certainly the case in 2011. The '11 Pimentiers shows off simply stunning depth, jumping from the glass in a mélange of red and black cherries, stony soil tones, woodsmoke, a bit of game, fresh herbs and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-

bodied and very soil-driven, with a sappy core of fruit, a nice sense of reserve, ripe tannins and a long, focused and primary finish. This will be a terrific wine. 2017-2035+. **91+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards” V. V.- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

I can never choose a favorite here between the parcel of eighty-eight year-old vines in Pimentiers or the ninety-two year-old vines in Grands Liards, as both parcels of old vines make utterly classic examples of Savigny. The 2011 Grands Liards is a terrific wine, delivering a deep and utterly classic bouquet of black cherries, a touch of red currant, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, a hint of new oak and a topnote of currant leaf. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe, chewy tannins, fine focus and a long, classy and still quite primary finish. Fine juice. 2018-2040. **91+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

As I noted in the introduction, the Gravains was one of the last wine to finish up its malo this year and had only just stopped a few days before my tasting. The wine was obvious pretty grumpy at this stage, but it was also quite clear that this wine will be excellent. The classy nose is a blend of red and black cherries, a touch of currant leaf, woodsmoke, gamebirds, fresh herbs, espresso and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, fine focus and lovely length and grip on the youthful finish. All this will need is five or six years of cellaring to really blossom. 2018-2050. **92+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2011 Camus-Bruchon Lavières had only just finished up its malo at the time of my visit and still retained a fair bit of CO2 on the palate. Underneath the cranky exterior is clearly a terrific wine in the making, but I do have to admit to being a major Lavières fan (my favorite *terroir* in Savigny if one were forced to only have one!) and I was sad not find this wine totally on form at the time of my visit. Perhaps Monsieur Camus will let me come back and taste it again in March? In any event, the nose here offers up a lovely blend of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, lovely soil tones, fresh herbs, coffee and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and will be quite sappy at the core (when it settles back in after its malo), with fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and nascent complexity and impressive length and grip on the finish. Fine juice in the making. 2018-2050. **92-93+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Narbantons” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

It was pretty dramatic to see the difference that a few months of distance out from the completion of malolactic fermentation could make, as the Narbantons, having finished up in September, was absolutely singing in November. Being completely on form, it is quite easy to see the superb elegance inherent in the 2011s *chez* Camus, as this wine soars from the glass in a mix of black cherries, red currants, coffee, gamebirds, a superb base of soil, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with lovely acids, ripe tannins, lovely mid-palate depth and excellent focus and grip on the well-balanced and very suave finish. Narbantons is usually a bit *sauvage* out of the blocks, but this emphatically not the case with this superb 2011 from the Camus family. 2018-2050. **93+**.

2011 Beaune “Clos du Roi”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

After a bit of a struggle to ripen fully in 2010, the 2011 Clos du Roi from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is right back on form and a lovely bottle. The deep, young and promising nose offers up scents of cherries, pomegranate, vinesmoke, roses, lovely soil tones and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and nicely reserved in profile, with a good core, moderate tannins and lovely *nervosité* adding bounce and brightness on the

finish. This is not quite as harmonious today on the palate as the stunning Narbantons, but it will be a lovely wine in the fullness of time. 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2011 Pommard “les Arvelets”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

Despite the malo having just finished here as well, the les Arvelets 2011 was showing superb potential. The classy and quite refined nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil, a touch of nutskin, gamebirds, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and balance, ripe tannins and simply stunning length and grip on the youthful and potentially, very refined finish. This is a beautiful Pommard in the making. 20121-2055. **94**.

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

There are changes afoot at Chandon de Briailles these days, as the long-time Cellar Master, Jean-Claude Bouveret (affectionately known by everyone as Kojak, including himself), has left the estate. I am not certain if he has reached the age of retirement or went in search of other opportunities, but he has been a mainstay at the domaine for several decades and his presence around the estate will be missed. The domaine is also starting to move in the direction of a more “low sulfur” regimen in the cellars for their wines, which have been farmed biodynamically for many years already, and this will be an interesting change to watch implemented over the coming years. François de Nicolay is very excited about the prospects, as he feels that the more natural the wines are made, the better they will become. I will maintain a cautious optimism on this point until I have had a chance to see and taste how wines made in this manner evolve with bottle age at Chandon de Briailles, as I have scant experience with very low sulfur Burgundies. However, on a cautionary note, I have had very little positive experience with low sulfur wines from other regions around the globe, as I often find that such an approach in the cellar compromises the ability of the wines to age long and gracefully. I know that there are lots of fans of this type of winemaking out there who will happily cite several examples from top producers in both Beaujolais and the Rhône that age very well and are made in this manner, but my own experiences have been less positive and even where the wines hold up well in bottle over several years, I often find that they lack a bit of freshness and carry borderline oxidative tones on both the nose and palate as they age. But, we shall wait and see how this regimen fares at Domaine Chandon de Briailles, as this is one of my favorite estates in all of Burgundy and I have the confidence that if low sulfur winemaking can be carried out successfully, then the François and Claude de Nicolay can do it.

As was the case at several of the cellars that I visited on this trip, the 2011 Chandon de Briailles wines were in varying stages at the time of my visit to the cellars, with some wines grumpy and not really on form, while others were showing very well indeed. Several of the wines had already been racked and assembled in tank for bottling soon after the new year, while others were still in barrel and the Savigny AC and Corton “Maréchaudes” having already been bottled at the start of September of 2012. Two of the three 2011 white wines that I tasted at the domaine had also been bottled by the time of my visit, with one of the two bottled wines still showing well and other a bit understandably grumpy from being uprooted from their commodious lodgings in barrel and crammed into a tiny bottle. So, not surprisingly, the Chandon de Briailles wines were all over the place in terms of stage of development, but there were some in very fine fettle and

there is little doubt that the domaine has very well captured the potential inherent in this lovely vintage.

Vins Blancs

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” Blanc- Dom. Chandon de Briailles

The domaine did not start producing white wines until the decade of the 1970s, and when Madame Nadine de Nicolay arrived from the family home in Paris to oversee the domaine directly in the mid-1980s, one of the first decisions she took was to plant a parcel of Ile de Vergelesses with chardonnay. So these vines are now starting to come into their prime as they pass the twenty-five year-old threshold. The 2011 Ile de Vergelesses Blanc had been bottled only a week before my visit- which may have meant that it had not yet started to shut down from the *mise*- as the wine was still showing quite well. The nose is a fresh and vibrant blend of apple, quince, lovely, almost chalky soil tones and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite suave on the attack, with a very good core of fruit, sound framing acids and lovely focus and grip on the almost silky finish. Lovely wine. 2013-2025. **91+**.

2011 Corton Blanc- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The Corton Blanc 2011 had also been bottled only a week before my visit, but this wine was already shutting down pretty dramatically and was much less sanguine about being tasted than the Ile de Vergelesses Blanc. The reticent and agitated nose takes a bit of aeration to start to show anything, but eventually reveals a pretty mélange of pear, apple, spring flowers, pastry cream, lovely soil tones and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and classy, with a suave attack, good mid-palate depth, lovely framing acids and very good focus and grip on the long finish. This will be at least very, very good, and most likely it will be outstanding- but this is far from the ideal time to be tasting it! 2014-2030. **91-93?**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

There is a tiny slice of Corton-Charlemagne now at the domaine again (the de Nicolays produced a *négociant* bottling for several vintages, before the owners of the vines became disenchanted with the lower yields of *biodynamique* farming), made from a tiny parcel in Renardes that is planted to chardonnay. There is only a single, “one wine” barrel in 2011, which had not yet been bottled at the time of my visit and was showing beautifully. The bouquet is a superb blend of apple, tangerine, iodine, citrus peel, fine minerality, white flowers and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very elegant on the attack, with an excellent core, racy acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and classy finish. It is a pity that there is only a single barrel of this lovely wine, but one barrel is a whole lot better than no barrels! 2014-2030. **93+**.

Vins Rouges

2011 Bourgogne “Cuvée Louise”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2011 Bourgogne “Cuvée Louise” was showing very well at the time of my visit, offering up a bright and red fruity nose of cherries, red currants, lovely spice tones, a touch of vinesmoke and a nice base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and nicely transparent, with modest tannins and good length and grip on the focused finish. This shows off its Savigny origins very nicely and is very good for its level. 2013-2020+. **87**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Saucours”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The Savigny *villages* bottling was showing very well for only having been bottled a couple of months before my visit and this will be a lovely wine for early drinking. The pure and

stylish nose wafts from the glass in a sappy mélange of cherries, orange zest, woodsmoke, a touch of spice and a very pretty base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with lovely mineral drive, a fine core of fruit and a nice dollop of tannin and very good grip perking up the long and succulent finish. This is good juice. 2015-2030+. **88+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The domaine’s lovely example of Fourneaux had been racked in August and was waiting in tank for bottling early in the new year. The wine was showing very well, with 2011’s inherent elegance very much in evidence on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a blend of cherries, quince, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with lovely focus and balance, good acids, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the stony finish. Good juice in the making, and I may well be underestimating it a tad, as it was not in top form for tasting on the day of my visit. 2015-2035. **89-90+?**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

Chandon de Briaille’s les Lavières is, year in and year out, one of my absolute favorite wines in the Côte de Beaune and the 2011 was showing very fine potential. This was still in barrel and was showing nicely reserved in style, wafting from the glass in a mélange of cherries, red currants, vinesmoke, a touch of Corton-like coriander, gamebirds, fresh herbs and a complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very transparent, with lovely purity on the attack, fine intensity of flavor, good mid-palate concentration and fine grip and focus on the long, suavely-tannic finish. This will be a lovely example of the vintage. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The malo for the 2011 Ile de Vergelesses was one of the last to finish in the cellar in this vintage and the wine was still showing just a touch of backend CO2 in barrel at the time of my visit, making it a bit grumpy for tasting. However, beyond the bit of youthful adolescence is a wine of a deep and vibrant character, offering up a complex nose of red and black cherries, venison, a very good base of stony minerality, coffee, woodsmoke and herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and minerally, with a good core of fruit, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the youthful finish. This will be good juice. 2016-2035+. **91-92.**

2011 Corton “Maréchaudes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2011 Corton “Maréchaudes” had also been bottled in September of 2012 and was not as well recovered from its recent *mise* as the Savigny AC. The wine is still quite closed on both the nose and palate, but eventually offers up a reticent nose of cherries, strawberries, a touch of grilled meat, coffee, deep soil tones and a note of fresh herbs redolent of thyme and coriander. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core, ripe tannins and a long and precise finish. I am sure this will be very good, but it was not the best time to be tasting it! 2018-2040+. **91-92.**

2011 Corton “Bressandes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2011 Bressandes from Chandon de Briailles was still in barrel and was showing lovely form at the time of my visit. The deep and properly reserved nose offers up a youthful mélange of red and black cherries, coffee, incipient notes of forest floor, venison and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and suave on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, ripe, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This will be lovely and will not take too many years in the cellar to start to drink very well indeed. 2018-2045. **92+.**

2011 Corton “Clos du Roi”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2011 Clos du Roi from the de Nicolays was also still in barrel and absolutely singing at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a complex and beautifully focused mélange of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, red currants, gamebirds, coffee, hints of forest floor and a lovely vein of minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and nicely transparent, with excellent mid-palate depth, ripe, fine-grained tannins and lovely grip and focus on the long and classy finish. Like the other two Cortons in the Chandon de Briailles lineup this year, the 2011 Clos du Roi will not need too many years of bottle age to start to drink very well, but it should have no difficulties aging gracefully as well, due to its exceptional balance. 2018-2045+. **93+**.



François de Nicolay in the lovely little wine shop that he also runs at Domaine Chandon de Briailles.

Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

Hugues Pavelot has made a lovely range of 2011s, with both his reds and his small selection of white wines showing off the inherent elegance and soil-driven character of this vintage. The majority of the red wines chez Pavelot this year have a lovely black fruity personality with a “cooler vintage” character, which works beautifully with their very soil-driven personalities and they will be a very classy set of wines with moderate bottle age. The malos here were on the early side, so that the entire cellar had been racked right after the harvest of 2012 and most of the wines were showing very well in early November. This was a

welcome change from last year, where the late malos of the 2010 vintage had meant that the cellar had been racked only a couple of weeks prior to my visit and the wines were cranky. A few of the 2011s on this trip were still a little hunkered down after the racking, and were also probably in the process of shutting down, for the winter as temperatures were starting to fall during my November visit, but overall, the range was singing and it was very easy to interpolate for the couple of cranky cuvées. 2011 is the first vintage for the new premier cru in the Pavelot lineup, which hails from a parcel of approximately fifty-five year-old vines in the superb vineyard of les Lavières. As this is one of my absolute favorite vineyards in all of Savigny, I was very excited to hear the news that the Pavelot family had purchased a parcel here, and I hope this makes a bit of compensation for a cousin taking back his plots of vines in Pernand “les Vergelesses” and Savigny “Narbantons” from the domaine. The 2011 les Lavières was one of the more shaken examples in the cellar from the autumn racking, but it was quite obvious that this is destined to be a very suave, velvety and top-notch example of this magical terroir. Starting in this vintage, the domaine also has added an additional parcel of vines in the premier cru of Gravains, bringing up their total ownership in this fine premier cru to a full hectare, and the 2011 was showing brilliant potential at the time of my visit. I did not get a chance to taste the 2011 Bourgogne rouge on this trip. It has now been several years since Hugues Pavelot took over fully from his very talented father, Jean-Marc, and it is hard to think of another domaine in Burgundy that has made the transition in recent times from father to son at the head of the estate so smoothly and with such a marvelous continuity in style.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune AC from Domaine Pavelot is a very pretty and stylish example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a lovely blend of black cherries, dark berries, French roast, dark soil tones, smoke and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and quite sappy at the core, with good length and grip on the focused and moderately tannic finish. Good juice in the making. 2017-2040. **89.**

2011 Aloxe-Corton- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Pavelot Aloxe AC is also lovely, offering up a complex bouquet of black cherries, a touch of meatiness, stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice touch of coriander seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine sense of transparency, good mid-palate depth and a sound base of ripe tannins on the long and classy finish. A fine example that shows a lot of early polish for a young Aloxe *villages* bottling. 2017-2040. **90.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Peuillots”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

Both the Peuillots and the Serpentières were quite a bit more shut down at the time of my visit than the two village wines, but the precision and complexity here is easy to read. The youthful nose on the 2011 Peuillots offers up scents of dark berries, black cherries, dark soil tones, smoke and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary at the present time, with a lovely core, firm, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the closed and promising finish. 2019-2050. **91+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Serpentières is also a very closed wine right now, but it offers up a lovely combination of sappy fruit and excellent minerality under its youthful veneer and will be superb in the fullness of time. The reticent nose reveals a mélange of black cherries, cassis, espresso, venison, bonfires and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very long, with still a

bit of backend coarseness from the agitation of the racking, but with fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This will be excellent in seven or eight years' time. 2020-2050+. **91+**.

2011 Beaune “Bressandes”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Bressandes from Domaine Pavelot is a very good wine in the making, sharing the lovely, pure black fruity signature of so many of the domaine's wines this year with a very elegant palate profile. The young and nascently complex nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, a touch of bonfire, a lovely base of soil and just a hint of cedar in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sports fine mid-palate concentration, with fine-grained tannins, good focus and grip and a long, poised and balanced finish. This is a young wine, but it will be plump and velvety at its apogee. 2020-2050. **91**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Guettes” - Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Guettes from the Pavelots was one of the more cranky wines on the palate at the time of my visit, but its aromatics are lovely and there is little doubt this will be an excellent wine. The very classy bouquet offers up scents of cassis, dark berries, a touch of venison, espresso, woodsmoke, complex soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a very solid core, firm tannins and a long, nascently complex and (eventually) very classy finish. This is still grumpy from its racking on the backend, but its fine quality is manifest. 2020-2050. **92**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”-Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

I love the new addition of Lavières to the Pavelot lineup and the 2011 is going to be a very special wine. The superb nose offers up a complex and very elegant mélange of black cherries, dark berries, complex soil tones, bitter chocolate and a nice topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and fairly closed (and still a bit grumpy from its racking), with a fine core, suave, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the backend. Though this is a bit shaken, it is crystal clear that this wine will be very velvety and elegant when it reaches its apogee. As much as I enjoyed the Vergelesses and Narbantons bottlings here, given the chance to swap those two cuvées off for a parcel of old vines in les Lavières, I would make the swap every time! 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The new parcel in Gravains seems to have added to the depth and dimension of this wine as well, and the 2011 Pavelot Gravains is excellent. The deep, young and sappy nose offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, woodsmoke, black minerality and a deft touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows lovely mid-palate depth, with great elegance on the attack, sappiness in the middle and plenty of ripe and chewy tannins on the long backend. Fine, fine Savigny in the making! 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “la Dominode”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

Despite all the changes in the Pavelot cellars in 2011, the Dominode remains the “king of the cave” and was showing outstanding potential at the time of my visit. The wine was a bit grumpy from its racking, but offers up a very promising and complex bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, currant leaf, gamebird, dark soil tones, coffee bean, cedar and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven, with a fine core, ripe and suave tannins and a long, focused and youthful finish. Lovely juice in the making. 2021-2050+. **93+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc from Domaine Pavelot had already been bottled at the time of my visit and is a very pretty middleweight in the making, offering up a bright and classy nose of peach, quince, beeswax, chalky soil tones, a touch of nuttiness and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and wide open in personality, with good mid-palate depth, bright acids and very good length on the juicy and stylish finish. Lovely wine that will drink well from the outset. 2013-2020. **89+**.

2011 Corton Blanc- Jean-Marc et Hugues Domaine Pavelot

The 2011 Corton Blanc was still in barrel in early November and was just a tad reduced, but showing superb potential underneath. The bouquet is a blend of apple, pear, fresh almonds, superb minerality, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a fine core, lovely cut and grip and a very long, minerally finish. This will be outstanding- it is a pity there is not more of this lovely wine produced! 2015-2035. **93+**.

Domaine Simon Bize et Fils (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

Is there a more under-appreciated great Burgundy domaine these days than Domaine Simon Bize et Fils? Both the red and the white wines here are absolutely stellar (and have been for generations), and yet, I always get the sense that the Simon Bize wines remain some of the best-kept secrets in all of Burgundy. Perhaps with whole cluster fermentation starting to come back in vogue in the wider wine world, more people will start to really appreciate what brilliant wines Patrick Bize has crafted over the course of his long and illustrious career here at the head of this great family estate in Savigny. These are great, traditional Burgundies that are made for the long haul, with no concessions made to modern tastes that need more facile wines to try and understand out of the blocks, as “it would not be a Domaine Bize wine without the stems- there would be no structure for the wine to age on ” quips Patrick when one asks about his use of a high percentage of stems every year. The use of a high percentage of whole cluster fermentation is not questioned at domaines such as DRC, Maison Joseph Drouhin, Domaine Dujac or with Patrick’s good friend and contemporary, Christophe Roumier, but these domaines produce wines generally from terroirs that are expected to be cellared and take time to unfold in bottle. When one is a vigneron in Savigny-lès-Beaune, apparently the same commitment to long-lived wines built to blossom only in the fullness of time is not appreciated to the same extent it is in Vosne-Romanée or Chambolle-Musigny. It just seems to me that it is high time that Domaine Simon Bize et Fils is better recognized for the stunning legacy of great wines that have been quietly produced here over the last several decades.

Not surprisingly, the 2011s here are outstanding and a very worthy follow-up to the brilliant 2010 Bize wines. As is customary when visiting with Patrick Bize in November, the 2011s here were in various stages of their élevage, with the Bourgogne Blanc and Bourgogne “Champlains” Blanc already bottled, other wines already racked and assembled in tank for bottling after the New Year, while still other wines were still in barrel and ready for racking and a few were still just finishing up their malolactics! The Bize cellars are plenty cold and the wines take their time evolving during élevage here most every year, so it is never a surprise to see the wines in varying stages of development during a November visit. But, no matter whether a wine was recently racked and absolutely singing, or cantankerous in barrel and ready for its racking, it is quite clear that the 2011s at Domaine Bize will be once again a stellar lineup of red and white Burgundies. The harvest got started here on September 2nd of 2011, with picking starting

with the Savigny-lès-Beaune white wines, and progressed apace to finish up before the middle of the month. I did not think to ask if any chaptalization was used in this vintage, but I suspect that the wines were chaptalized “just a touch” to keep the initial fermentations bubbling along a little longer this year. The wines still in malolactic or just coming out at the time of my visit included the Bourgogne “Perrières” rouge cuvée, the Aloxe-Corton “Suchot” and the Savigny “Vergelesses”. Across the board, these are beautiful wines, with stunning transparency down to their underlying terroir, great focus and balance and lovely structures for cellaring. They will be a simply stellar group of wines. I have used a range of scores for the wines that were in cranky stages of their evolution, but would fully expect them to place at the upper end of the range when they round back into good tasting form.

Vins Blancs Simon Bize et Fils

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Simon Bize Bourgogne Blanc is excellent and was showing no ill effects from its bottling in the early autumn. The lovely nose jumps from the glass in a mix of green apple, lime, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and a touch of acacia blossom in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, quite full-bodied for its level and nicely complex, with a good core and fine focus on the long and racy finish. Good juice and a great value. 2013-2020. **88.**

2011 Bourgogne “les Champlains” Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

As is customary with this bottling of Bourgogne blanc, the Champlains is one-third barrel-fermented and two-thirds raised entirely in stainless steel. The 2011 is superb, offering up a classy bouquet of lemon, apple, pear, chalky minerality, a touch of vanilla and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with lovely mid-palate concentration, brisk acids and superb length and grip on the snappy and focused finish. Lovely juice. 2013-2023. **89.**

2011 Bourgogne “les Perrières” Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The white wine version of the Bourgogne “les Perrières” was assembled and still in tank at the time of my early November visit, and it is clear that the 2011 will be another excellent example of this lovely bottling. The superb nose delivers scents of lemon, pink grapefruit, stony minerality, citrus peel, white flowers and a touch of beeswax (or is it Bize wax?) in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very minerally in profile, with an excellent core, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the very classy finish. This is probably my favorite Bourgogne Blanc produced in all of Burgundy these days! The 2011 will need a year or two of bottle age to really blossom and should keep very well indeed. 2014-2025. **90+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc from Domaine Simon Bize et Fils is a lovely wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a superb blend of lime, green apple, citrus blossoms, chalky soil tones and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more reserved on the palate than the nose suggests, with fine mid-palate depth, crisp acids, lovely focus and balance and fine grip on the long and bouncy finish. This will be a charmer once it blossoms, and it should only take a year or two of bottle age to really see this wine drinking beautifully. 2014-2025. **90+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Vergelesses” Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 les Vergelesses Blanc is a more structured and reserved wine than the Savigny AC Blanc, offering up a reticent, but very deep nose of apple, quince, a touch of almond

blossom, a complex base of soil, citrus peel, a touch of grassiness, spring flowers and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with superb precision and mid-palate density, and great backend cut and grip on the very long, youthful and soil-driven finish. This will be outstanding, but will need three or four years in the cellar to blossom. 2015-2035. **92.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The more forward style, in general, for the 2011 Simon Bize white wines is not emulated by this steely, young and very promising Corton-Charlemagne. The very primary nose gently wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, grapefruit, complex and very stony soil tones, citrus peel and just a touch of vanillin oak (one barrel is now out of the four used for the élevage of this wine). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a suave, albeit youthful attack, zesty acidity and great mineral drive on the very long, youthful and promising finish. This will be superb, but it is so closed now that I feel more confident giving it a range of score. 2020-2060. **93-95.**

Vins Rouges de Simon Bize et Fils

2011 Bourgogne “les Perrières” Rouge- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

This consistently excellent Bourgogne rouge bottling was one of the last to finish up malo this year in the cellars, so the wine was still in cask and was tasted after several of the premier crus that were already assembled in tank! The wine is going to be lovely, offering up a red fruity bouquet of cherries, quince, vinesmoke, stony soil tones and a bit of orange peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with ripe tannins and good length and grip on the finish. Lovely wine, but will want a few years of bottle age before broaching. 2016-2025+. **88+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Bourgeots”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 les Bourgeots had been racked into tanks and was destined for bottling sometime early in 2013, and consequently was pretty closed at the time of my visit. The wine was fermented with one hundred percent whole clusters this year and offers up a lovely and quite youthful bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of meatiness, bonfires and a fine base of stony soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and ripely tannic, with sound acids and very good length and grip on the focused and still quite primary finish. This will be very good. 2020-2040. **88-89+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Grands Liards had also been assembled in tank for spring bottling, but was showing much less cantankerous than the Bourgeots. The nose is a classic, fairly black fruity mélange of cassis, black cherries and currants, with notes of game, woodsmoke, stony soil and a touch of new wood adding to the aromatics. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved in style, with ripe, chewy tannins, a good core, tangy acids and fine length and grip on the youthful finish. A lovely wine in the making, but it will need some cellaring. 2021-2040+. **90.**

2011 Aloxe-Corton “le Suchot”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Suchot was still finishing up its malolactic fermentation, so I did not take a proper note on the wine, simply noting its lovely purity of red fruity and soil tones and its good length on the palate. I am sure this will be a very good wine.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Talmettes”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Savigny “Talmettes” was also assembled in tank and it too was pretty closed and grumpy on the palate at the time of my visit. The bouquet is lovely and quite expressive, offering up scents of cassis, black cherries, bonfires, bitter chocolate and a complex base of lovely minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite a bit more closed than the nose suggests, with a fine core of pure fruit, lovely soil inflection, tangy acids and a very long, focused and primary finish. This will be lovely, but give it time! 2022-2045+. **90-91+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Serpentières”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Serpentières (and the remaining red wines) were all still in barrel and were a bit easier to get a read on than the cranky wines that had already been assembled in tank. This is going to be a beautiful wine, offering up a superb nose of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke and a lovely base of complex, dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core of black fruit, lovely transparency, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully balanced finish. It is easy to appreciate just how elegant the entire range of 2011 reds will be from Patrick Bize this year- once they have had their sufficient beauty rest in the cellar! 2022-2050+. **93**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Marconnets”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Marconnets was also still in barrel and really on form at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, gamebirds, dark soil tones and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very pure on the attack, with a very soil-driven personality, a lovely core of fruit, suave tannins and superb length and grip on the classy and still quite youthful finish. 2022-2050+. **93+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux” from Domaine Simon Bize et Fils is another stellar wine in the making, offering up a lovely and very red fruity blend of cherries, blood orange, a touch of currant, stony minerality, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a gentle framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very tangy, with superb mid-palate depth, lovely focus and balance, ripe tannins and superb focus on the very long, nascently complex and classy finish. Great juice! 2022-2050+. **93+**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The Bize family has two parcels of pinot noir vines in Vergelesses, with one planted in 1964 and the other in 1943, so these are old vines by anyone’s measure. The wine had just finished up its malo, but its quality is clear. The 2011 Vergelesses is going to be brilliant, soaring from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, a touch of nutskin, a very complex base of soil and a touch of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly classic, with a fairly reserved personality, a rock solid core, excellent soil drive and a very, very long, ripely tannic and suave finish. This will be stunning in about a decade! 2023-2050+. **94**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Guettes”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The 2011 Simon Bize les Guettes is another great wine in the making, offering up a very classy and vibrant bouquet of cherries, quince, strawberries, dark soil tones, gamebirds and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a great core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the beautifully focused finish. I love the combination here of the red fruity side of the vintage and the dark soil tones of Guettes- a very rare and exciting combination! This will be a great wine as well. 2022-2050+. **94**.

2011 Latricières-Chambertin- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils

The malo for the 2011 Latricières-Chambertin *chez* Bize finished up at the end of August, so this was pretty late by the standards of the vintage, and the wine was still a bit cranky in early November. The still very closed nose reluctantly offers up scents of cherries, red berries, grilled meats, lovely, “cool” soil tones (there is a *combe* right behind Latricières-Chambertin that typically filters colder air down from the hills behind, and this characteristic often shows up in more classically-styled vintages such as 2011), cocoa powder and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and transparent, with a fine core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and impeccable balance on the long, tangy and focused finish. This will be a terrific wine in the fullness of time. 2025-2060. **94-95+**.

Beaune

Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils (Beaune)

Ever since Philippe Prost, Cellar Master at Bouchard Père et Fils, told me last spring that the domaine would no longer be buying new Taransaud barrels for the élevage of their red wines, I have been looking forward to tasting the 2011s without this aggressively spicy barrel being part of the winemaking equation here. I know that lots of other wine writers- particularly Robert Parker and Steve Tanzer- really like the spicy element that Taransaud barrels add to wines raised in them, but I have never found this element either enchanting or natural and have always found wines raised in these very trendy barrels to be less interesting due to this veneer of spicy new oak. Happily- at least to my palate- there are no more new Taransaud barrels in the Bouchard cellars, as the domaine has decided to no longer purchase new barrels from this tonnelier, and to my palate, the very, very fine Bouchard 2011 reds are so much the better for this decision. As I noted last year, the white wines here have not seen any Taransaud wood for many vintages (if they were ever raised in these spicy barrels), and it is only the red wines at the domaine that have had to carry that very heavy lumber. While, the domaine will continue to use some older Taransaud barrels as part of their rotation for several more vintages to come, and consequently, the red wines here will not be entirely free of the influence of this tonnelier for a few more years, but this “Pain Épice” element from these barrels has already receded far into the background with the 2011s. It was a great, great pleasure to taste the new vintage at Bouchard Père et Fils and I no longer have the need to write about the “great wines under the heavy veneer of Taransaud spice” and can just focus on the superbly crafted wines and their beautiful underlying terroirs.

Philippe Prost and his team started harvesting in the vineyards of Beaune “Grèves” and Volnay “Caillerets” on August 29th, and collected all of their fruit by the 10th of September in 2011. To the best of my recollections, all of the red wines in the cellar had been racked in the fall and the wines were really showing well at the time of my visit on the 8th of November. Some of the white wines had already been bottled, as well as one or two reds, while others were in preparation for this and had been assembled, but this was one cellar where virtually every wine was in good shape for tasting (the one exception being a sample of the 2011 Chapelle-Chambertin, which had been drawn from the tanks in the morning and was not on form at the time of my late afternoon visit- though I have little doubt a sound sample would have revealed a lovely wine) and the 2011s here across the board are truly stunning wines. I did not have the opportunity this year to taste a couple of my favorite cuvées from Maison Bouchard, including the domaine’s Echézeaux or their lovely Monthelie “Clos les Champs Fulliot” (which hails from

vineyard adjacent to Volnay “Clos des Chênes”), but based on the superb quality of the entire range of 2011 reds that I did taste during this visit, I have little doubt that the Bouchard versions of these vineyards (The Bouchard Clos les Champs Fulliot is one of the great, great sleepers in all of Burgundy) will also be superb and one should not overlook them in this vintage solely because I did not have a chance to taste them. In the notes that follow, I have listed the wines that hail from the estate’s own vineyards as “Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils” and those originating from purchased grapes or juice as “Maison Bouchard Père et Fils”.

White Wines of Bouchard Père et Fils

2011 Bourgogne Chardonnay Réserve- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s Bourgogne Chardonnay Réserve is made almost exclusively from vineyards that the domaine owns, located in the villages of Puligny and Meursault, with just a touch of Hautes Côtes de Nuits added into the blend. The 2011 was barrel-fermented and raised in twelve percent new oak and is really a lovely example of its appellation. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, a touch of grassiness, chalky soil tones, beeswax and a gently saline topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively complex for Bourgogne, with fine framing acids and lovely length and grip on the focused finish. This is a superb Bourgogne blanc. 2013-2020. **87+.**

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Pouilly-Fuissé from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is made up of a blend of seventy-two percent tank fermentation and eighteen percent barrel fermentation. Though grapes are purchased for this bottling *chez* Bouchard, everything is fermented in the cuverie in Beaune. The 2011 is a lovely wine, offering up a bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of quince, citrus peel and a stylish base of *Mâconnais* soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and snappy, with good mid-palate depth and lovely length and grip on the classy finish. Good juice. 2013-2025. **89.**

2011 Beaune du Château “Premier Cru” Blanc- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Beaune du Château Blanc is a lovely wine that will drink very well out of the blocks, but I would be inclined to give it at least a year of bottle age to allow some secondary development on both the nose and palate. The classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, a touch of beeswax, spring flowers, pretty soil tones and a nice dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a good core, sound framing acids and very good length and grip on the youthful and stylish finish. 2014-2025+. **90.**

2011 Meursault “les Clous”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Meursault “les Clous” had just been bottled the morning of my visit, but the sample I tasted had been reserved from tank prior to bottling and was showing very well. The excellent bouquet is a classic blend of apple, hazelnuts, chalky minerality, citrus peel and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, zesty and beautifully balanced finish. A lovely Meursault *villages* and a wine that will delight from the moment of its release. 2013-2025+. **90.**

2011 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The Bouchard version of Genevrières is an absolute classic in the making and a gorgeous bottle of wine. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, hazelnut, lime blossoms, white soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with crisp acids, a lovely sense of reserve and outstanding length and grip on

the beautifully focused finish. I love top-notch Genevrières, and this is certainly one of the very best examples I tasted from this vintage. 2016-2035. **93.**

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Meursault “Perrières” from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is a deep and impressively backwards example of this great vineyard. The superb nose offers up a fairly primary blend of apple, pear, a touch of passion fruit, iodine, chalky soil tones and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a huge core of fruit, brisk acids and stunning backend intensity and grip on the very long, pure and laser-like finish. A great wine. 2018-2040. **94.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

All of the vines owned by the domaine on the hill of Corton face directly east, so this is one of the “cooler” examples of Corton-Charlemagne- which I find to be amongst the very best in these days of global warming, as they retain greater *nervosité* in general than examples from vines with more southerly-oriented expositions. The 2011 from Domaine Bouchard is a great wine, soaring from the glass in a complex mélange of apple, a touch of grapefruit, lime oil, chalky, stony soil tones, orange zest, vanillin oak and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite reserved in personality, with a rock solid core of fruit, brisk acids and stunning length and grip on the perfectly balanced and youthful finish. A classic in the making. 2022-2050+. **94+.**

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Chevalier-Montrachet from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils is a beautiful wine on both the nose and palate, as it perfectly synthesizes the inherent elegance of both this great vineyard and this lovely vintage. The magical nose offers up scents of apple, pear, a touch of fresh nutmeg, *crème patissière*, chalk, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary, with lovely purity and focus, superb mid-palate depth and great cut and grip on the very, very long and aristocratic finish. A beautiful Chevalier- though only the second best Chevalier in the cellars! 2020-2060. **95.**

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet “la Cabotte”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 La Cabotte is an utterly profound wine, as it builds upon the sheer beauty of the “regular” Chevalier in the Bouchard cellars and adds an extra dimension on both the nose and palate! The gorgeous nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, pear, orange zest, iodine, chalky minerality, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and notably deeper at the core than the above wine, with zesty acids, laser-like focus and absolutely brilliant length and grip on the seamless and utterly complete finish. Pure magic. 2020-2060+. **97.**

2011 Montrachet- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

After the fireworks of the two examples of Chevalier-Montrachet in the 2011 lineup at Bouchard Père et Fils, I was wondering if Monsieur Prost had been able to capture the unique greatness that so many examples of Le Montrachet had seemed to exhibit in this special vintage for this vineyard. Naturally, this has turned out to be the case and this is an utterly exhilarating and profound young example of Montrachet. The stunning and bottomless nose delivers a magical blend of apple, pear, tangerine, a brilliantly complex base of soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely singing, with flawless purity and delineation, a rock solid core, magical balance and absolute precision on the young, complex and near-perfect finish. What a great, great wine in the making! 2020-2060+. **99.**



Technical Director, Philippe Prost, in the cellars at Maison Bouchard Père et Fils.

Red Wines of Bouchard Père et Fils

2011 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Réserve- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Réserve had been racked prior to the harvest in 2012 and was really showing beautifully at the time of my visit. The really lovely nose wafts from the glass in a mix of roses, cherries, a very stylish base of soil, a touch of meatiness and a deft underpinning of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep and quite full for a Bourgogne bottling, with a bit of ripe tannin, a good core and impressive length and grip on the focused finish. This is very impressive for its level and a great value. 2013-2025+. **88.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

The Savigny-lès-Beaune *villages* bottling from Maison Bouchard Père et Fils hails entirely from vines that the domaine owns in the commune. This wine had already been bottled two weeks prior to my visit, but had bounced back nicely from the *mise* and was showing well, offering up a complex and classy nose of cherries, red currants, woodsmoke, coffee, stony soil tones and a touch of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with lovely focus and balance, a bit of backend tannin and impressive length and grip on the poised and soil-driven finish. This will drink well from an early age, but I would give it a year or two of bottle age to let its tannins fall away a bit and its secondary layers to emerge. 2014-2035. **89+.**

2011 Beaune du Château “Premier Cru”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

I had mistakenly reported last year that Bouchard’s Beaune du Château bottling hails solely from vines in the premier cru of Centes Vignes, but it turns out that this is a blend of seventeen different premier cru parcels scattered around the village. The 2011 was absolutely singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a lovely mélange of cherries, red plums, coffee, a beautiful base of soil, fresh herb tones and a gentle dollop of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and complex, with lovely focus, tangy acids and a very long, youthful and chewy finish. There is just a touch of oak tannin here on the backend that will need to fully integrate (despite the wine only seeing twenty percent new wood), but this should be a lovely wine with three or four years of bottle age. A quintessential bottle of Beaune. 2016-2040+. **90+**.

2011 Beaune “Clos de la Mousse”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Clos de la Mousse was also raised in a very discreet twenty percent new oak and is a beautiful bottle in the making. The deep and utterly superb nose delivers a classy blend of red and black cherries, a touch of gamebird, gentle plummy notes, woodsmoke, complex soil nuances and a delicate base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, impressive transparency and a very long, ripely tannic and beautifully balanced finish. One gets such lovey precision to the expression of soil in this wine in 2011, and this should prove to be an absolutely terrific bottle for mid-term cellaring. 2018-2045+. **92+**.

2011 Beaune “Grèves” Vigne de l’Enfant Jésus- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard’s flagship bottling of l’Enfant Jésus hails from vines that range from twenty-seven to fifty-five years of age, and in 2011 it was raised in forty percent new wood. 2011 is a very strong vintage in the village of Beaune and the l’Enfant Jésus is clearly one of the greatest examples of this vintage I tasted from the commune. The deep and serious nose delivers a superb mélange of red plums, red and black cherries, gamebirds, a beautiful base of soil, coffee, woodsmoke and a fine framing of cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, exceptional focus and balance and a very, very long, youthful and classy finish. This will be a superb wine, but give it at least seven or eight years of cellaring to allow it to really blossom! 2020-2060+. **94**.

2011 Volnay “Caillerets” Ancienne Cuvée Carnot- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The 2011 Caillerets “Cuvée Carnot” from Domaine Bouchard is also outstanding and shows tremendous potential. The deep and very classic bouquet jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, a touch of red currant, woodsmoke, gamebirds, coffee, a lovely base of stony soil tones and a bit of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very pure on the attack, with excellent mid-palate depth, well-integrated and suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. A superb bottle of Caillerets in the making. 2020-2060. **93**.

2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

There are thirteen barrels of Bouchard’s gorgeous 2011 Clos des Chênes in the cellars this year, and this will be a wine that will be worth a special search to locate and tuck away in the cellar. The youngest vines in the domaine’s parcel here were replanted in 1974, so this is all old vines today, and the resulting wine is stellar in 2011. The beautiful nose offers up a very pure and classic mix of black cherries, dark berries, dark chocolate, incipient notes of gamebird, violets, lovely soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very primary

in personality, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and exceptional grip and focus on the very long and youthful finish. A classic Clos des Chênes. 2022-2060+. **93+**.

2011 Pommard “Rugiens”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

The domaine’s parcel of vines in Rugiens lie in the upper section of the vineyard and were replanted after the frosts of 1985, so the vines are now really starting to come into their prime. There are only five *pièces* of Rugiens in the cellars, so this is going to be a fairly difficult wine to find in the market, but it is excellent and will be well worth a bit of hunting. The excellent nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a strong signature of soil, a bit of clove and a nice framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with superb mid-palate depth, excellent complexity and a long, firm and chewy finish that should prove to be a very elegant rendition of Rugiens in the fullness of time. 2024-2065+. **93+**.

2011 Le Corton- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Bouchard Père et Fils has always made exceptional Corton and I think the switch away from Taransaud barrels is going to benefit this cuvée tremendously in the years to come. The 2011 Corton is a great, great wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a stunning mélange of cherries, currants, orange peel, gamebirds, coffee, stony soil tones, coriander and a judicious base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary in character, with a rock solid core, laser-like focus, firm, but ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the still very youthful and oh, so promising finish. This will be a very long-lived and absolutely brilliant example of Corton. 2025-2080. **95**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

While the Gevrey *villages* is not made from the domaine’s own vineyards, of the ten hectares from which this bottling hails, fully 8.5 of them are farmed by Maison Bouchard. The 2011 Gevrey AC was made with thirty percent whole clusters and is excellent, offering up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, espresso, grilled meat, herb tones, black soil and a touch of wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with good mid-palate depth, lovely focus, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the classy finish. Good juice. 2017-2035+. **89+**.

2011 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

Now that the association with Taransaud is in the rearview mirror, it is very clear to me that I am going to become very quickly a devotee of the les Cailles bottling from Bouchard Père et Fils, and the 2011 will be a terrific vintage of this great *terroir*. The superb bouquet delivers a blend of red and black cherries, coffee, gamebirds, incipient notes of *sous bois*, a touch of orange peel and a judicious framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with an excellent core, fine-grained tannins and superb focus and grip on the very long and chewy finish. Lovely Cailles. 2022-2070. **93+**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

The Bouchard Suchots is made from purchased wine, and while it is very, very good in 2011, it is not quite up to the quality level of the top premier crus from the domaine’s own vineyard holdings in this vintage. The deep and black fruity nose offers up scents of cassis, black cherries, a bit of bonfire, venison, dark soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with good structure, a fine core and a long, chewy and focused finish. Good juice, but without quite the precision of *terroir* of wines here such as the les Cailles or Caillerets. 2019-2040. **90**.

2011 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils

There are only three barrels of the 2011 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils, which is unfortunate, as this is a beautiful bottle in the making. The deep and youthful nose wafts from the glass in a refined blend of red and black cherries, red plums, bonfires, coffee, gamebirds, a superb base of soil and a nice framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a sappy core of fruit, suave tannins and absolutely stunning length and grip on the focused and still quite primary finish. This will be a magical Clos Vougeot in the fullness of time. 2022-2075+. **94+**.

2011 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Maison Bouchard Père et Fils

The Chambertin “Clos de Bèze” from Bouchard Père et Fils is not from the domaine’s own vines, but it is consistently a superb example of this fine vineyard and this is certainly the case with this great 2011. The deep and complex bouquet offers up a classic mélange of cherries, raspberries, coffee, grilled meats, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke, mustard seed and a bit of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with outstanding mid-palate depth, ripe tannins, nascent complexity and superb length and grip on the poised and beautifully-balanced finish. An absolutely classic example of Clos de Bèze! 2025-2075. **95**.

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

I made my customary two stops to taste the new vintage from Maison Drouhin with Véronique Drouhin Boss on this past trip, and this year it was very interesting to do one of the tastings on the first day of my visit and the second tasting on the very last day of my trip. Needless to say, my understanding for the style of the vintage was dramatically different between each visit! In contrast to the two visits I pay to Maison Louis Jadot on each trip, where I devote one day to tasting white wines and one day to tasting red wines, at Maison Drouhin, I do a portion of the white wines in the lineup and a portion of the red wines on each visit. Véronique was very understanding on our first visit, as I arrived egregiously behind schedule- having just come from a marathon tasting of the 2011 reds with Jacques Lardière at Maison Jadot- and she sent me home with a handful of the red wines that we did not have time to tackle before she needed to be off to another appointment at the end of the day. I must say, I was a very happy camper that evening with half bottles of 2011 Charmes-Chambertin, Clos St. Denis and Chambertin “Clos de Bèze” (amongst others) to enjoy with my duck! Many of the white wines at Maison Drouhin had been bottled at the time of my two visits, while others were assembled in tank and were to be bottled shortly after the press of November tasters had retreated to their own corners of the globe. The red wines were in varying stages of evolution, with a few already bottled, others racked and assembled in tank ready for bottling, while others were racked and were back in barrel for a bit more cellar aging prior to preparation for bottling in the spring. Somehow, I missed tasting a few of my favorites in the cellar this year, as I have no note on the Chablis “Vaudésir” and the sample of the Grands Echézeaux that was prepared for our second tasting was not on form and I did not taste that as well. But, the remainder of the range- both red and white- was simply outstanding, with the inherent elegance of the vintage very much front and center in the Drouhin portfolio this year. Of course, one would expect this to be the case, given the emphasis on elegance and terroir at this domaine since its inception, and it is hard to imagine a domaine better placed to take advantage of the style of the 2011 vintage better than Maison Joseph Drouhin.

Vins Blancs de Maison Drouhin

2011 Laforet Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Laforet Blanc is a very pretty wine, offering up a stylish nose of apple, lemon, chalky soil tones and a nice touch of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, juicy and complex, with bright acids and sneaky length and grip on the quite classy finish. This bottling has gotten more serious with the last few vintages and really is quite tasty in 2011. 2013-2020. **87.**

2011 St. Véran- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The quality of the 2011 St. Véran is just lovely and I lament the fact that the American market now gets this wine sealed up under screwcap, as it is not the same wine here as it is on the other side of the Atlantic. But, the cork-sealed bottle in Beaune was very pretty and stylish, offering up scents of apple, orange peel, a touch of *Mâconnais* toastiness, spring flowers and chalk. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and juicy, with nice framing acids, good depth and sneaky length and grip on the focused and tasty finish. Good juice. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Pouilly-Vinzelles- Maison Joseph Drouhin

I really like the Pouilly-Vinzelles bottling from Maison Drouhin and the 2011 is going to be a lovely example of the vintage. The deep and expressive bouquet offers up scents of apple, pear, chalky soil tones, citrus peel and a lovely topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and very well-balanced, with a fine core of fruit, fine focus and really lovely length and grip on the classy finish. This is a serious bottle of white Burgundy and a very, very good value in 2011! 2013-2020. **88+.**

2011 Rully Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

I should have mentioned this in the opening remarks about the vintage, but most of my comments were confined to the Côte d'Or and Chablis and I did not taste too many examples from the Côte Chalonnaise on this trip. However, in 2011 there was a devastating hail storm on July 12th in Rully that wiped out huge swaths of vineyards. The Drouhins' production was down fully seventy-five percent in Rully. The resulting wine has not turned out badly at all (other than in terms of quantity), but it is a wine that is structured for early consumption, offering up scents of apple, pineapple, a touch of honey, pretty minerality and a bit of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and reasonably crisp, with good concentration in the mid-palate and pretty good length and grip on the wide open finish. Drink on the young side, as this seems a bit gently structured, but given the ravages of the hail in July, this is really very good. 2013-2015. **87.**

2011 Montagny "Premier Cru"- Maison Joseph Drouhin

Happily, Montagny was spared the hail of mid-July, and the 2011 Premier Cru bottling from Maison Drouhin is outstanding, offering up a deep and very classy nose of apple, tangerine, chalky minerality, citrus peel, white flowers and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core, lovely focus and excellent length and grip on the open and dancing finish. This is very high class wine for its price point. 2013-2022. **89+.**

2011 St. Romain- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Drouhin St. Romain is a lovely wine, with a complex and accessible nose of apple, a touch of pineapple, salty soil tones, smoke, orange peel and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and wide open, with a good core, sound framing acids and very good length and grip on the focused finish. This is not the most complex white Burgundy, but it offers up a lot of style in its genre. 2012-2018. **88.**

2011 Côte de Beaune Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

It is too bad that the Drouhins do not produce more of their Côte de Beaune Blanc, as this really is a very classy bottle of wine and a superb value. The very pure and vibrant bouquet delivers a mélange of apple, lemon zest, white flowers, chalky soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and quite complex, with bright acids, lovely focus, fine mid-palate depth and impressive length and grip on the very suave finish. Just a superb value that will drink with great style right out of the blocks. 2013-2023. **89+**.

2011 Chablis “Réserve de Vaudon”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

I have been a fan of the Réserve de Vaudon bottling since its inception and the 2011 is another lovely wine for its price. This very classy village wine offers up a blend of green apple, pink grapefruit, a lovely base of minerality, citrus peel and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with snappy acids, fine focus and backend mineral drive and very good length and grip on the transparent finish. This is a lovely wine. 2013-2025. **90**.

2011 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The 2011 Drouhin Vaillons is a lovely and quite classic example of the vintage, jumping from the glass in a complex blend of apple, pink grapefruit, oyster shell, a touch of straw and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite open in personality, with a good core of fruit, lovely focus and a long, bright and complex finish. This will not need any extended cellaring to blossom, as the wine is already wearing its heart on its sleeve and is a delightful glass of Chablis. 2013-2023+. **91**.

2011 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The 2011 Montmains is also an excellent bottle of Chablis in the making. The deep and complex nose shares the accessible personality of many of the 2011s here, offering up scents of lemon, apple, beeswax, complex minerality, citrus peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and zesty, with excellent focus and grip, a lovely core of fruit, fine soil signature and impressive length on the wide open finish. Good juice that will delight right out of the blocks and should prove to be a tad longer-lived than the 2011 Vaillons. 2013-2025+. **92**.

2011 Chablis “Les Bougros”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The 2011 Drouhin Bougros is a superb and quite forward grand cru, with the depth and profundity of soil of a top grand cru beautifully coupled with a more accessible structure provided by the vintage. The nose is a superb and very complex mélange of lemon, apple, chalky soil tones, beeswax, citrus zest and a lovely topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and succulent on the attack, with superb soil signature, a rock solid core, excellent acidity and a very long, complex and beautifully focused finish. This may shut down again as it has more time to stretch out from its *mise*, but, at least at this point, the 2011 Drouhin Bougros looks like a superb grand cru Chablis that will not demand a whole lot of bottle age to provide an awful lot of enjoyment. 2013-2025+. **92+**.

2011 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The les Clos from Joseph Drouhin is currently all barrel-fermented in older barrels these days, and sees no new wood during its *élevage*. However, even the older barrels still add a very gentle wisp of vanilla to the aromatics here, which gives the 2011 a touch of Vincent Dauvissat style to its aromatic and flavor profile. The bouquet is really stunning, soaring from the glass in a complex mélange of apple, tart orange, a great base of complex, chalky minerality, beeswax and a faint savor of vanilla. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the

attack, with excellent complexity, a rock solid core and a very long, focused and very racy finish. A great bottle of les Clos in the making! 2016-2040. **94.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Drouhin Puligny-Montrachet AC is very fine and will drink splendidly right from the outset. The deep and classy bouquet offers up scents of white peaches, orange zest, spring flowers, a lovely base of chalky soil and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and zesty, with lovely acids and focus, good mid-palate depth and a long and bouncy finish. A lovely village wine. 2013-2025+. **90.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Chassagne *villages* was still in tank and ready for bottling at the time of my visit, but having been racked several months previously, it was really showing beautifully. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, orange zest, a touch of almond paste, chalky soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a wide open personality, crisp acids and lovely focus and grip on the very long finish. Classy AC. 2013-2025. **91+.**

2011 Meursault- Maison Joseph Drouhin

In contrast to the Chassagne *villages*, the 2011 Meursault AC had just been bottled and was completely out of sorts from the *mise*. Consequently, I did not take a note on it, except to observe that it was very long and soil-driven on the palate. I am sure it will be excellent, but it was in no shape for precise note taking.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Clos de la Garenne is a lovely wine that shares the accessible nature of several of the Drouhin whites in this vintage, but has such beautiful balance and depth that it should have no difficulties aging long and gracefully as well. The bouquet is deep, complex and vibrant, offering up a lovely mix of apple, peach, chalky minerality, spring flowers and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with bright acidity, fine focus and balance, impressive nascent complexity and a long, classy finish. A lovely wine, the 2011 Clos de la Garenne will be accessible right out of the blocks, but I might be inclined to give it at least a year or two in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to emerge. 2014-2030. **92.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Drouhin Folatières is always one of my favorite examples of this lovely premier cru and the 2011 is a very pretty and complex wine of charm and bounce. The classy nose offers up a ripe and stylish mélange of pear, white peach, chalky soil tones, a touch of *crème patissière*, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, bright and fairly forward in personality, with a juicy core of fruit, lovely framing acids and superb length and grip on the complex finish. This too will benefit from a bit of bottle age, but it is even more seductive out of the blocks than the Clos de la Garenne and it is pretty hard to suggest that waiting is necessary on this delicious wine! 2013-2025+. **92.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” Marquis de Laguiche- Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Laguiche bottling of Morgeot is absolutely beautiful this year, with great elegance and nascent complexity. This is simply a stunning wine, soaring from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, orange zest, a touch of pastry cream, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent, with a great core of fruit, racy acids and outstanding length and grip on the beautifully balanced and almost silky finish. A great bottle of Laguiche Morgeot, the 2011 will need a few years in

the cellar to unlock its secondary layers of complexity, but it will drink relatively early by the standards of this cuvée. 2015-2040. **94.**

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Meursault “Perrières” from Maison Joseph Drouhin is also outstanding, offering up a deep and very classic bouquet of apple, passion fruit, iodine, hazelnuts, chalky minerality and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very mineral in personality, with a rock solid core, excellent focus and balance and a very long, pure and laser-like finish. This is a stunning example of Perrières, and like the Laguiche Morgeot, it will only need a handful of years in the cellar to start drinking at its peak. 2015-2040. **94+.**

2011 Beaune “Clos des Mouches” Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Clos des Mouches Blanc was raised in twenty percent new oak this year and is really a beautifully transparent and soil-driven young vintage of this beautiful wine. The young and very promising nose offers up a mélange of apple, tart orange, lemon, a complex base of soil, a nice touch of the Clos des Mouches’ slightly herbal exotica and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with nascent complexity, excellent mid-palate depth, fine acidity and a long, focused and very classy finish. This will need a few more years in the cellar to fully blossom than the above two wines, but it will be outstanding when it reaches its peak. 2016-2040. **93.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Corton-Charlemagne from Maison Drouhin is a gorgeous wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a deep and very classic mélange of apple, pear, a very complex base of chalky, almost saline soil tones, orange zest, almond blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with superb focus and bounce, nascent complexity, bright, zesty acids and outstanding length and grip on the young and refined finish. This is not forbiddingly young, as some vintages of Corton Charlie can be, and only a few years of bottle age should allow this wine to really blossom and start drinking with aplomb. A lovely wine. 2015-2040. **94.**

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Bâtard-Montrachet from Joseph Drouhin is excellent, with the inherent power of this vineyard beautifully synthesized into the elegant and more forward style of the vintage to produce a truly lovely example of this great grand cru. The deep and complex nose shows off a lovely blend of ripe apples and pears, chalky soil tones, incipient notes of butter, a bit of youthful herbal complications (also found in the Clos des Mouches Blanc this year), orange peel and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and displays stunning depth in the mid-palate, with crisp acids, excellent focus and grip and a very long, poised and moderately youthful finish. Like the Drouhin Corton-Charlemagne this year, the 2011 Bâtard-Montrachet will not need too many years in the cellar to really start to drink beautifully. Fine, fine juice. 2016-2035. **94+.**

2011 Montrachet “Marquis de Laguiche”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

Last year, I felt the 2010 Laguiche Montrachet was about as fine a young example of this iconic wine as I had ever tasted. Well, the 2011 may well be even a hair better! It is so clear that the vineyard of Montrachet has captured something very special in the growing season of 2011, and the new vintage of the Marquis de Laguiche is a work of art, soaring from the glass in a magical mélange of apple, pear, lemon chiffon, brilliantly complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly pure and refined, with brilliant complexity, flawless balance, a superb core, racy acids and

glorious, elegant precision and cut on the very, very long, laser-like finish. This is a brilliant young vintage of the Laguiche Montrachet, with all of the inherent beauty of this great vineyard fully realized, but I have to imagine that it will close down a bit after bottling and need several years to once again fully emerge. Finally, after all these years, I begin to truly understand why this vineyard was ranked ahead of everything a few hundred years ago! 2017-2045+. **99.**

Vins Rouges de Maison Drouhin

2011 Chorey-les-Beaune- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Chorey-les-Beaune had already been bottled at the time of my November visit, but was still showing very well. The pretty and stylish nose offers up scents of cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, fresh herb tones, a pretty base of soil and a touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, juicy on the attack and nicely transparent, with a good core, moderate tannins and lovely length and grip on the bouncy finish. This should only need a couple of years in the cellar to really blossom, and should drink well for fifteen to twenty years. A lovely middleweight. 2014-2030+. **88.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Fourneaux”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux” had also been recently bottled, but unlike a few of its predecessors, this wine was still a bit agitated from its recent *mise* and harder to get a proper handle on at the time of my visit. The nose offers up lovely complexity in its blend of cherries, currants, gamebirds, smoke, fresh herbs and a fine base of soil. Deep, fullish and nicely structured on the palate, this wine exudes good mid-palate depth and a long, chewy finish. So close to the bottling, the wine is a bit subdued and I assume there is a lot more vibrancy here than meets the eye today, as there is certainly plenty of stuffing and a fine signature of soil. I have little doubt this will be very fine in the fullness of time. 2017-2035+. **88-90.**

2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Clos des Chênes from the Drouhins was still in barrel and due for a racking at the time of my visit, so the wine was showing just a touch of reduction. Underneath, is a very suave and stylish vintage of Clos des Chênes, offering up a bouquet of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, gamebirds, dark soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. I very much like this bottling year in and year out at the domaine and the 2011 is another very strong wine. 2020-2050+,. **92.**

2011 Beaune “Grèves”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Beaune “Grèves” from Maison Drouhin comes from the very top of the slope, in the section of the vineyard known as Sur le Grèves, which has a very high concentration of hard limestone in the soil. The vines here are now thirty years of age and this is growing quickly into one of my favorite bottlings from the domaine. The 2011 offers up a pure and sappy nose of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with fine focus, ripe tannins and a long, classy finish. This will be a beautiful wine in eight to ten years. 2020-2050. **91+.**

2011 Beaune “Clos des Mouches” Rouge- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Clos des Mouches will be an absolute classic in the fullness of time. The refined and youthfully complex bouquet delivers scents of red and black cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, lovely soil tones, fresh herbs, a touch of quail and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite structured, with a rock solid

core, ripe tannins and excellent focus on the very long and still fairly primary finish. This will be a very elegant rendition of Clos des Mouches with sufficient bottle age, and it would not surprise me if this resembles the beautiful 1985 at its peak of maturity. 2020-2050. **92+**.

2011 Corton “Bressandes”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin

I very much like the Gevrey *villages* bottling from Maison Drouhin in the last several vintages, and the 2011 is another excellent example. The classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, a touch of strawberry, coffee, a lovely base of dark soil tones, hints of the grilled meat to come, spices and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full and quite red fruity in personality, with fine transparency, perfectly respectable mid-palate depth and lovely length and grip on the tangy finish. This will be a very suave middleweight in a few years and will drink very well from early on in its evolution. 2014-2030+. **89.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès” from Maison Drouhin is a superb wine in the making, as it synthesizes beautifully the structural integrity of Nuits with the elegance of the vintage, with distinctly more red fruit tones this year than is typical of this cru in riper years. The truly beautiful bouquet offers up scents of red and black cherries, a bit of *fraises du bois*, gamebirds, coffee, a beautifully complex base of soil, woodsmoke, herbs and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very mineral, with a great core of fruit, exceptional focus and lovely length and grip on the suavely-tannic and tangy finish. This is always one of the most elegant bottlings of Nuits premier cru of which I am aware, but the 2011 really shows off this personality trait in spades. A superb wine that does not get the recognition it truly deserves these days! 2018-2040. **92.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Chambolle “Premier Cru” had already been bottled in November and was still a bit easy-going as a result, with what I suspect is much of the wine’s structure hidden by the recent *mise*. The bouquet is a lovely blend of cherries, strawberries, mustard seed, coffee, gentle new wood tones and a topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and long, with lovely, nascent complexity, soft-seeming tannins and good length and grip on the finish. Today, this wine is all silk and perfume, but a bit foggy from the bottling, and I have to expect that more vibrancy and a bit more backend structure is currently masked from the recent *mise*. This will certainly be very good. 2017-2035+? **90-91+?**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Petits Monts is a beautiful wine that will develop into a gorgeous middleweight of great flavor intensity and transparency in the fullness of time. The very suave bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, Vosne spice, a touch of duck and a stylish base of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and classy, with a fine core of black fruit, superb soil inflection, suave tannins and a very long, soil-driven and classy finish. Just lovely juice. 2022-2050. **93.**

2011 Clos Vougeot- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Drouhin Clos Vougeot is another wine that has taken on the veneer of 2011’s elegance in a very flattering manner, wafting from the glass in a complex and very refined bouquet of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, coffee, a touch of the venison to come, a beautiful base of soil, fresh herbs and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a lovely core, fine focus, ripe tannins and outstanding length and

grip on the youthful and very promising finish. Lovely Clos Vougeot in the making. 2022-2050. **92+**.

2011 Griotte-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Griotte-Chambertin had not yet been racked at the time of my visit and was ready, showing just a bit of reduction on both the nose and palate. However, underneath is a lovely wine in the making, offering up scents of red and black cherries, plums, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, grilled meats and a bit of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine, nascent complexity, fine-grained tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. Lovely juice. 2022-2050. **93+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 les Amoureuses from Maison Drouhin is a beautiful wine in the making, offering up a suave mélange of red and black cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, mustard seed, gamebirds, a beautifully complex base of soil and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and wonderfully complex already, with a sappy core of fruit, superb transparency, suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the bright and very elegant finish. A stunning young Amoureuses. 2022-2050. **94+**.

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Drouhin Bonnes-Mares was again, just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but due for a racking the week following our tasting. Underneath is a great, great wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a blend of black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, venison, a superb base of soil, fresh herbs and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and balance, nascent complexity and superb grip on the seamless and very, very long and youthful finish. All this needs is time! 2022-2060. **95**.

2011 Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2011 Drouhin Musigny was bottled only the week prior to my visit, but probably had not yet begun to shut down and was showing beautifully. It is clearly the finest of a great, great range of reds in this superb vintage, wafting from the glass in a magical blend of cherries, strawberries, coffee, roses, a wonderfully complex base of soil, woodsmoke and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with great mid-palate depth, laser-like focus, fine-grained tannins and great, nascent complexity on the very, very long, supremely elegant finish. This is the epitome of Musigny! 2025-2075. **96+**.

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

I made my customary two extended visits to the Louis Jadot cellars this year to work my way through their formidable lineup of reds and whites from the 2011 vintage. I visited with mixed emotions, as the quality of the 2011s at Maison Jadot was up to its customary very high standards, but this was the last visit I will have with retiring Technical Director Jacques Lardière, who has been a fixture at Louis Jadot ever since my first visit to taste at the domaine in the spring of 1990. Jacques is well-loved throughout Burgundy and his tenure at Maison Jadot has been a period of renaissance at the estate, which has produced increasingly fine wines each and every year since I have had the pleasure to visit the cellars. The winemaking going forward at Louis Jadot is in very, very capable hands with Frédéric Barnier, who has been on board here for several years already working alongside Jacques in the cellars and vineyards, fully ready to take over as Technical Director and I have little fear that the exemplary quality at Louis Jadot will do anything other than continue on far into the future. But, like so many friends of Maison Jadot, I am going to miss Jacques' infectious good nature and boundless energy. On my two

visits, I was received once by Jacques (whose dance card was understandably very full with seemingly the whole world descending on Burgundy to taste the 2011s in November and everyone fully aware that he is retiring at the end of this year) to work through the red wines from the 2011 vintage, and once by Frédéric to taste through the lion's share of the white wines in the cellar. As anyone who has ever done in-depth tasting at Maison Jadot can attest, it is a formidable endeavor, as the domaine produces an astonishingly broad range of both reds and whites, and each session stretches on into marathon proportions and requires a lot of time, stamina and concentration.



Technical Director, Frédéric Barnier in the new tasting room at Maison Louis Jadot.

I am very grateful to the domaine for organizing the tastings this year in their very commodious new tasting room next to the extension of the chais, as it is far easier for me (and I am sure for other visiting journalists as well) to work through forty or fifty samples while sitting down at a table to write the notes, rather than furiously scribbling them in the semi-darkness of the cellar. However, I am very cognizant of the fact that this adds dramatically to the workload at the domaine, as rather than just hopping around from barrel to barrel with a pipette, samples have to be drawn prior to the tasting (often from multiple barrels to reflect the amount of new wood that will be in the final blend) and prepared in the tasting room, and given the range of wines produced by Louis Jadot, this is a very formidable undertaking. Merci Encore to all the team at Jadot for assisting with the preparation for these tastings, which made it far quicker

(hard to believe, giving the long hours we spent tasting there together on both visits!) and easier to concentrate properly on each wine in the lineup. Most of the cellar had been racked prior the harvest of 2012, but not every wine. For this reason, not all of the wines were in top form at the time of my visit, for, some wines had been racked and assembled into their final cuvées in anticipation for bottling early in the new year, others had been racked back into barrels for further barrel aging prior to assemblage in tank and bottling in the spring, and some were still in their original barrels and not racked yet. So the cellars were a bit all over the place in terms of evolution, but the quality was very high across the board. Please keep in mind that with the notes below for the village wines, which the domaine has taken great care to fine tune over the last several vintages, none of the premier crus that are routinely declassified into the various village wines these days had yet been added to the blend, so my notes probably reflect wines that will be even better when they are bottled along with barrels of premier crus that do not make the cut- a fairly sizable number in the last several vintages, as Jacques Lardière is always happier to have a great village wine than simply a respectable premier cru! He is very, very content with how the wines have turned out in his penultimate vintage at Maison Jadot (he has high hopes for the superb potential of the 2012s as well- which he considers his last vintage- but lamented the very short crop of this past summer), and he opined “that in the Côte de Beaune, the red wines of 2011 may well be even a touch superior to the beautiful 2010s when the two vintages have reached full maturity in the future.” Like so many vigneronns in the region, Monsieur Lardière is very content with the super elegance of the vintage in general and sees nothing but advantages from the lower alcohol levels in the wines, as they “lack for nothing in terms of balance or potential.” A very, very promising range of 2011s (in both colors) at Maison Jadot.

Vins Blancs du Maison Jadot

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Château des Jacques

Château des Jacques produces a Beaujolais blanc that is all tank-fermented and this Bourgogne blanc that is a blend of barrel and tank fermentation, which gives the wine a bit more mid-palate stuffing. The 2011 Bourgogne blanc offers up a bouquet of apple, peach, a bit of toastiness, white soil tones and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and shows a pretty good core, with bright framing acids and nice length and grip. Good juice for its price point. 2013-2018. **86+**.

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé “Sous Vergisson”- Domaine Ferret

Domaine Ferret is now producing two “regional” bottlings of Pouilly-Fuissé- Sous Vergisson and Autour de Fuissé, with the former from vineyards located around the Roche de Vergisson in the northern end of the appellation and the other from vineyards closer to the village of Fuissé in the southern half. Both wines are raised in a combination of cement tanks and older oak barrels. The 2011 Sous Vergisson bottling from Domaine Ferret was bottled in January of 2012 and was showing very well in November. The lovely nose of the 2011 Sous Vergisson wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, orange zest, lovely soil tones and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus, tangy acids and very fine length and grip. Serious Pouilly-Fuissé! (I also tasted the 2011 Autour de Fuissé bottling from Domaine Ferret on this trip, but it had been bottled more recently and was not yet recovered from the *mise*, so I took no note.) 2013-2020+. **90**.

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé Tête de Cru “Le Clos”- Domaine Ferret

The Le Clos bottling from Domaine Ferret hails from a .69 hectare vineyard that lies right next to the domaine on the outskirts of the village of Fuissé, and is planted half with vines that

are twenty years of age and half with vines that are forty years old. At the time of my visit, the 2011 Le Clos bottling from Domaine Ferret had been racked at the end of September and assembled, but not yet fined and was resting in tank awaiting final preparations for bottling. The wine this year was raised in forty percent new wood and was showing excellent potential, offering up a deep and classy nose of tangerine, apple, lovely minerality, citrus zest and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with zesty acids, fine focus and a long, nascently complex and classy finish. Just lovely. 2013-2020+. **92.**

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé Tête de Cru “Les Perrières”- Domaine Ferret

The single vineyard bottling of Les Perrières from Domaine Ferret also hails from the region just outside of Fuissé, lying a bit higher up in elevation from Le Clos and sharing a deep soil of clay and alluvial deposits layers over limestone. The 2011 was showing beautifully in November, offering up a deep and complex nose of apple, tangerine, a complex base of soil, orange zest and a gentle topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, quite crisp and soil-driven, with a fine core, lovely focus and very good length and grip on the zesty finish. This is also an outstanding bottle of Pouilly-Fuissé. 2013-2023. **92+.**

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé Hors Classé “Tournant de Pouilly”- Domaine Ferret

The Domaine Ferret bottling of Tournant de Pouilly hails from the northern side of the appellation, just to the east of the village of Pouilly, with an easterly exposition, limestone-rich soils and fifty year-old vines. The 2011 was a bit more closed than either the Le Clos or Les Perrières bottlings and could use with a few years of bottle age to fully blossom, but offers up a fine and quite floral nose of peach, pear, toast, citrus zest and a lovely base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary in profile, with fine focus and mid-palate depth, zesty acidity and outstanding backend length and grip on the youthful finish. All this needs is a bit of bottle age to unwind. 2015-2025+. **92+.**

2011 Pouilly-Fuissé Hors Classé “Ménétrières”- Domaine Ferret

The vineyard of Ménétrières lies right in the heart of the appellation, with its southern boundary touching the northern edge of the village of Fuissé and with an exposition facing southeast. The one-third of the vines here are presently quite young, having been planted ten years ago, but with the remainder ranging from twenty to forty years of age. The 2011 Ménétrières is a very young wine as well, offering up a very Puligny-like fruit tones in its bouquet of apple, white peach and orange zest, layered over a lovely base of toasty soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and fairly broad-shouldered, with a good core of fruit, crisp acids, fine focus and a long, still quite primary finish. This will be lovely in a few years, but give it some time in the cellar to blossom. 2015-2025. **92+.**

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Louis Jadot Bourgogne Blanc was bottled in the spring of 2012 and was showing good style and stuffing in November. The pretty nose wafts from the glass in a mix of pineapple, pear, citrus zest and deep soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite juicy, with good, but not great complexity, nice focus and cut, lovely mid-palate depth and good length and grip on the bouncy finish. Not bad at all. 2013-2017. **86.**

2011 Marsannay Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The Marsannay blanc from Maison Jadot hails from the domaine’s own vines and is a step up from the Bourgogne blanc in 2011, offering up a complex nose of apple, quince, chalky soil tones, citrus peel, white flowers and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy, with a fine core, bright acids and good focus and grip on the long and

surprisingly youthful finish. This could do with a year or two's worth of bottle age. Good juice. 2014-2020+. **87+**.

2011 Côte de Nuits Villages “le Vaucrain” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The vines for the domaine's Côte de Nuits Villages Blanc also lie in Comblanchien, right next to the Clos de la Maréchale, but 2011 will be the last vintage for the white wine here, as the vineyard had now been planted over to pinot noir. The 2011 offers up a deep and classy nose of apple, peach, a touch of fresh almond, lovely soil tones and a discreet touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with a good core, lovely, framing acids and impressive length and grip on the soil-driven finish. This is really excellent for its level. 2013-2020. **87**.

2011 Fixin Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

I always find the combination of chardonnay and *terres rouges* soils in Fixin quite intriguing, and the 2011 example from Maison Jadot is no exception. The pretty nose offers up a blend of quince, pear, a fine base of soil tones, citrus peel and a deft touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with lovely bounce and focus, zesty acids and very good length on the focused finish. This is really a very well-made and classy wine that walks outside the usual chardonnay and limestone mix. 2013-2020. **87**.

2011 Ladoix “le Clou d’Orge” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot (Domaine Gagey)

The domaine has owned this stony vineyard since 2007 and the vines are now twenty-five years of age. The 2011 was showing quite a fruit-driven personality at the time of my visit, offering up a ripe and juicy nose of apple, pear, a touch of pastry cream, stony soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is vibrant, full-bodied and juicy, with a good core, relatively moderate complexity out of the blocks, nice framing acids and sneaky length and grip on the finish. I would guess that the malo was partially blocked for this wine in 2011, to give it a bit more bounce, but this may have caused it to come across as a bit more fruit-driven than it would have otherwise. A tasty bottle for uncomplicated quaffing. 2013-2020. **86**.

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses “Croix de Pierre” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Croix de Pierre blanc was showing quite a forward personality in November, but also plenty of style and charm. The bright and engaging nose jumps from the glass in a mix of apple, peach, tangerine, lovely soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and juicy, with a very good core of fruit, sound framing acids and very good length and grip on the focused and succulent finish. This really is a lovely wine for near-term drinking. 2013-2018. **88**.

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Clos des Guettes blanc is again a very pretty wine, with that telltale touch of pastry cream on both the nose and palate that indicates the malo was partially blocked here. The stylish and inviting bouquet is a lovely mélange of apple, orange, *crème patissière*, stony minerality and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite driven by its underlying minerality, with snappy acids and very fine length and grip on the youthful finish. This is very tasty, but will want a year or two in the cellar to fully blossom. 2014-2025+. **90**.

2011 St. Aubin “le Charmois”- Maison Louis Jadot

According to Frédéric Barnier, the “soils of Charmois are quite similar to those of Caillerets in Chassagne-Montrachet, with decomposed iron layers over very chalky subsoils.” The 2011 Charmois from Maison Jadot is a very pretty wine, with a ripe and wide open bouquet of peach, orange, a touch of buttered almonds, chalky soil, pastry cream and vanillin oak. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite a bit more reserved than the nose suggests, with a good core of generous fruit, crisp acids and good length and grip on the juicy finish. This will not make old bones, but will provide a lot of pleasure early. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 St. Aubin “Murgers Dents de Chien”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Murgers Dents de Chien from Louis Jadot is excellent and shows lovely depth and dimension on both the nose and palate. The classy nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, pear, complex, chalky soil tones, a touch of almond paste, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and again, quite wide open in personality, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine, framing acids and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced finish. I would opt for drinking this on the young side as well, but it will be a lovely and absolutely guilt-free drink right from the outset. 2013-2020+. **89+.**

2011 Meursault- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Meursault AC from Maison Jadot was really singing at the time of my visit and should prove to be an admirable value in this vintage. The very stylish nose offers up a complex base of apple, pear, tangerine, lightly-toasted almonds, spring flowers, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with fine focus and backend bounce, a very good core, zesty acids and excellent focus and grip on the very long and well-balanced finish. A fine, fine village wine. 2013-2025+. **91.**

2011 Meursault “Charmes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Meursault “Charmes” from Louis Jadot was not really singing at the time of my visit and seemed a bit heavy-handed this year, but perhaps I just caught the wine at an awkward stage. The nose is pretty and very forward in personality, delivering scents of apple, passion fruit, citrus peel, hazelnuts and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and fairly fat in the mid-palate, with a nice spine of acidity and good cut, but a rather blowsy palate impression. The finish is long and shows off good grip, so this wine may well be even better than it showed at the time of my visit, but usually the Charmes here shows a more refined side of the vineyard than the 2011 was showing in November. This is not a bad wine by any stretch of the imagination, but, based on the superb quality of the AC, I was expecting quite a bit more. 2013-2023. **90.**

2011 Meursault “Genevrières”- Maison Louis Jadot

The domaine owns their own parcel in Genevrières and this wine is absolutely stunning in 2011. The deep, refined and classic nose jumps from the glass in the inimitable elegance of this cru, offering up scents of apple, pear, chalky minerality, almonds, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a notable sense of reserve (which is quite a contrast from the wide open and buxom Charmes), with an excellent core, crisp acids and a nice touch of iodine cropping up on the very long, racy and primary finish. This is a dynamite bottle of Genevrières in the making! 2015-2035+. **93+.**

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Meursault “Perrières” from Maison Jadot is also excellent, but it is a tad more forward in style than the superb Genevrières this year. The refined bouquet offers up a lovely blend of apple, pear, passion fruit, a touch of nuttiness, stony, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with a forward and very engaging personality, lovely mid-palate depth, sound, framing acids and very fine length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This will drink very well right out of the blocks, but I would be inclined to give it at least a year or two in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to emerge. 2014-2030. **92.**

2011 Beaune “Bressandes” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The Beaune “Bressandes” blanc is still made from a parcel of quite young vines and this has translated into a very forward example of the vintage. The nose is pretty, offering up scents of pear, pastry cream, apple blossoms, vanilla bean and chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and juicy, with fairly soft acids, but very good length on the bouncy and truly quite tasty finish. I would love to have seen a bit more structure here, but perhaps this is the nature of young vines in this vintage. Good, easy-going juice for early drinking. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Beaune “Grèves” Blanc- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Beaune “Grèves” Blanc from Maison Louis Jadot is in a completely different class from the succulent Bressandes Blanc, as this wine possesses snappy structure and great mineral drive. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, white peach, orange zest, a beautiful base of chalky minerality, a touch of smokiness and a fine base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very soil-driven, with a rock solid core, snappy acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very, very classy finish. Great wine. 2015-2030+. **93.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Puligny *villages* from Maison Jadot was also showing excellent potential in November, offering up a young and very promising nose of tart apple and pear, a touch of beeswax, lovely minerality, spring flowers and a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with nascent complexity, a fine core, and lovely focus and cut on the very long and youthful finish. I would give this at least a year to blossom, as it is a serious bottle of Puligny AC in the making. 2014-2030. **90+.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “La Garenne”- Maison Louis Jadot

The la Garenne bottling is from the domaine’s own vines and the 2011 is excellent. The bouquet is a fine blend of tangerine, pear, delicious apple, a gentle touch of leanness, white soil tones and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and balance, snappy acids and excellent grip on the very long and classy finish. Lovely juice. 2013-2035. **92.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “les Referts”- Maison Louis Jadot

The domaine’s cuvée of Referts hails half from their own vineyards and half from purchased grapes. This allows the estate to blend sections of both the top and bottom halves of the vineyard, making for a more complete example of this fine premier cru. The 2011 Referts is excellent, jumping from the glass in a blend of orange, apple, a touch of fresh almond, a lovely base of chalky minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with a lovely core of fruit, crisp acids and superb length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. Unlike the forward La Garenne, the Referts really will demand a few years of cellaring to really blossom. 2016-2035+. **92+.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Combettes from Maison Jadot is a very pretty wine on both the nose and palate, but it does not seem to possess quite the same depth as the Referts this year. The stylish bouquet is a blend of apple, white peach, lemon, lovely minerality, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with good, but not great depth in the mid-palate, vibrant acidity and excellent length and grip on the very long, young and mineral finish. It is possible that the structure here is currently masking a bit more concentration at the core and I am underestimating this, but at this point in time it looks likely to make a very complex and classy middleweight at its peak of maturity, without that extra element of depth

found in the 2011 Referts. But, give this a few years and see what happens, as it is certainly beautifully balanced and classy. 2017-2035. **91+?**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Louis Jadot

The Folatières is all from the domaine’s own vines and the 2011 is flat out stunning! The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of white peach, pear, fresh almond, chalky minerality, orange zest, a touch of new wood and a floral topnote redolent of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully reserved in profile, with a rock solid core, superb mineral drive on the backend, snappy acidity and outstanding focus and grip on the very long, young and well-balanced finish. Great juice. 2016-2035+. **93+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne” Duc de Magenta- Louis Jadot

The 2011 Clos de la Garenne from the Duc de Magenta holdings is also excellent, but this is a bit more broad-shouldered in style than the racy Folatières. The deep and complex nose delivers scents of apple, peach, a touch of butter, a lovely base of soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with snappy acids and very good length and grip on the powerful finish. This is a very, very good wine, but today it comes across as just a touch heavy-handed in terms of style- though perhaps this is just a passing phase of adolescence? 2015-2035. **91+?**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “les Pucelles”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Jadot Pucelles is the epitome of breed and elegance and is a quintessential expression of this vintage. The very pure and refined nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, pear, tangerine, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a lovely core of fruit, snappy acids and fine length and grip on the beautifully focused and classy finish. Just a classic bottle of Pucelles in the making! 2015-2035. **93**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Jadot white Burgundy village wines are exceptionally strong in this vintage, and the Chassagne AC looks to be the pick of the litter! The deep and excellent bouquet offers up a classic mélange of apple, orange, lime zest, deep soil tones, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, young and very deep, with a lovely sense of reserve, crisp acids and a very long, poised and laser-like finish of superb length and grip. The domaine has really been making an effort to produce better and better wines at the village wine level and these 2011s show that the effort has really paid off! A superb wine. 2014-2030+. **91+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” l’Abbaye de Morgeot - Maison Louis Jadot

The maison produces typically two bottlings of Morgeot each year- one from a steep section of their own vines near the old abbey at the top of the slope and labeled as l’Abbaye de Morgeot, and the other from the Duc de Magenta’s holdings in a lower section of this large vineyard. This is the domaine’s bottling, which in 2011 is a very pretty wine that will drink well from a relatively early age. The bouquet is a lovely blend of apple, pear, complex soil tones, white flowers, a touch of nutskin and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite broad-shouldered, with a fine core of fruit, crisp acids and a long, focused and classic finish. In some vintages the minerality here can be very pronounced (particularly for young Morgeot), but this year the wine is a bit more defined by its fruit. Fine juice. 2014-2030. **90+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Caillerets from Maison Jadot is absolutely stunning! The deep, pure and refined nose soars from the glass in a blaze of pear, lemon zest, chalky minerality, a touch of almond, spring flowers, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and

nascently complex, with a superb core of fruit, excellent soil inflection, racy acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long and classic finish. A great, great bottle of Caillerets. 2016-2035+. **94.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Romanée”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Romanée” from Maison Louis Jadot is also a beautiful example of the vintage, offering up a deep and youthful mélange of apple, orange, a deep and very complex base of soil, citrus oils, smoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a superb sense of reserve, excellent focus and grip and a very, very long, racy and perfectly balanced finish. This too will be stunning, but it will probably take a couple of years longer to fully blossom than the Caillerets. 2018-2040. **94.**

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Maison Louis Jadot

Maison Jadot has produced an absolutely stellar example of Corton-Charlemagne in the 2011 vintage, with the wine offering up a superb bouquet of apple, pear, orange zest, stony minerality, smoke, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary in profile, with a rock solid core of fruit, crisp acids, laser-like focus and great length and grip on the youthful and utterly classic finish. 2020-2060+. **95.**

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Bâtard-Montrachet from Louis Jadot is another brilliant wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a deep and very youthful aromatic blend of apple, lime zest, tangerine, complex soil tones, a touch of iodine and a gentle base of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very powerfully-built, with a rock solid core, snappy acids and stunning focus and grip on the very young, structured and magical finish. A very pure and racy example of young Bâtard-Montrachet that has been built to last! 2022-2060. **95.**

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet “les Demoiselles”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 les Demoiselles is also a very young and very, very beautiful wine. The youthful and very promising bouquet wafts from the glass in a refined mélange of apple, lemon, pear, chalky and beautifully complex minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a beautiful core of fruit, brisk acids, exquisite focus and grip and a very, very long, youthful and perfectly-balanced finish. This reminds me quite a bit of the 1985 les Demoiselles when it was young- which for a long time was my favorite example of Chevalier-Montrachet I had ever tasted. A great wine in the making. 2022-2060+. **95+.**

2011 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

I was a bit surprised when Frédéric Barnier decided to serve the Chevalier “les Demoiselles” ahead of the Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet, but after putting my nose in the glass, I could see why he was not particularly concerned with which order these wines were served, as this too is brilliant! The bouquet is an utterly suave and classic mélange of apple, pear, *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones, orange zest, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy, with an excellent core of fruit, snappy acids and great length and grip on the nascently complex, suave and electric finish. A great bottle of BBM. 2020-2060. **95.**

2011 Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot cellars were one of the few places where the 2011 Montrachet did not stand head and shoulders above the quality of the other grand cru whites in the range, which perhaps is a testament to just how fine the wines are here from Corton-Charlemagne on up, rather than a comment on the absolute quality of the Montrachet this year, as this wine too is stunning. The

deep and beautiful bouquet is a blend of apple, pear, orange zest, a beautifully complex base of soil, fresh almonds and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and absolutely complete, with a rock solid core of fruit, brisk acids, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the youthful and magical finish. Great wine. 2022-2065+. **95+**.



Vins Rouges du Maison Jadot

2011 Bourgogne “Chapitre” Rouge- Maison Louis Jadot

This is a new bottling from Maison Jadot that hails from vines purchased by Pierre-Henry Gagey in Fixin in 2010, that lie just below the fine premier cru of Clos du Chapitre. The production from this parcel were blended into the straight Bourgogne in 2010, but with the domaine overseeing the viticulture for the entire growing season in 2011, the wine is being bottled on its own for the first time. This is a very pretty and impressively complex wine, offering up scents of cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebird, orange peel, lovely soil tones and a bit of mustard seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, spicy and soil-driven, with good acids, just a hint of tannin and pretty good length and grip on the finish. Good juice with a lot of pedigree for its appellation. 2013-2020+. **87**.

2011 Marsannay- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Marsannay AC was showing quite youthfully at the time of my visit (this had just been assembled in tank a short time before), but with good potential. The bouquet delivers a

nice, “cool” fruit profile of tart cherries, orange peel, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, coffee and a hint of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tight and structured (some of this perception from the recent racking no doubt), with good ripeness, modest tannins and good length and grip on the soil-driven finish. This will probably want a few years of bottle age to fully blossom. 2015-2030. **87-88.**

2011 Côte de Nuits Villages- Maison Louis Jadot

The vines for the Côte de Nuits Villages from Maison Jadot lie next to Domaine Mugnier’s Clos de la Maréchale, just over the Prémieux border in Comblanchien. This is a very pretty and red fruity example of the vintage, offering up a lovely bouquet of strawberries, cherries, a touch of venison, coffee, soil tones and a hint of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and nicely transparent, with good depth, a bit of tannin and very good style and grip on the moderately long finish. A fine example. 2015-2030+. **87+.**

2011 Santenay “Clos de Malte”- Maison Louis Jadot

I have very much liked the style of this bottling as I have had a chance to drink it on a few occasions with some bottle age to it, and the 2011 was showing quite well in November. The red fruity nose offers up scents of cherries, *fraises du bois*, fresh thyme, lovely soil tones, coffee and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and nicely transparent, with a good core, moderate tannins and good focus and balance on the fairly long and quite stylish finish. This will be a lovely wine. 2015-2030+. **88+.**

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses “Croix de Pierre”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Croix de Pierre from Maison Jadot was still a bit pinched from its previous racking, and I suspect that more generosity will emerge as it has a chance to bounce back fully. The nose is again quite red fruity in tone this year, delivering a complex mélange of cherries, red plums, a touch of cocoa, stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a gentle topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is fullish and quite suave on the attack, with solid mid-palate depth, a bit of tannin to resolve, fine focus and very good length and grip on the currently quite closed finish. I would guess that this wine will drink quite well early on, but that it is showing a bit more reticent at the present time simply from its recent racking. 2016-2035. **87-88+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos de Guettes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Clos des Guettes was racked a bit earlier than most of the cellar, in July of 2012, and was showing quite well as a result. The deep and quite wide open nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of cherries, strawberries, Savigny spice tones, coffee, roses and a beautifully complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and very suave on the attack, with a good core of fruit, ripe tannins, good acids and excellent length and grip on the very soil-driven finish. This will be excellent. 2017-2035+. **90+.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “la Dominode”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 la Dominode had been racked a bit later than the Clos des Guettes and was a bit more reserved still as a result, but this too is obviously going to be a delightful example of Savigny. The deep and pure nose delivers a lovely blend of cherries, currants, red plums, a bit of meatiness, stony minerality, bonfires and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core of pure fruit, ripe, well-integrated tannins, sound acids and fine focus and grip on the very long and youthful finish. Lovely juice. 2018-2040. **91.**

2011 Monthelie “les Champs Fulliot”- Maison Louis Jadot

I was remiss in asking Jacques if we could taste the Champs Fulliot (as we already had more than seventy samples prepared, I hardly needed to be adding to the lineup!), but I was very happy to taste the 2011 version, as this is an excellent wine and one of the great sleepers to be

found in all of Burgundy. The lovely bouquet offers up a classy blend of plums, cherries, violets, raw cocoa, dark soil tones and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite plush on the attack, with a beautiful core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and excellent balance and grip on the long, pure and classy finish. This is superb juice and amazing bang for the buck! 2016-2035. **90.**

2011 Volnay- Maison Louis Jadot (Domaine Gagey)

The vines for the Volnay AC at Maison Jadot are owned by the Gagey family and this is another terrific value in the domaine's lineup. The very pretty and expressive nose offers up a complex mélange of cassis, dark berries, a lovely note of fresh thyme, woodsmoke, dark soil nuances and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, poised and very soil-driven, with a good core, fine focus, moderate tannins and very good grip on the long and classy finish. This will need a few years to really blossom, but it will be a delightful example of Volnay at its apogee. 2018-2040. **89+.**

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes"- Maison Louis Jadot

Domaine Jadot's 2011 Clos des Chênes is absolutely stunning and a classic example of this great *terroir*. The bouquet is a refined and youthful blend of black cherries, dark berries, raw cocoa, gamebirds, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and plush on the attack, with a beautiful, sappy core of fruit, ripe tannins, excellent focus and superb length and grip on the poised and well-balanced finish. Lovely juice. 2019-2045+. **93+.**

2011 Volnay "Santenots"- Maison Louis Jadot

The inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage is very much on display with the lovely '11 Volnay "Santenots" from Maison Jadot. The deep and quite beautiful nose wafts from the glass in a blend of plums, black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, dark soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and plush on the attack, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection and great elegance for a young Santenots on the long and ripely tannic finish. Another stellar Jadot 2011 Volnay. 2019-2040+. **92+.**

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Barre"- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Clos de la Barre is also excellent from Louis Jadot, offering up a deep and expressive bouquet of cassis, black cherries, bitter chocolate, herb tones, woodsmoke, soil and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully refined, with excellent mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and suave finish. This will want seven or eight years of bottle age to really blossom and should drink splendidly for at least a couple of decades. 2019-2040. **92+.**

2011 Pommard- Maison Louis Jadot

Most of the grapes for the Jadot Pommard *villages* hail from the vineyard of Noizons, which lies up above the premier cru of Pézerolles on the slope. The 2011 offers up a pretty and spicy nose of cherries, orange zest, gamebirds, herb tones, soil and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, red fruity and nicely transparent, with good mid-palate depth, fine focus and impressive potential on the long, moderately-tannic and soil-driven finish. This is high class Pommard AC and a wine that should age very well indeed. 2020-2050. **90.**

2011 Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine"- Maison Louis Jadot

I cannot tell if I am just paying more attention to the fine Pommards in the Jadot lineup these days, or if they have really taken a step up in terms of refinement in the last several vintages, but I have really liked what I have tasted of late and the 2011 Clos de la Commaraine is no exception! The deep and very classy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black

cherries, woodsmoke, game, coffee, really striking soil tones, herbs and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe tannins and a very long, youthful and nicely balanced finish. High class juice in the making here! 2020-2060. **92.**

2011 Pommard “Rugiens”- Maison Louis Jadot

Maison Jadot has made a brilliant Rugiens in 2011, as the wine delivers a young, complex and classic nose of red and black cherries, plums, lovely spice tones, a touch of meatiness, raw cocoa, a superb signature of soil and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and extremely elegant for young Rugiens, with a superb core of fruit, ripe tannins, good acids and excellent focus and balance on the long and classy finish. This is absolutely stellar Pommard. 2022-2060+. **93+.**

2011 Beaune “Theurons”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Theurons from Maison Jadot has turned out beautifully and is a very expressive example of the vintage that will drink well from an early age, but which I would definitely tuck away in the cellar for a handful of years and allow its full complexity to emerge with bottle age. The excellent and quite red fruity nose offers up scents of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a fine base of soil and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and succulent at the core, with fine-grained tannins, beautiful balance and lovely length and grip on the young and elegant finish. Lovely juice. 2019-2040+. **90+.**

2011 Beaune “Clos des Couchereaux”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Clos des Couchereaux is also outstanding, wafting from the glass in a classy mélange of red and black cherries, coffee, fresh herb tones, complex soil nuances and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with moderate tannins, excellent focus and balance and impressive grip on the long and vibrant finish. This is an utterly complete Beaune premier cru. 2019-2040+. **91.**

2011 Beaune “Grèves”- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot parcel of vines in Beaune “Grèves” are right up at the top of the slope in the finest section and the 2011 has turned out splendid. The pure and elegant nose delivers a beautiful blend of red plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, fresh thyme, woodsmoke, complex soil tones and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off gorgeous mid-palate depth, with a fine core of fruit, suave tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the poised, long and very well-balanced finish. This will be a very velvety example of Beaune at its apogee and should age a very long time on its exquisite balance. 2020-2050. **93.**

2011 Beaune “Boucherottes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Boucherottes from Maison Jadot does not possess quite the same refinement as the Beaune “Grèves” and is just a touch more rustic in style, but it too will be a lovely wine with sufficient bottle age. The deep and more reserved nose offers up scents of cherries, venison, woodsmoke, soil tones, fresh herbs and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite broad-shouldered for a young Beaune, with a fine core of fruit, firm tannins and excellent length and grip on the young and primary finish. This will not be anywhere near as tempting to drink too soon, as it has a bit of structure to work through, but in due time, it will be a very tasty bottle. 2022-2045. **90+.**

2011 Beaune “Clos des Ursules”- Maison Louis Jadot

Perhaps nothing underscores Jacques Lardière’s point about the very high quality of the 2011 Côte de Beaune red wines than the superb caliber of the 2011 Clos des Ursules. Last year, I

felt that the Clos des Ursules from 2010 was probably the greatest young vintage of this wine I had ever tasted, and yet, the 2011 may well be every bit as good! The bouquet on the 2011 is reserved and very classy, delivering a superb blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, gloriously complex and polished soil tones and a lovely base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a lovely sense of reserve, a rock solid core, stunning precision, fine-grained tannins and brilliant length and grip on the seamless finish. This is more closed today than the Beaune “Grèves”, but my gut instinct tells me that it is potentially both more complex and longer on the backend. A beautiful, beautiful wine in the making and I would love to have the opportunity twenty years down the road to compare the 2010 and 2011 Clos des Ursules side by side! 2022-2070+. **94.**

2011 Corton “Pougets”- Maison Louis Jadot

Corton “Pougets” can often be a bit marked by its structure out of the blocks, but the elegance of the 2011 vintage has worked its magic on this *climat* and the wine is about as suave a young Pougets as I can recall tasting from Louis Jadot. The deep and very refined nose jumps from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fresh herb tones, a very complex base of stony soil tones and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and properly reserved, with a rock solid core of fruit, firm, ripe tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very long and youthful finish. A superb Corton. 2025-2075. **93+.**

2011 Corton “Grèves”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Jadot Corton “Grèves” is more typically young and chewy Corton, but with excellent potential as well. The deep and nascently complex nose offers up scents of red and black cherries, cocoa, youthful soil tones, venison, a bit of bonfire and a sound base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, powerful and quite broad-shouldered, with fine mid-palate concentration, excellent soil signature, firm, chewy tannins and a very long, focused and primary finish. This will need plenty of time to blossom, but it will be very good at its apogee- though I do not think it will ever be able to match the breed of the Pougets this year. 2025-2075. **90+.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges- Maison Louis Jadot

The Nuits *villages* is all purchased juice, and while it will be a very good bottle of AC in time, it does not seem to have quite the same refinement as the wines made in house by the domaine. The 2011 version delivers a classic bouquet of cassis, black cherries, woodsmoke, game, herbs, soil and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a touch sturdy out of the blocks, with good depth at the core and fine length and grip on the fairly tannic finish. This is good, honest Nuits St. Georges that will take some time to come around, but should be quite long-lived for a village wine and be a good drink in its prime. 2020-2040+. **89.**

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Boudots”- Maison Louis Jadot

The parcel of Boudots owned by the Gagey family was purchased by the family in 1969, and is planted half to very old vines and half that was replanted in 1978 and 1979. The plot lies on the border with Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”, and this is one of the great wines year in and year out in the Jadot lineup. The 2011 is exceptional, jumping from the glass in a mélange of red plums, cherries, gamebirds, coffee, woodsmoke, a touch of mustard seed, vanillin oak and a great, complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and properly structured for a young Boudots, with a fine core of fruit, ripe, well-integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and still quite primary finish. This is an absolute classic in the making! 2025-2075. **93.**

2011 Chambolle-Musigny- Maison Louis Jadot

According to Jacques Lardière, eighty percent of the Chambolle AC cuvée is vinified in house by the domaine and hails from vines just below the premier cru of Sentiers on the Morey border. Controlling the vinification seems to have translated into a bit more precision here than in the very good Nuits *villages*. The 2011 Chambolle AC offers up a fine and very red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, orange zest, coffee, soil tones and a nice touch of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and classically Chambolle, with lovely transparency down to the soil, modest tannins and a very long, focused and classy finish. This is a very strong village wine! 2018-2040. **89+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Sentiers”- Maison Louis Jadot

I have always liked the style of Sentiers, which shows its Morey proximity in a slightly sturdier style of Chambolle, and the 2011 from Maison Jadot is a classic example of this underrated *terroir*. The deep and complex nose wafts from the glass in a blend of strawberries, cherries, complex soil tones that will turn autumnal with time, coffee, gamebirds, a touch of cedar and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely soil-driven, with a fine core of pure fruit, superb focus and nascent complexity and the elegance of 2011 very much in evidence on the long and moderately tannic finish. Sentiers is probably one of the least elegant *terroirs* in Chambolle in general, but the refinement of the vintage has really dovetailed nicely here and produced a first class example of Chambolle premier cru. 2020-2045+. **91**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” from Maison Louis Jadot is superb, jumping from the glass in a complex and classy nose of cherries, red plums, coffee, herb tones, a fine signature of soil, woodsmoke and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and deep at the core, with lovely elegance and focus, moderate, suave tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long and classy finish. Normally this is a significant step up from the Sentiers in the cellars, but this year the gap is a bit closer, due to the polish the vintage has wrought on the Sentiers. A fine bottle of les Fuées in the making. 2020-2045+. **91+**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Maison Louis Jadot

Les Baudes can often be a rather black fruity Chambolle premier cru, but in 2011 this is all redolent of red fruity and lovely spice tones. The very elegant nose delivers a stylish mélange of strawberries, cherries, a touch of orange peel, coffee, mustard seed, gentle new wood tones and a great base of complex soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and vibrant finish. This will need seven or eight years in the cellar to fully blossom, but this will be a terrific wine. 2020-2045+. **92**.

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 les Amoureuses was racked right after the harvest of 2012, so I may well be underestimating it just a tad, as this superb wine may very well be even better than it was showing at the time of my November visit. The deep, pure and utterly classy bouquet is a blend of red and black cherries, red plums, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, incipient notes of gamebird, a glorious base of soil and a deft framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still very primary in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, laser-like focus, impeccable balance and a very, very long, ripely tannic and aristocratic finish. This is a great wine in the making and my gut instinct tells me that I am underrating it today! 2022-075+. **94-95**.

2011 Vosne-Romanée- Maison Louis Jadot

The Vosne AC from Maison Jadot is purchased wine, but from the same two producers which the house has worked with for decades and it is consistently a lovely example. The 2011 has turned out brilliantly and this is the best village red wine in the cellars this year, jumping from the glass in a classy and very expressive blend of raspberries, cherries, cocoa powder, Vosne spices, lovely soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and silky on the attack, with lovely mid-palate depth, impressive transparency, just a touch of tannin and excellent focus and grip on the long and dancing finish. This is a superb AC, and keep in mind it will get a nice dollop of both Petits Monts and Chaumes blended into it- which is certainly not going to harm it any! 2020-2040. **91.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “Beaux Monts”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Beaux Monts was the last wine to finish up its malo in the Jadot cellars this year, and had only finished up a week or two before my visit and had not yet been racked. Despite its awkward stage, it is quite clear that this will be excellent, as it offers up a deep and complex nose of black cherries, plums, a touch of bonfire, game, dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and very well-balanced, with a fine core, ripe tannins and excellent backend energy on the soil-driven and youthful finish. This will be lovely. 2022-2050. **92+.**

2011 Vosne-Romanée “les Suchots”- Maison Louis Jadot

I tasted a few atypically red fruity examples of Suchots in 2011, but the excellent Jadot version is classically black fruity out of the blocks. The bouquet is a fine mélange of black cherries, cassis, dark soil tones, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, espresso and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively pure on the attack, with a lovely core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and superb length and grip on the focused and primary finish. This will need a good decade in the cellar to fully blossom, but it will be a fine, fine example. 2022-2050. **92.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot team vinified the Gevrey AC in its entirety and this too, is a very strong village wine in 2011. The deep, quite red fruity and superb nose jumps from the glass in a mix of cherries, blood orange, grilled meats, mustard seed, dark soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and very soil-driven, with excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the backend. Another excellent village wine, and this too will receive a chunk of premier crus into the final blend before bottling! 2018-2035+. **90.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Petite Chapelle”- Maison Louis Jadot

I love the elegance of good Petite Chapelle, and this is a characteristic that the 2011 from Maison Louis Jadot certainly exudes on both the nose and palate. The classic bouquet delivers a lovely mélange of cherries, red plums, cocoa powder, fresh herb tones, a fine base of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe, well-integrated tannins and excellent length and grip on the refined and youthful finish. This will be the epitome of elegance at its apogee! 2022-2050+. **92+.**

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Lavaux St. Jacques from Maison Jadot has perfectly captured the refinement of the vintage and is *trés fine* this year. The superb bouquet wafts from the glass in a classy blend of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, espresso, black minerality, cocoa, vanillin oak and a dollop of rose petals in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly classic, with great transparency down to those dark soil tones, a superb core of fruit, ripe tannins

and outstanding length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. High class juice that will age beautifully. 2022-2060. **92+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”- Maison Louis Jadot

In 2011, choosing a favorite from these glorious Gevrey premier crus at Louis Jadot is going to be very difficult, as they are all exceptional. The 2011 Estournelles has no difficulties keeping the pace of the fine Lavaux and Petite Chapelle, offering up a lovely aromatic mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meat, espresso, herb tones, a fine base of dark soil nuances, woodsmoke and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins, very good grip and focus and a long, youthful and beautifully delineated finish. 2022-2065. **92+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Jadot Cazetiers is another great wine in the making, jumping from the glass in mix of black cherries, cassis, grilled meat, black minerality, espresso and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, superb, nascent complexity and a very long, focused and ripely tannic finish. Man, every Gevrey premier cru in the cellars this year just screams out its *terroir*! 2022-2065. **92+**.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Maison Louis Jadot

After the stunningly brilliant 2010 Clos St. Jacques from Louis Jadot, I was prepared for a slight letdown with the 2011, but this wine is absolutely stunning and may well be an equal for the supernal 2010! The supremely elegant nose delivers a beautifully refined mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meat, fresh herb tones, espresso, black minerality, woodsmoke, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very complex, with a superb core of pure fruit, outstanding focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and stunning backend energy on the very, very long and refined finish. Another absolutely profound vintage for the Clos St. Jacques. 2025-2075. **95**.

2011 Charmes-Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

I had not routinely paid enough attention to the Jadot Charmes-Chambertin, but the 2011 is a very, very fine follow-up to the excellent 2010 version here. As I observed last year, this is a purchased wine, but it is superb, offering up a complex nose of red and black cherries, a touch of strawberry, meaty tones, a fine base of soil, coffee, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a good core (though not quite the same concentration as the Clos St. Jacques), fine focus and a very long, classy and ripely tannic finish. This is very good juice indeed. 2022-2065. **92+**.

2011 Chapelle-Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Chapelle-Chambertin from Maison Jadot is exceptional, offering up a refined bouquet of red and black cherries, a bit of pomegranate, gamebirds, a beautifully complex base of soil, a touch of nutskin, fresh herbs and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a sappy core, very refined tannins, superb focus and great length and grip on the young and very classy finish. This will be a terrific bottle of Chapelle, but it will need at least a dozen years to really hit its apogee. 2025-2075. **94**.

2011 Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

The Chambertin at Louis Jadot is purchased fruit, and this is often a touch behind the Clos de Bèze and the Chapelle for that reason and can be just a bit *sauvage* out of the blocks in some vintages. However, the elegance of 2011 has produced an utterly suave young Chambertin, and this is going to be a stunning wine at its peak of maturity. The young and very refined nose offers up scents of cherries, red plums, nutskin, incipient meatiness, coffee, a gloriously complex

base of soil, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a great core of fruit, laser-like focus, ripe, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, complex and precise finish. Superb wine. 2027-2075+. **94+**.

2011 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Louis Jadot Clos de Bèze is very, very close in quality to the brilliant 2010 that I tasted last year. The nose is deep, stunning and quite reserved in profile, offering up scents of black cherries, cassis, espresso, black minerality, herbs, grilled meat and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and totally suave, with superb mid-palate depth, ripe and classy tannins and outstanding length and grip on the nascently complex and aristocratic finish. A magical wine in the making and another 2011 Jadot wine I would love to be around to sample next to its 2010 counterpart when the two are fully mature! 2025-2100. **96**.

2011 Echézeaux- Maison Louis Jadot

The parcel of Echézeaux that Maison Jadot utilizes lies in the *lieu à dit* of Rouge du Bas (up above Grands Echézeaux) and is planted with sixty year-old vines. The 2010 last November was showing a bit oaky to my palate, but the 2011 was singing this year, offering up a beautiful nose of black cherries, cassis, woodsmoke, venison, dark soil tones, fresh thyme and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a good core of fruit, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the beautifully balanced finish. This is a purchased wine and, perhaps, it lacks just a touch of dimension at the core that the domaine's own grand crus possess in this vintage, but this is a lovely wine by any stretch of the imagination. 2022-2060. **92**.

2011 Grands Echézeaux- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Grands Echézeaux from Maison Louis Jadot is also a very well-made wine, delivering a fine bouquet of dark berries, black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a suave attack, fine-grained tannins, very good mid-palate depth and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This too is excellent. 2022-2060+. **92+**.

2011 Clos Vougeot- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2011 Jadot Clos Vougeot is absolutely stellar. The very deep and vibrant nose wafts from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, venison, espresso, bonfires, beautifully complex minerality, herb tones and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and properly reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and superb length and grip on the very energetic and classy finish. This too could very well be a match for the outstanding 2010 version here! 2025-2075. **94**.

2011 Clos de la Roche- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot Clos de la Roche is a purchased wine, but it hails from the same two *vignerons* which the domaine has been buying from for many decades. The 2011 has turned out beautifully, offering up a classic bouquet of black cherries, plums, game, dark chocolate, lovely soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with the elegance of the vintage very much in evidence, very good depth at the core, ripe tannins and a long, focused and complex finish. Perhaps there is just a tiny lack of backend energy *vis à vis* the domaine's own 2011 grand crus, but this is high class juice that will age very well indeed. 2022-2050. **92**.

2011 Clos St. Denis- Maison Louis Jadot

As I noted last year, the Gagey family's parcel of Clos St. Denis is planted with eighty-one year-old vines and this is consistently one of the great sleepers amongst the cornucopia of Côte de Nuits grand crus in the Jadot cellars. The 2011 is stunning, offering up a refined and

very pure bouquet of cherries, blood orange, cocoa powder, a touch of nutskin, a profoundly complex base of soil, cloves and a deft framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and brilliantly complex, with excellent mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and superb focus and grip on the very, very long, elegant and dancing finish. Once again, Maison Jadot has crafted a beautiful example of Clos St. Denis. 2022-2060+. **94+**.

2011 Bonnes-Mares- Maison Louis Jadot

Vineyards such as Bonnes-Mares really have taken advantage of the elegant side of the 2011 vintage, and this is doubly true of this stunning wine from Maison Jadot. The deep, sappy and simply gorgeous nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, game, espresso, fresh herbs, stunningly complex soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with great mid-palate depth, laser-like focus, ripe, firm tannins and simply stunning length and grip on the still very young finish. Profound juice. 2025-2075. **94+**.

2011 Musigny- Maison Louis Jadot

The queen in the Jadot cellars is brilliant in 2011. The stunning nose offers up a cornucopia of red and black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, woodsmoke, a marvelously complex base of soil, a touch of nutskin, mustard seed, coffee and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and potentially very velvety, with a beautifully sappy core, ripe, utterly suave tannins, great focus and balance and a very, very long, vibrant and completely seamless finish. A great bottle of Musigny in the making! 2025-2100. **97**.

Pommard

Domaine Michel Gaunoux (Pommard)

As is customary at Domaine Gaunoux, I did not taste the 2011 vintage out of barrel on my visit here in November, but rather a selection of wines that the family is currently preparing to release into the market, as well as a few other recent vintages still on their current availability lists and one old bottle to properly finish off our tasting. As I am sure most readers will recall, the Gaunoux family still releases their wines in a much more traditional manner and generally holds the new vintages back anywhere from three to four years to allow them to start to blossom a bit, and they will often have several fully mature wines on their current sales sheet. On this most recent vintage, I had my first opportunity to taste through a selection of their 2009s, which they are just starting to make available at the domaine. Interestingly, though the domaine's tradition is to pick on the late side in general in each vintage, they opted to protect freshness in 2009 and started their picking at the very end of August in this hot "fin de saison." The 2009s that I tasted here certainly have maintained a lovely sense of shape and balance and have avoided many of the pitfalls of overripeness that are more and more evident with so many 2009s a few years out from the vintage. But, I think it is also testimony to the Gaunoux family's impression about the forward nature of the 2009s to be making them available to their clients relatively early on by the release standards of the domaine, and I noted that my previous tasting notes show only one 2008 tasted thus far from Domaine Michel Gaunoux and no 2007s as of yet. In any event, the 2009s I tasted on this visit were really very fine examples of the vintage and should hold their freshness and classic style far longer than many of the wines from this vintage.

2009 Bourgogne- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

The 2009 Bourgogne rouge is a very good and soil-driven example of the vintage and its appellation. The very pretty nose offers up scents of cherries, orange zest, gamebirds and a

gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and transparent, with a touch of tannin, good focus and very good length and grip on the finish. Good juice that will drink quite well from release, but will also keep nicely for several years. 2013-2020+? **87.**

2009 Beaune- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

The 2009 vintage of the Domaine Gaunoux Beaune is quite forward in style, which is not always the case with this often quite sturdy and long-lived bottling. The wine delivers a lovely bouquet of cherries, strawberries, gamebird, woodsmoke, soil tones and a touch of orange zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and impressively soil-driven for this buxom vintage, with a good core of fruit, moderate and very well-integrated tannins and fine focus and complexity on the long and open-knit finish. This is a lovely bottle that also will drink quite well from an early date. 2013-2025+. **89.**

2009 Pommard “Grands Épenots”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

The 2009 Grands Épenots is a lovely bottle of Pommard in the making and shows excellent purity and soil nuance on both the nose and palate. The deep and classy nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of cherries, quince, coffee, vinesmoke, fresh herb tones and a lovely base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, impressively transparent, with a superb core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and a long, complex and tangy finish. This is really a lovely bottle in the making that has escaped most of the signature, super ripe fruit of this vintage. It will drink quite early (particularly by the long-lived standards of the Gaunoux family’s Grands Épenots!), but it will provide superb purity and complexity at its apogee and should prove to be an ideal wine for those of us who have a lot of Gaunoux wines in our cellars that are not yet at their peaks of maturity. 2015-2035. **92+.**

2009 Corton “Renardes”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

The 2009 Corton “Renardes” *chez* Gaunoux is truly stunning and is a step up from the excellent Grands Épenots in this vintage. The deep and utterly classic nose delivers an exciting blend of cherries, red currants, orange peel, a great base of stony minerality, coriander and other, more exotic spice tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very transparent, with a rock solid core of fruit, firm, but very refined tannins and stunning length and grip on the focused and very well-balanced finish. 2017-2050. **94.**

2008 Pommard “Grands Épenots”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

I had only tasted the 2008 Pommard “Premier Cru” bottling thus far from Domaine Michel Gaunoux in this lovely vintage, and I was very happy to have a chance to sample the Grands Épenots on this most recent vintage. This is a great classic in the making- albeit cut in the traditional style of the domaine and still very young and unevolved. The classic bouquet offers up a primary and very precise blend of cherries, blood orange, a superb base of soil, mustard seed, gamebirds and a topnote of vinesmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off great mid-palate depth, with tangy and very well-integrated acidity, excellent focus and a long, moderately tannic and soil-driven backend. While the 2009s *chez* Gaunoux are very pure examples of the vintage, when one returns to a more classically styled vintage such as 2008 here, one can get a sense of the wine simply dancing across the palate! A great 2008. 2020-2060+. **94+.**

2006 Pommard “Rugiens Bas”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

On my last couple of trips to Burgundy I have tasted quite a few 2006s, and I have generally found the wines hunkered down for an extended hibernation and about as grumpy and adolescent as red Burgundy can get. However, the 2006 Rugiens Bas from Domaine Gaunoux was showing very well and had not (yet?) shut down for an extended sleep, as the wine offers up

a deep, complex and classy bouquet of cherries, currants, venison, incipient notes of *sous bois*, great minerality, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and orange peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with a fine core of fruit, firm, very well-integrated tannins, bright acids and a long, youthful and very well-balanced finish. This will be a superb wine in the fullness of time. 2020-2060. **93.**

1998 Pommard “Grands Épenots”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

I have not been touching the fairly substantial selection of 1998s in my own cellar, as I still have a goodly supply of 2000s and older wines for current drinking, and have been letting the lovely 1998s continue to develop with bottle age. So, I was very happy to have a chance to taste this lovely 1998 Grands Épenots, just to see where it was in its evolution, as I had not tasted it since a sample crossed my path at the domaine three years ago. The nose is deep and blossoming beautifully, offering up scents of red and black cherries, a beautiful base of minerality, *pigeon*, notes of bonfire and forest floor and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very much defined by its soil elements, with excellent complexity and balance, a fair bit of tannin still to resolve and a long, tangy and focused finish. This is a lovely wine, but it is still at least five years away from really reaching its apogee. 2017-2040+. **92+.**

1983 Corton “Renardes”- Domaine Michel Gaunoux

This was the first example of the 1983 vintage I had tasted from Domaine Michel Gaunoux and I was very impressed with its quality. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a tertiary blend of *sous bois*, cinnamon, *petits fruits rouges*, bonfires, summer truffles, herb tones and soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still shows a bit of chewy tannin on the backend, with lovely focus and complexity, a fine core of fruit and excellent grip on the very long and classy finish. This is a very clean and impressive 1983, but it will probably always be just a bit chewy in personality. 2012-2030+. **92.**

Volnay

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

Frédéric Lafarge has made absolutely gorgeous examples of the 2011 vintage, with both the domaine’s red and white wines exuding elegance, transparency and superb potential. While he is not willing to rank them quite up in the same league as his 2010s, he feels this is an outstanding vintage that is at least as good as his stellar 2008s, and stylistically, he prefers the domaine’s 2011s to their (very, very good) 2009s. His father, Michel Lafarge is equally high on the quality and potential of the 2011s, which he says “remind me very much of the 1952 vintage when it was young.” The harvest here was started on August 30th, with most of the grapes collected over the first week of September, with one or two notable exceptions such as the Aligoté vines for the Raisin d’Orée bottling, which were not collected until the 18th of September. As was the case in most of the cellars that I visited in November, the malolactic fermentations for the 2011s chez Lafarge were on the early side, and the entire cellar had been racked in September of 2012. The wines were absolutely singing at the time of my visit, with the lower alcohol levels adding a great sense of elegance and transparency to the wines (which in my experience are never in short supply in the Lafarge cellars- no matter what the style of the vintage!) and it is quite clear that the 2011s from Domaine Lafarge will be an absolutely stellar set of wines. Like many of the very best 2011s, they are structured in such a way that it is easy to anticipate that they will drink well relatively early on by the long-lived standards of this fine Volnay domaine, but they possess such beautiful balance that it would be hard not to expect the

2011 Large wines to also be very long-lived. Happily, the yields were sufficient in 2011 for the domaine to produce a bottling of their superb Meursault “Vendanges Selectionées” again this year, after having not made one in 2010 because of a short crop, and not planning to make one again in the devastatingly short crop of 2012. As was the case here in both the 2008 and 2010 vintages, I was struck by how red fruity certain bottlings were at Domaine Large this year- such as the two Volnay AC cuvées, the Clos du Château des Ducs and the Clos des Chênes- which can often be quite black fruity out of the blocks. I very much like this characteristic in these wines when it pops up in a vintage, as I think it augurs very well for the ultimate complexity of all of these wines at maturity. This is an absolutely beautiful range of wines!

Vins Blancs de Domaine Lafarge

2011 Bourgogne Aligoté “Raisin d’Orée”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Bourgogne Aligoté “Raisin d’Orée” from Domaine Lafarge is excellent, offering up a deep and ripe bouquet of apple, tangerine, chalky soil tones, a touch of orange oil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and pure, with snappy acids, good mid-palate depth and lovely shape and focus on the long and zesty finish. Good juice. 2013-2020+. **87+**.

2011 Meursault- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The straight 2011 Meursault *villages* bottling from the Lafarge family is a lovely and very elegant example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, almonds, chalky soil tones and spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully transparent, with a fine core of fruit, lovely, framing acids and very good length and grip on the focused and wide open finish. This will really drink beautifully right from the outset. 2013-2025+. **89**.

2011 Meursault “Vendanges Selectionées”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Meursault “Vendanges Selectionées” from Domaine Lafarge is one of the very best recent vintages of this cuvée that I can recall, offering up a pure and very classy bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of iodine, lovely, complex minerality, orange zest and a topnote of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very elegant, with great purity and mid-palate depth, fine acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and very refined finish. Lovely juice that shares some of the forward elements of the Meursault AC, but which I would try to give at least a year or two of bottle age to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge fully. 2014-2030. **92**.

2011 Beaune “les Aigrots” Blanc- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The Lafarge les Aigrots Blanc is now consistently one of my absolute favorite bottlings of Beaune Blanc and the 2011 is one of the best I have yet tasted since the domaine first began producing this wine in the 2007 vintage. The 2011 was raised in ten percent new wood and offers up a deep and utterly refined bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of almond paste, a complex base of soil, a very *Chablisienne* touch of straw and a topnote of orange peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very racy, with a superb core of fruit, stunning soil inflection, crisp acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This is a great wine. 2016-2035+. **93+**.

Vins Rouges de Domaine Lafarge

2011 Bourgogne Passetoutgrains- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Passetoutgrains, which is made from a fifty-fifty blend of pinot noir and gamay, is a lovely wine in the making. The very pretty nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, blood orange, a touch of pepper, vinesmoke and a lovely dollop of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, fresh and transparent, with moderate depth, but good complexity and nice bounce and grip on the backend. Good juice. 2013-2020. **87.**

2011 Bourgogne Passetoutgrains “Cuvée Exception”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The Cuvée Exception bottling of Passetoutgrains is made from a very old parcel of vines on the Meursault-Volnay border, with this wine occupying a very important historical place for the domaine. When Domaine Lafarge first began to offer wine for sale in bottle in 1934, only two wines were offered for sale- the domaine’s Clos des Chênes and a Passetoutgrains from this very same parcel of vines. The domaine began bottling these old vines on their own again in the 2004 vintage, and the 2011 is really a lovely wine, offering up a complex nose of cherries, a touch of plum, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a touch of raw cocoa in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and very pure, with good mid-palate depth, very modest tannin and a long, tangy finish. Lovely juice that shows a bit more mid-palate stuffing in its plummy than the straight Passetoutgrains. 2013-2020+. **88.**

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Bourgogne rouge is a lovely follow-up to the 2010 version, delivering a pure and complex bouquet of red plums, black cherries, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, lovely soil tones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, concentrated and impressively soil-driven, with lovely shape and grip, just a touch of tannin and a long, focused finish. This is always a superb example of Bourgogne rouge, so it is no surprise that the 2011 is excellent! 2014-2025+. **88+.**

2011 Côte de Beaune Villages- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The Côte de Beaune Villages from Domaine Michel Lafarge hails from a parcel of pinot noir vines still planted in Meursault, so this wine could be sold as Meursault *rouge* if the domaine desired it. The 2011 is a lovely wine, wafting from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, *terres rouges* soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and incipient notes of gamebird. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and quite soil-driven in personality, with solid depth, moderate tannins and lovely, nascent complexity on the long finish. Good juice. 2016-2030+. **89.**

2011 Volnay- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Lafarge Volnay AC is a very refined and classy example of the vintage, offering up a lovely bouquet of red plums, cherries, a touch of cocoa, a lovely base of soil, hints of citrus blossoms and a dollop of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a good core, fine focus, very suave tannins and good grip on the long and classy finish. This will need four or five years to fully blossom and should prove to be a delightful *villages*. 2017-2040. **90+.**

2011 Volnay “Vendanges Sélectionnées”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Volnay “Vendanges Sélectionnées” is both deeper and finer than the straight Volnay bottling. The superb bouquet is a red fruity mélange of cherries, red plums, a touch of nutskin, complex minerality, roses and a gentle topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and impressively complex, with a nice touch of sappiness at the core, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and purity on the lovely, long finish. 2020-2050. **91.**

2011 Beaune “les Aigrots”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 les Aigrots is an excellent wine, jumping from the glass in a classy blend of cherries, a touch of blood orange, gamebirds, vinesmoke and a beautiful base of complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very light on its feet, with a fine core, an elegant and very precise palate impression, fine-grained tannins and a long, youthful and transparent finish. A classically refined and soil-driven 2011 in the making. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2011 Beaune “Grèves”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The domaine’s these ninety year-old vines in Beaune “Grèves” have produced a simply stunning example of this very elegant vintage. The simply stunning nose is both restrained and complex, offering up scents of plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, beautiful soil tones, gamebirds, fresh herbs and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with a stunning signature of soil, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This is young, but it will be the epitome of elegance at its peak. 2022-2060. **93+.**

2011 Volnay “Premier Cru”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Volnay “Premier Cru” bottling from the Lafarge family is a lovely wine in the making, with a fairly structured and soil-driven personality, but with a purity that already shows off each element to great distinction on both the nose and palate. The lovely bouquet is a very red fruity (and uncharacteristic for this cuvée, which is often equally black and red in signature) profile of cherries, strawberries, gamebirds, violets, a touch of bonfire and a superb base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, primary and ripely tannic, with a good core of fruit, tangy acids and excellent length and grip on the nicely delineated and youthful finish. Good juice in the making, but this will need some time in the cellar. 2020-2050. **91+.**

2011 Volnay “Mitans”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Mitans was absolutely singing at the time of my visit and is very, very close in quality to the stunning 2010 that Frédéric Lafarge produced from this superb premier cru. The 2011 delivers a simply beautiful bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, a touch of French roast and a lovely base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and offers up quite a bit more early generosity on the attack than the Premier Cru bottling, with a lovely core, superb transparency, fine-grained tannins and great balance and focus on the very elegant and classically black fruity finish. A beautiful bottle of Mitans that will want seven or eight years of bottle age to really blossom. 2021-2060. **92+.**

2011 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

As is the case with several of the 2011s in the Lafarge cellars this year, the Clos du Château des Ducs is a very red fruity rendition of this superb vineyard. The deep and classy nose offers up a reserved and classy mélange of cherries, blood orange, strawberries, raw cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a complex base of soil tones and a complex topnote of fresh herbs primarily redolent of thyme. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a fine core of red fruit, a very soil-driven personality, suave tannins and great length and grip on the vibrant and elegant finish. This will be a dynamite vintage of Clos du Château des Ducs. 2022-2060+. **93+.**

2011 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Caillerets can often be a bit cantankerous in its youth, but the inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage has produced a very, very suave young example of this great premier cru *chez* Lafarge! The superb nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, strawberries, woodsmoke, a great base of stony soil tones, coffee and fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is

deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant, with a lovely core of fruit, great soil drive on the backend, refined tannins and a very long, classy and youthful finish. This will be stellar. 2023-2060+. **93+**.

2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes” from Domaine Michel Lafarge is again, very uncharacteristically red fruity in personality this year, but shows absolutely superb potential. The deep, pure and refined bouquet is a blend of red plums, cherries, cocoa powder, gamebirds, a touch of fresh nutmeg, a stunningly complex base of soil and a touch of violets in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very refined, with excellent mid-palate depth, very refined tannins, lovely focus and superb length and grip on the youthful and nascently complex finish. A great wine in the making! 2025-2075. **94+**.

2011 Pommard “Pézerolles”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Prior to my visit here in November, I had been unaware of just how little Pézerolles Domaine Lafarge produced, but Frédéric Lafarge told me that there is only two barrels of this wine in the cellars in most vintages. The 2011 will be stunning, so start your search for the wine now! The bouquet is a very elegant and complex mélange of cherries, red plums, nutskins, raw cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil, a touch of the gamebird to come and a gentle topnote of crushed violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a fine core, lovely transparency, suave tannins (particularly for young Pommard!) and superb length and grip on the bright and youthful finish. This will be a terrific wine in ten to twelve years. 2022-2065+. **93**.

Meursault

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

Arnaud Ente has made beautifully crisp and refined 2011s, and he seemed very content with how these low octane beauties have turned out when I visited him in November. Virtually the entire cellar is in the twelve percent range for alcohol, with the ripest wines being the 12.2 percent of the Meursault “Goutte d’Or” and Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”. Happily, the only wine Monsieur Ente decided to chapitalize at all was the Bourgogne Aligoté, which he said he chapitalized “just a little to keep the fermentation going, but I could see no reason to chapitalize any of the others, as the balance was so perfect already.” As has been Monsieur Ente’s predilection for several years now, he opted to pick early to retain his acids, and was already out in the vineyards the day before a bit of rain watered the vines on August 26th. He stopped for the one day that was damp, but soon finished up and brought everything in by the 31st of August with potential alcohols generally around twelve percent. He started harvesting first in the vineyard of Goutte d’Or this year, as its tendency to good ripeness had the grapes in a beautiful state of maturity at their 12.2 percent during the last week of August. The malos here finished up early, with the whole cellar completed by the end of March and the wines were all racked and assembled in tank prior to the harvest of 2012. Monsieur Ente commented that his philosophy has evolved over time, and that he now clearly prefers to pick early to retain cut and elegance in his wines, whereas “in the past, my wines were riper and perhaps a bit “too” Meursault- fatter and rounder- and I want now to make wines that are more refined and which show the great minerality possible in Meursault.” The 2011s are certainly made in the style to which the domaine aspires these days, with beautifully pure and precise fruit tones, plenty of floral aromatics and absolutely beautiful signatures of underlying soil tones. The vintage has not produced the same type of crystalline minerality found here in years such as 2007, 2008 or 2010,

but they are strikingly transparent wines of great harmony and elegance. Très Meursault- in the new definition chez Ente!

2011 Bourgogne Aligoté- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2011 Bourgogne Aligoté was the only wine in the cellar chapitalized this year and topped out at twelve percent. The bouquet is lovely, offering up a ripe and vibrant mix of apple, white peach, as touch of iodine, chalky soil and a touch of spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure and mineral, with ripe acids and lovely focus and grip on the classy finish. I have always found Monsieur Ente's Bourgogne Aligoté one of the very finest in all of Burgundy, and the 2011 is another stellar success. 2013-2020. **88+**.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2011 Bourgogne Blanc from Arnaud Ente is another absolutely elegant and pure example of the vintage, offering up a very stylish bouquet of apple, tart pear, lemon, chalky soil tones and a topnote of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is medium-full (and not quite as full as the Aligoté, as this was not chapitalized), with a very fine, lean and racy personality. The core shows of lovely depth, the acids are crisp and bright and the wine shows lovely intensity on the long and dancing finish. A beautiful middleweight of lovely complexity for its level. 2013-2020. **89**.

2011 Meursault- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The Meursault *villages* bottling *chez* Ente is made up from parcels of in Casse Têtes and some of the younger vines the domaine owns in en l'Ormeau. The 2011 came in at exactly twelve percent alcohol without chapitalization and is a beautifully pure and balanced wine, offering up a classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of iodine, almonds, complex soil tones and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish and an absolute thoroughbred, with lovely focus, a nice sense of reserve, crisp acids, very good mid-palate depth and a long, zesty finish. Lovely juice. 2013-2022. **90**.

2011 Meursault "Clos des Ambres"- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2011 Clos des Ambres, which comes from most of the domaine's older vines in en l'Ormeau, is absolutely classic in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a beautiful blend of apple, passion fruit, hazelnuts, iodine, lovely soil tones and a topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully focused, with fine mid-palate concentration, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Fine juice, but this will want a year or two in the cellar to fully blossom. 2014-2025+. **91**.

2011 Meursault "Petits Charrons"- Domaine Arnaud Ente

Monsieur Ente owns two parcels in Petits Charrons, with the first planted in 1954 and the second in 1990, so there is a nice mix of expressive fruit from the younger vines and great soil inflection from the older vines. The 2011 is a lovely wine, offering up a beautiful and very expressive nose of pear, passion fruit, a touch of tangerine, iodine, complex soil tones and a topnote of almonds. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and shows a nice sense of reserve, with a fine core, superb minerality and lovely focus and cut on the very long and classy finish. Another very graceful example of the vintage. 2014-2025+. **92**.

2011 Meursault "la Goutte d'Or"- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2011 Meursault "la Goutte d'Or" from Domaine Arnaud Ente is an absolute charmer, wafting from the glass in a classy blend of apple, pear, hazelnut, iodine, beautifully complex soil tones and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very precise, with great purity and mid-palate depth, racy acids and superb length and grip on the

focused and classy finish. This will get very buttery with a bit of age, which will be a lovely shading to the complex and very transparent personality of this wine. Just a gorgeous example of the vintage. 2014-2030. **93.**

2011 Meursault “la Sève de Clos”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

Monsieur Ente’s grandfather purchased the family’s parcel in en l’Ormeau in 1952, and at that time there was one plot of vines that was already approximately seventy years of age, and it is from these now close to one hundred and thirty year-old vines that the la Sève de Clos is produced. The 2011 is an absolutely brilliant example of the vintage, soaring from the glass in a superb mélange of pears, buttered almonds, passion fruit, iodine, a gloriously complex base of soil and an exotic topnote of fresh nutmeg. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very, very racy, with a superb core of fruit, lovely cut and grip and laser-like focus on the very, very long and complex finish. These ancient vines produced eighteen hectoliters per hectare in 2011! A great wine in the making! 2015-2030. **94.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2011 Referts from Arnaud Ente is also a very elegant and soil-driven example of the vintage. The deep and expressive bouquet offers up a mix of apple, white peach, lemon blossoms, chalky soil tones, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very long, with excellent focus and balance, a lovely core of fruit and fine length and grip on the very refined finish. A beautiful bottle of Puligny, and a wine that will drink splendidly right from the outset. 2013-2025. **93+.**

2011 Bourgogne “Grande Ordinaire”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The Domaine Ente version of Grande Ordinaire is one hundred percent gamay from very old vines, and the 2011 is lovely, offering up a vibrant nose of cherries, pomegranate, a touch of toasted nuts, a nice base of soil and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and suave, with a nice core, very little tannins and a long, bouncy finish. Lovely gamay. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

I have taken great delight in watching the evolution of the Volnay “Santenots” from Monsieur Ente, as the wine has gotten more and more elegant and less and less oaky over the years, and today it is absolutely gorgeous wine. The 2011 was fifty percent de-stemmed, and of the three barrels that are in the cellar, one of them was new this year. The stellar bouquet wafts from the glass in an elegant mélange of red and black cherries, cocoa powder, woodsmoke, violets, beautiful soil tones and a gentle whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a fine core, delicate tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and very refined finish. A lovely bottle of Volnay that will drink very well from an early age, but is so beautifully balanced that it should have little difficulties keeping for quite a long time in bottle. 2014-2035. **92+.**

Domaine François et Antoine Jobard (Meursault)

I was very happy to find out when I arrived at Domaine François et Antoine Jobard on a cold and foggy November morning in Meursault that there are two new wines in the cellar starting with the 2011 vintage, a small parcel of the Puligny premier cru of Champgains that the family has purchased and is sufficient to produce two and a half barrels in the 2011 vintage, and a single barrel of Meursault “Perrières” that has arrived as part of an exchange with a fellow vigneron in Meursault for a bit of the family’s production in Poruzots. Both of these are most welcome additions to this superb lineup. Antoine Jobard has made absolutely stunning 2011s,

having started the harvest here on August 29th and bringing in very healthy grapes in the twelve to twelve and a half percent range. As far as my notes recall, there was very little, if any chapitalization done at Domaine Jobard this year. As many readers will already be aware, Domaine Jobard makes very classic, structured and extremely long-lived white Burgundies, with these classic wines often demanding a good decade of bottle age to really reach their apogees of peak drinkability. In a perfect world, this is absolutely my favorite style of white Burgundy, but in an age of premo, there is always an attendant risk with each and every producer of white Burgundy today. This is of course not specific to Domaine Jobard, but it seems that premo is even more unfair to great classic estates who fashion their wines in the old school, structured and soil-driven style of the Jobard family. In the context of the long shadow of premo, perhaps the slightly more forward style of the 2011 vintage in general terms has translated into an absolutely perfect range of Jobard wines for these dark days in which we find ourselves, as there are several absolutely stunning young wines in the cellars here this year that I would feel a lot less guilty than normal drinking in their relative youth! This is a brilliant range of young white Burgundies from a domaine that may well be making today the most brilliant wines of its long and illustrious history.



Antoine Jobard outside of his cellars in Meursault, with the vineyard of En La Barre in the background.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The 2011 Bourgogne Blanc had been racked right before the harvest of 2012 and was sitting half in tank and half in older barrels awaiting bottling after the crowds of November had moved on. This is really a lovely example, offering up a deep and classy nose of apple, white peach, lovely soil tones, a nice topnote faintly redolent of Meursault's geraniums and nutskins. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with good depth, lovely bounce and impressive length and grip. Most vintages of the Jobard Bourgogne Blanc really cry out for some cellaring time, but this wine may start to drink very well by the end of next year. 2013-2020+. **87+**.

2011 Meursault- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The domaine's Meursault AC bottling hails from the *lieu à dit* of les Chaumes de Narvaux, which actually lies up slope from Poruzots and is contiguous to Narvaux Dessous. These are quite young vines by Domaine Jobard's standards, having been planted in 1999, but the wine has turned out very well indeed in the 2011 vintage. The lovely bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, tangerine, almonds, iodine and citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, medium-full and bouncy, with a good core, lovely focus and a long, zesty finish that displays fine balance and backend minerality. This is good juice and a Jobard wine that will (uncharacteristically) drink very well young. 2013-2025+. **89+**.

2011 Meursault "Tillets"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The 2011 Jobard Tillets is an excellent wine, offering up a deep, primary and classically nutty bouquet of tangerine, apple, plenty of hazelnuts, citrus peel, iodine, lovely soil tones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and racy, with excellent mid-palate depth, superb focus and cut and a long, youthful and classy finish. Fine, fine juice. 2015-2030+. **91+**.

2011 Meursault "En La Barre"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

Domaine Jobard owns 1.2 hectares of vines in this lovely *lieu à dit*, conveniently located right next to their domaine. The vines range from twenty to seventy-five years of age, and the 2011 En La Barre is simply stunning and gets my vote as the absolute steal of the vintage in white Burgundy! The deep, complex and very classy nose delivers a superb mélange of apple, passion fruit, hazelnut, iodine and a stunningly complex mineral bath of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with a rock solid core, superb acids and grip, impeccable balance and brilliant length and grip on the finish. Hard to believe this is a village wine! 2016-2035+. **92+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet "Trezin"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

As is often the case *chez* Jobard, the 2011 Puligny "Trezin" is far more forward in personality than the two *lieux à dits* Meursaults that preceded it in the lineup. The nose is lovely, wafting from the glass in a mix of white peaches, tangerine, spring flowers and a nice base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fresh and nascently complex, with nice bounce and focus, a slightly easy-going core (particularly following hard on the heels of the rock solid En La Barre!), but lovely balance on the long and juicy finish. This is a very pretty wine. 2014-2025+? **89+**.

2011 Meursault "Blagny"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The Meursault "Blagny" is often one of the more closed wines in the cellar here, and the 2011 is no exception. The young and promising nose offers up scents of apple, pear, hazelnuts, deep soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit of a block at the present time, with lovely depth, a very primary personality, and great backend length

and grip on the very youthful finish. This will be an excellent wine in due course, but it will need some bottle age to blossom. 2017-2040. **91+**.

2011 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

Young Poruzots can sometimes be a bit broad-shouldered in style, but the inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage has resulted in a stunningly refined young Poruzots *chez* Jobard. The superb bouquet delivers scents of apple, tangerine, iodine, a great base of complex soil tones, citrus peel and hazelnuts. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with laser-like focus, snappy acids and great backend minerality and precision on the very long finish. This is a great wine in the making. 2019-2040+. **93+**.

2011 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The 2011 Meursault “Genevrières” from Domaine François et Antoine Jobard is an absolute classic in the making! The great bouquet jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, passion fruit, a very complex base of chalky, almost salty soil tones, citrus blossoms and almonds. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and utterly refined, with brilliant focus, great cut and grip and a very, very long, primary and dancing finish. This is a quintessential example of Genevrières! 2019-2040+. **95**.

2011 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The Jobard Charmes this year is not far off the magical pace of the 2011 Meursault “Genevrières” and this too is a great, great wine in the making. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a mix of pear, passion fruit, almonds, iodine, citrus blossoms, lovely minerality and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with great elegance and intensity, fine mid-palate depth, bright acids and excellent focus and balance on the very long and still quite youthful finish. This is more reserved today than the supernal Genevrières, but it, too, is going to be a very, very special wine. 2020-2050. **94+**.

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

It is pretty sad that there is only a single barrel of Meursault “Perrières” in the Jobard cellars, but this is far superior to the zero barrels that used to be here! This is another absolutely stellar example of the vintage, offering up a deep and stunning bouquet of apple, passion fruit, tangerine, hazelnuts and a touch of vanillin oak (the wine was raised in a one wine barrel). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with great backend mineral drive, superb cut, a rock solid core and stunning length and grip. A classic example. 2018-2040+. **95**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Champains”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard

The new addition to the vineyard patrimony *chez* Jobard is planted with vines that are in the forty to forty-five year-old range and the inaugural vintage is lovely. The very pretty and complex nose jumps from the glass in an elegant mélange of apple, peach, orange zest, lovely, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and supremely elegant, with lovely purity and bounce, a fine core and a classy, long and properly reserved finish. Fine, fine juice that should drink sooner than several of the Meursault premier crus in the cellar. 2016-2035. **93**.

Domaine des Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

Dominique Lafon is another vigneron in Meursault that loves to get an early start picking out in the vines, aiming to retain good acidity and elegance in the wines, and the harvest here started on September 1st of 2011. He chose to chapitalize some of the cuvées this year, so the range in general for the white wines from the Côte de Beaune, so the very lovely Meursault AC bottling finished up about 12.5 percent alcohol and the premier crus and Montrachet range from

12.7 to 12.9 percent. As is the case at Domaine Roulot this year, there are plenty of changes in the cellars, as Dominique Lafon has shared in the division of the former Domaine Manuel vineyard parcels and there are now two new premier crus in the cellars- Bouchères and Poruzots, as well as greatly expanded production of the Meursault villages bottling, which used to be primarily from the domaine's small parcels in En la Barre and a couple of other lieux à dits dramatically expanded by the addition of half of the former Clos de la Baronne from that Domaine Manuel. Add to these changes the continued return of the Goutte d'Or to its former glory at Comtes Lafon, as the vines that were replanted in 1991 celebrated their twentieth vintage in 2011 and are now really starting to add the depth and dimension this wine used to show before it was grubbed up in 1989. It is hard to imagine a more stellar lineup of Meursault premier crus in the cellar than those chez Lafon these days, and the new addition of Poruzots really deserves mention, as this is going to be a very major wine in the firmament of Meursault! As is customary, we started our white wine tasting here with the lovely 2011s from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon in Mâcon, and those lovely wines were really showing well in November. As was the case in so many cellars on this trip, Dominique Lafon reported that the malos in 2011 were very early, with most of the wines finishing up in the early spring of 2012. As has been the case for the last several vintages, while the domaine is very justly famous for its great white wines, I continue to be absolutely enamored with the red wines produced here and the 2011s are another extraordinary set of wines that will make a very worthy addition to any well-stocked red Burgundy cellar!

Mâconnais Wines

2011 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine is a very pretty wine that will offer up lovely, early accessibility and a lot of charm. The stylish nose is a blend of apple, oranges, toasty soil tones and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is medium-full, juicy and very respectable at the core, with bright acids, lovely focus and very good length and grip on the wide open and bouncy finish. Good juice. 2013-2016. **87.**

2011 Mâcon-Uchizy “les Maranches”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Mâcon-Uchizy “les Maranches” was showing decidedly more mid-palate stuffing than the Milly-Lamartine at the time of my visit (perhaps a touch less pinched from the recent *mise*?), wafting from the glass in a lovely blend of apple, peach, citrus flowers, a fine base of soil and a touch of orange zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and classy, with a lovely core, bright acids and very good focus on the long and zesty finish. Very tasty. 2013-2018. **88+.**

2011 Mâcon-Bussière “la Monsard”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Mâcon-Bussière bottling from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is also excellent, with a more floral personality than the Uchizy, as well as a slightly more reserves personality on both the nose and palate. The classy nose delivers a youthful mélange of tangerine, apple, spring flowers, a lovely base of soil and a gentle touch of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and primary, with a very good core, fine focus and lovely soil signature on the long backend. Good juice as well. 2013-2018+. **89+.**

2011 Mâcon-Chardonnay “Clos de la Crochette”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Clos de la Crochette was quite a bit more closed from its recent bottling than the three previous wines. The reticent nose offers up a fine mix of apple, peach, fruit blossoms, a touch of citrus peel and a gentle base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and

quite primary, with a more fruit-driven personality, a fine core, sound acids and good length and grip on the youthful and still slightly monolithic finish. This will need a year in the cellar to really start to blossom and should be lovely. 2014-2018+. **88-90.**

2011 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine “Clos du Four”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Clos du Four is a big step up from the previous wines in the Héritiers du Comte Lafon lineup, and Dominique Lafon feels that “this is probably the most complete Clos du Four we have yet produced.” The superb bouquet jumps from the glass in a blend of apple, orange, pear, a beautifully complex base of soil and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy, with a superb core of fruit, great length and grip and superb focus on the classy and complex finish. In time, this will probably outpace the superb 2004 and 2008 versions, which remain my reference points for this fine bottling. 2013-2020+. **92+.**

2011 Mâcon Viré-Clessé- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2011 Mâcon Viré-Clessé from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is also outstanding, offering up a deep, ripe and very transparent bouquet of apple, pear, lovely minerality, orange blossoms and a touch of citrus zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very intensely flavored, with very good mid-palate depth, fine cut and a long, young and seamless finish. Fine juice as well. 2014-2020+. **92+.**

Côte de Beaune Reds

2011 Monthelie “les Duresses” Rouge- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Monthelie “les Duresses” was showing very refined and stylish in November, offering up a pretty mélange of red and black cherries, cocoa, gamebirds, dark soil tones and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very elegant, with good mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and lovely focus and nascent complexity on the long and classy finish. This will drink very well from an early date, but I would definitely give it a handful of years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. 2016-2035. **89+.**

2011 Volnay- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The Lafon Volnay *villages*, which comes entirely from younger vines in the domaine’s premier crus, is really lovely in 2011, offering up a superb bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of blood orange, bitter chocolate, a fine base of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and bouncy, with a very good core, lovely transparency, very refined tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and suave backend. This is very good juice and an excellent value. 2016-2035+. **90.**

2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

As readers will recall, the very small Lafon parcel in Clos des Chênes was planted in 1973, so these vines are now reaching a very good age and the wine has really been showing well for several years now. The 2011 will be outstanding, as it offers up a complex nose of black cherries, a touch of pomegranate, cassis, woodsmoke, a beautiful base of dark soil tones, fresh herbs and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy, with a lovely core, ripe tannins and great elegance on the focused and youthful finish. A classic example of Clos des Chênes in the making. 2018-2040. **93.**

2011 Volnay “Champans”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

Two-thirds of the parcel of Lafon Champans is in very old vines and the other third is now closing in on twenty-five years of age, so the mix of vine age is excellent and they have excelled in the 2011 vintage. The beautifully bright, red fruity and classy nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, quince, gamebirds, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke and a touch

of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with even better mid-palate depth than the Clos des Chênes (from those 85+ year old vines in the blend). The finish is long, complex and ripely tannic, with great delineation and class. Fine juice. 2020-2045. **93.**

2011 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Santenots du Milieu is gloriously pure and refined this year, taking advantage of the inherent elegance of the vintage. The superb bouquet offers up a classic mélange of cassis, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and shows off stunning backend energy, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a very, very long, transparent and still quite youthful finish. I love “cooler fruit toned” vintages like 2011 in this vineyard, as it seems to me that the greatness of this *terroir* really stands out when the fruit does not get too ripe and generous. The 2011 is certainly a classic vintage for this wine and it should start to drink stunningly well from the eight or nine year mark out from the vintage. 2021-2045+. **94.**

Côte de Beaune Whites

2011 Meursault- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The domaine has greatly expanded the production of their lovely Meursault *villages* bottling with the addition of the vines in the Clos de la Baronne, and with two-thirds of the new arrival vines being forty years of age, this cuvée has lost nothing in terms of quality. The 20121 is a lovely wine, offering up a deep and classy nose of apple, tangerine, almonds, chalky soil tones, citrus peel and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and very pure, with lovely intensity of flavor, bright acids and very fine length and grip on the wide open and succulent finish. Fine juice. 2013-2025+. **89+.**

2011 Meursault “Clos de la Barre”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Clos de la Barre is excellent, as it jumps from the glass in a stunning mélange of apple, passion fruit, fresh coconut, complex and chalky minerality, almonds, apple blossoms and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very racy, with a fine core of fruit, lovely backend mineral drive and excellent focus and grip on the very long finish. Just a classic Clos de la Barre in the making, which reminds me very much in terms of size and shape of this wine in the vintages of the late 1970s and early 1980s. 2014-2030+. **92+.**

2011 Meursault “Bouchères”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

One-third of the vines for this new premier cru *chez* Lafon hail from the old parcel that Domaine Guy Roulot owned, with the other two-thirds being former Domaine Manuel holdings. The vines for the two parcels average forty years of age, and there are six barrels of this lovely wine in the Lafon cellars in 2011. The bouquet is deep and very stylish, delivering scents of apple, pear, a touch of hazelnut, deep soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and round and succulent on the attack, with a good core, sound acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and elegant finish. There is not quite the same mineral drive on the backend here this year that is found in the Clos de la Barre, but this is a lovely wine that should drink very well from early on in its evolution. 2013-2030. **91+.**

2011 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

Happily, there are fifteen barrels of this stunning new premier cru in the Comtes Lafon lineup, and this is a wine that is going to make fans of the domaine very, very happy in the years to come! The stunning nose soars from the glass in a refined mélange of apple, pear, iodine, hazelnuts, a deep and complex base of soil, a touch of orange zest and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core,

with great cut and focus, impressive complexity and stunning backend mineral drive on the perfectly balanced and youthful finish. An utterly classic example of Poruzots and soon to be one of the stars in the Comtes Lafon cellars. Time to get in line! 2016-2040. **94.**

2011 Meursault “La Goutte d’Or”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Goutte d’Or is a beautiful wine as well, with the mid-palate depth really starting to come on as these vines now start to come into their true period of maturity. The very elegant and classy nose offers up scents of apple, passion fruit, a touch of pear, almonds, lovely soil tones and a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and almost silky on the attack, with good mid-palate depth, lovely focus and grip and a very long, bright and elegant finish. This is not quite as powerful or minerally as the 2011 Poruzots, but it is an excellent wine that perfectly captures the inherent elegance of the vintage. 2013-2030+. **92+.**

2011 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Genevrières is another quintessentially elegant example of the vintage, offering up a deep and refined nose of apple, tangerine, pear, almond paste, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and again, very silky on the attack, with a fine core, bright acids and very fine cut and grip on the long and zesty finish. Just a lovely bottle of Genevrières. 2014-2035. **93+.**

2011 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Comtes Lafon Charmes is stunning! The utterly classic bouquet delivers a complex mélange of apple, pear, passion fruit, a great base of minerality, almonds, a touch of coconut and a lovely framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a very open-knit and seductive palate impression, a great core and superb backend mineral drive that delivers superb energy and grip on the very, very long finish. This is a brilliant vintage of this wine! 2015-2040. **94+.**

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2011 Meursault “Perrières” from Domaine des Comtes Lafon is an absolute classic in the making, offering up a deep, primary and classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of passion fruit, chalky minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very, very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent focus and cut and a very, very long, perfectly balanced finish. This will drink sooner in relative terms than other top vintages here of Perrières, such as 2010, 2008, 2007 and 2004, but it will be every bit as fine as those other years and has the impeccable balance to also keep very well in bottle. 2016-2040. **95+.**

2011 Montrachet- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

As is the case in several other cellars that I tasted in on this trip, the 2011 Comtes Lafon Montrachet is very, very special, as this vintage’s character has really allowed this *terroir* to maximize its potential. The stunning, reserved and very, very deep nose offers up scents of apple, white peach, pear, buttered almonds, a gloriously complex base of soil, vanillin oak and a vibrant topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and stunningly intense, with a great core, supreme elegance and a magically long, refined and endless finish. Utter brilliance! 2017-2045+. **98.**

Domaine Guy Roulot (Meursault)

There were lots of changes in lineups in Meursault on this visit, with Domaines Lafon and Roulot splitting up the former Domaine Manuel and Domaine Jobard adding Meursault “Perrières” and Puligny “Champgains” to their lineup. Now, if the angry gods can let premo

go, white Burgundy paradise might just be in sight! Domaine Roulot now has a new, straight Meursault AC bottling that is comprised of the former Clos de la Baronne, as well as other “villages” level parcels that they have split with Domaine Lafon and which formerly were part of Domaine Manuel. Jean-Marc Roulot has also augmented his parcel in Poruzots with a significant addition with another former-Domaine Manuel plot of vines in Poruzots Dessous, which has ratcheted up the depth and intensity of this bottling chez Roulot dramatically and this is now one of the great bottlings in the village. Domaine Roulot has also added the Clos de la Bouchères that was also part of Domaine Manuel, and has rented out their former parcel in Bouchères to Dominique Lafon, so there are plenty of new bottlings in the Roulot cellars in 2011, and they are all excellent. The domaine has also been trying a new method since 2009 to try and combat premature oxidation, where they have done the last ten percent of their pressing without sulfur dioxide, and kept this part separate for a few days, to allow it to oxidize and the oxidized precipitates removed, sulfur then added to this portion of the must and it added back into the first ninety percent of juice from the first pressing from each cuvée. The idea being that with the former mechanical presses, there was a gentle oxidation during the initial pressing, which does not take place within the anaerobic environment of a modern pneumatic press, and perhaps the old-fashioned presses immunized the must a bit from oxidation in the old days. Time will tell if this technique will ward off premo issues, so keep an eye on your Roulot wines from 2009 forwards! The domaine began picking in 2011 on August 24th, deciding that maintaining good acidity levels was the key to maximizing quality in this vintage (Arnaud Ente also was very early starting to pick for this same reason), and the wines have turned out splendidly chez Roulot. The entire cellar had been racked into tank prior to the harvest of 2012 and was awaiting bottling early in the 2013, so the wines were very much on form and absolutely singing at the time of my visit.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Guy Roulot

The Roulot Bourgogne blanc also has benefited from the addition of Domaine Emmanuel parcels, as there is a significant plot of old vines that have been added to the vineyard parcels that make up this cuvée from the purchase. The 2011 Bourgogne Blanc has really lovely concentration for its level, offering up a fine bouquet of apple, orange, a touch of almond, iodine and an impressive base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, and complex, with a lot of Meursault personality, lovely focus and superb bounce and grip on the long finish. This traditionally was quite tight and took several years to really blossom, but with the new additions, the wine is just singing right out of the blocks and really looks to have jumped up in potential as a result. Impressive! 2013-2023+. **87+**.

2011 Meursault- Domaine Guy Roulot

All of the vineyard plots for this new *villages* bottling hail from the former Domaine Emmanuel, with the lion’s share having been the old Clos de la Baronne bottling. This is a very deep and classy AC bottling and a welcome new addition to the Roulot lineup, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, tangerine, nutskin, a very pretty base of soil and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite classic, with a very pretty blend of soil and pure fruit, nice framing acids and very fine length and grip on the open and classy finish. This is not a particularly minerally example of Meursault, but it has all the charm and early generosity one would like to see in a *villages* bottling, and this will delight right from the start, but I would be inclined to give it at least a year of bottle age to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. 2014-2030+. **90**.

2011 Meursault “Vireuils”- Domaine Guy Roulot

In contrast to the new Meursault AC bottling *chez* Roulot, the 2011 Vireuils comes across as decidedly more floral and zesty, with a much more minerally personality than the above. The lovely bouquet offers up a complex blend of apple, lime zest, chalky minerality, oranges, spring flowers and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, tight and racy, with a fine core of fruit, impressive focus and cut and excellent backend minerality driving the bus on the long and youthful finish. Lovely potential. 2017-2035+. **91+**.

2011 Meursault “Meix Chavaux”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Meix Chavaux is also a very successful and charming example of the vintage, delivering a classy aromatic mélange of apple, passion fruit, hazelnuts, a complex base of soil and a nice touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and impressively complex out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, fine focus and balance, good acidity and lovely length and grip on the classy finish. This is not as tight or racy as the Vireuils, but it is equally fine and will not need quite as long to unwind. 2015-2035. **91+**.

2011 Meursault “Luchets”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Luchets from Domaine Roulot is also cut from a more forward cloth than the Vireuils and will drink very well from an early age. The deep, pure and wide open nose offers up a fine mix of pear, a touch of pink grapefruit, tangerine, lovely minerality, almonds, vanillin oak and a floral topnote redolent of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite wide open on the attack, with fine mid-palate depth, crisp acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and beautifully-balanced finish. I would give this a few years just to allow its secondary layers to emerge, but it is going to be hard to resist drinking this right out of the blocks, as it is delicious! 2015-2035. **92**.

2011 Meursault “Tillets”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Tillets is more reserved than either of the two previous *lieux à dits* bottlings. It offers up an outstanding bouquet of apple, passion fruit, iodine, apple blossoms, almonds, a great base of minerality and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine cut and focus, crisp acids and excellent focus on the very long and well-balanced finish. This is quite young and shows almost a touch of tannin on its very primary backend today, but it is going to be outstanding in the fullness of time. 2018-2040. **93**.

2011 Meursault “Tessons” Cuvée Mon Plaisir- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Roulot Tessons is also outstanding, but it is possible that the Tillets has just nosed it out in this fine vintage. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a mix of tangerine, a touch of grapefruit, iodine, nutskin, citrus blossoms, lime zest and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary in profile, with a lovely core, snappy acids and excellent, cut, length and grip on the focused finish. Lovely wine in the making. 2019-2035+. **92+**.

2011 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The first vintage that Domaine Roulot produced a Poruzots was in 2007 and the first I had the pleasure to taste was the very fine 2008. I have liked this wine from the first vintage I tasted, but it seems clear to me that the additional parcel added from Domaine Emmanuel from this lovely premier cru has added another dimension to this bottling *chez* Roulot. The new version of Roulot Poruzots is absolutely stunning in 2011 and is clearly destined to be one of the very best wines in the cellar from this date forward. The deep, refined and beautifully complex nose offers up a youthful mélange of apple, lime, hazelnut, passion fruit, crystalline minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core,

with superb cut and grip, racy minerality and stunning length on the focused and quite youthful finish. A great wine in the making. 2020-2050. **94.**

2011 Meursault “Clos des Bouchères”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The old parcel of Bouchères has been let out to Dominique Lafon and Jean-Marc Roulot is now producing a Clos des Bouchères bottling, which again hails from a parcel once owned by Domaine Emmanuel. The 2011 Clos des Bouchères seems decidedly more elegant and mineral in character than the old bottling here, which was quite fruit-driven in personality in comparison to the other premier crus in the Roulot cellars. This is a great wine in the making, jumping from the glass in a lovely blend of apple, passion fruit, iodine, salty soil tones, almonds and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a fine core, lovely cut and grip and lovely soil signature on the long and elegant finish. In terms of the salty, white soil tones on the backend here, this wine bears more than a passing resemblance to Genevrières. Fine, fine juice. 2020-2045+. **94.**



Jean-Marc Roulot outside of his domaine in Meursault on a cool, November morning.

2011 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Roulot Charmes is a gorgeous and utterly classic rendition of this fine vineyard. The pure and beautifully complex nose offers up scents of apple, pear, tangerine, lovely soil tones, hazelnuts, iodine, vanillin oak and just a hint of the butter that will come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and elegant, with fine focus,

excellent mid-palate depth and outstanding length and grip on the dancing and zesty finish. A beautiful bottle of Charmes. 2020-2050. 94+.

2011 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2011 Meursault “Perrières” from Domaine Guy Roulot is a brilliant wine and one of the most beautiful white Burgundies I tasted on this trip. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, passion fruit, kaleidoscopic minerality, orange zest, iodine, hazelnuts, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, stunning mineral drive on the backend, brisk acids and outstanding length and grip on the racy and laser-like finish. This is an utterly stunning young wine! 2020-2050. 97.

Puligny-Montrachet

Domaine Jean Chartron (Puligny-Montrachet)

Jean-Michel Chartron has produced lovely 2011s, and with my visit here coming immediately after my tasting at Domaine Sauzet, I was treated to one magical morning in Puligny-Montrachet this November. Almost all of the wines had already been assembled in tank in preparation for bottling after the first of the year, with the exception of the Bourgogne Blanc, which was bottled prior to the harvest of 2012, and a few of the grand crus, which were still in barrel and had not yet been assembled. The range of 2011s chez Chartron are all outstanding examples of their respective appellations, and what I liked about the premier crus in particular this year is that a few possessed the early accessibility- coupled to great purity and soil signature- that is the hallmark of many wines of the vintage, while others are more structured and reserved in style, with greater potential for longer-term cellaring and classic profiles. It is a very fine combination, as it allows for wines that will meet the needs of everyone, from the sommelier looking for a superb premier cru to place right on the wine list when the wine is released (the superb 2011 Folatières would fit that bill nicely) to the collector looking for a great bottle to put in the cellar for several years (one could simply not go wrong with the Chassagne “Caillerets” or Puligny “Clos de la Pucelle” in this regard), and the wines are very strong up and down the quality hierarchy. While Jean-Michel’s Rully bottling was crushed by hail and only produced fifty percent of a normal crop here, the remainder of the lineup offered up pretty good quantity and outstanding quality, with the low fat style of the vintage dovetailing with elegant house style of Domaine Chartron. I was very happy to see a new wine in the Chartron lineup in 2011, a Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc from the vineyard of Les Pimentiers that was outstanding and should be an excellent value. The Chartron wines remain relatively low profile in the over-heated Burgundy market of today, and to my mind they offer up a great opportunity for white Burgundy enthusiasts looking to augment their cellar selection or flesh out their wine lists with finely-crafted and very transparent wines from some of the top terroirs in the Côte de Beaune. Jean-Michel Chartron has been on a hot streak for several years now and one day the wine world is going to wake up to the superb quality of these wines and they are going to become much more difficult to source, so it would make sense to recognize the opportunity these excellent 2011s display at the present time and add some to the cellar.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc “Clos de la Combe”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Chartron is a very pretty and impressively complex wine for its level, offering up scents of apple, pear, white soil tones, spring flowers and a touch of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full and nicely

balanced, with a good core of fruit, fine focus and very good length and grip. Good juice. 2013-2018. **87.**

2011 Haute Côtes de Beaune Blanc “En Bois Guilleman”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 En Bois Guilleman Blanc from Domaine Chartron was raised half in barrel and half in stainless steel tanks and saw ten percent new wood in this vintage. It was showing quite well at the time of my visit, offering up a classy bouquet of apple, peach, white flowers, a nice base of chalky soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, juicy and well-balanced, with lovely character on the complex, vibrant and wide open finish. This is a lovely wine and a terrific value. 2013-2018+. **88.**

2011 Rully “Montmain”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The Rully “Montmain” bottling from Domaine Chartron is one of the most important volume wines in their portfolio, as this wine has quite a following and it is the biggest production wine for the domaine these days. To lose half the crop to the summer hailstorm here was devastating, but the grapes that were left have produced a very pretty and open-knit wine that will drink very well right from the outset. The stylish nose offers up a blend of apple, orange peel, lovely, stony minerality and a gently floral topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and succulent, with lovely mineral drive on the backend, fine, framing acids and a long, balanced and classy finish. This will not make old bones, but for near-term drinking, there is a lot to enjoy here. 2013-2018. **88.**

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Pimentiers” Blanc- Domaine Jean Chartron

The new addition to the Chartron lineup is outstanding in 2011, as the Pimentiers Blanc offers up an excellent nose of apple, lime zest, a lovely base of chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite open in personality, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and balance, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the complex and vibrant finish. This is high class juice and will be another excellent value from Jean-Michel Chartron. 2013-2020. **90.**

2011 St. Aubin “Perrière”- Domaine Jean Chartron

I was very impressed by the quality of the 2011 St. Aubin “Perrière” from Domaine Chartron, as this wine possesses beautiful purity and complexity, coupled to a good underlying frame of acidity to carry it nicely in the cellar for twelve to fifteen years. The very refined and pure nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, white flowers, a lovely base of limestone, a touch of pastry cream and just a hint of new oak (twenty-five percent is used for both these St. Aubins *chez* Chartron). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with lovely focus and grip, a fine core and plenty of length on the poised and zesty finish. This is a classic St. Aubin and another lovely value. 2013-2025. **90+.**

2011 St. Aubin “Murgers des Dents de Chien”- Domaine Jean Chartron

As I noted last year, 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 and this wine is absolutely superb in 2011. The very classy bouquet offers up a complex mélange of pear, white peach, a touch of tangerine, chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with crisp acids, outstanding focus and a very long, complex and nicely structured finish. This is a dynamite wine in 2011! 2014-2030. **92.**

2011 Meursault “les Pierres”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Meursault *villages* has turned out very nicely in this vintage, which is produced from four barrels-worth of purchased grapes. The very pretty nose offers up scents of apple, pear,

almonds, a nice touch of soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, round and succulent, with a good core, rather gentle acidity, but very fine length on the focused finish. This will not make old bones, but it will be delightful right out of the blocks. 2013-2018. **89+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Benoités”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The Chassagne *lieu à dit* of “les Benoités” lies downslope from Morgeots and Domaine Chartron owns just over a half hectare of vines here, with the vines now thirty years of age. The 2011 is an excellent example of Chassagne *villages*, offering up scents of apple, lime zest, pear, a fine base of soil (more *terres rouges* than *terres blanches*), a touch of vanillin oak and a gently floral topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with a good core, fine focus and good backend soil drive on the crisp and bouncy finish. This will drink very well from the outset, but a year or two of bottle age will allow the secondary layers to emerge. 2014-2030. **90+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Puligny AC from Jean-Michel Chartron is absolutely classic in style and weight and is the pick of the litter amongst the three very strong village wines in the lineup this year. The superb bouquet jumps from the glass in a mix of apple, white peach, complex, chalky minerality, orange zest and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy in personality, with a fine core, lovely complexity and great mineral drive on the backend. The finish is long, classy and really of premier cru quality this year! 2014-2030+. **91**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Domaine Chartron consistently makes exceptional Caillerets and the 2011 is another stellar wine in the making. The deep and excellent wine soars from the glass in a classic blend of apple, pear, orange zest, chalky minerality, a gentle touch of nuttiness and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sports outstanding mid-palate depth, with great complexity, bright acids and a very long, vibrant and properly reserved finish. Think of this as Domaine Ramonet’s version of Caillerets without the peppermint! Great juice. 2017-2040. **93**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Jean Chartron

All three of Domaine Chartron’s Puligny premier crus are excellent in 2011, with the Folatières the forward and most accessible of the three. The classy nose offers up lovely depth and complexity in its mélange of apple, pear, *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with lovely generosity on the attack, a fine core, bright, framing acids and excellent length and grip on the focus on the already quite delicious finish. Like many of the top 2011 whites cut in this more forward style, they balance here is so impeccable that it would not surprise me a bit to see this wine last twenty years or more, but keeping one’s hands off of it in the cellar is going to require some serious will power! Fine juice. 2013-2035+. **92**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Pucelle”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Clos de la Pucelle is exceptional this year, with a lovely structured personality that still shows off all of the elegance and purity of *terroir* to come with just a bit of bottle age. The deep, pure and classy nose wafts from the glass in a complex blend of apple, white peach, orange zest, chalky soil tones, a touch of fresh almond and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a lovely sense of reserve, a rock solid core, crisp acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and utterly classic finish. 2016-2040. **93+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos des Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Clos de Caillerets from Domaine Chartron is another superb example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a stunning mélange of pear, apple, tangerine, complex minerality, lime zest, spring flowers and a discreet base of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with outstanding soil inflection, a very mineral personality, excellent focus and superb cut and grip on the very long and primary finish. This is electric on the palate, but give it a few years to really blossom and unlock its secondary layers of complexity. A beautiful wine. 2017-2040. **93+**.

2011 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2011 Corton-Charlemagne *chez* Chartron is another superb and impressively structured example of the vintage. The very classy bouquet offers up scents of apple, pear, stony minerality, a touch of pastry cream, orange zest and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy, with an almost crystalline expression of minerality which is very rare in 2011, great focus and cut and a very long, bright and soil-driven finish. This will be an excellent Corton Charlie, but tuck it away in the cellar for at least five years' worth of bottle age. 2018-2040+. **94**.

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

Jean-Michel Chartron has produced a stellar bottle of Bâtard-Montrachet in 2011. As is well known, the Chartrons' 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. The 2011 is pure magic, soaring from the glass in an utterly classic blaze of apple, pear, deep and complex soil tones, a touch of smokiness, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very intense, with a rock solid core of fruit, a great signature of soil, zesty acids and laser-like focus on the suave, powerful and supremely elegant finish. This is an example of Bâtard-Montrachet that approaches the great synthesis of vintage character and *terroir* that is so very evident in so many great examples of Le Montrachet this year. 2018-2040+. **96**.

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet “Clos des Chevaliers”- Domaine Jean Chartron

It was very interesting to taste at Domaine Chartron immediately after Domaine Sauzet on my trip, as it was fun to compare the merits of the grand crus at the two estates. One has to give the nod in the Le Montrachet sweepstakes of 2011 to Gérard Boudot, but in terms of Chevalier-Montrachet, the 2011 Clos des Chevaliers from Jean-Michel Chartron was probably the very finest Chevalier I tasted on the entire trip (though a *Coup de Coeur* has to go to Alexandre Moreau's stunning Chevalier as well in this vintage!). The 2011 Clos des Chevaliers soars from the glass in a magical mélange of pear, white peach, tangerine, brilliantly complex, chalky minerality, apple blossoms, orange and lime zest and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy in personality, with a brilliant core of fruit, flawless delineation and grip, brisk acids and glorious, nascent complexity on the utterly suave, elegant and extremely long finish. This is a brilliant, brilliant young wine. 2020-2045. **97+**.

2011 Montrachet- Maison Jean Chartron

As I noted last year, there is only a solitary barrel of Montrachet in the Chartron cellars, which is purchased from a grower in Puligny-Montrachet. The wine is raised in a one wine barrel and is very good in 2011, but it cannot replicate the same vinous magic of the Bâtard-Montrachet and Clos des Chevaliers in the lineup this year. The deep and very fine nose offers

up scents of apple, pear, a touch of butter, lovely soil tones, a hint of iodine and a fair bit of vanillin oak (particularly for a one wine barrel). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with very fine depth, sound focus and very good length and grip on the bright, but not quite racy finish. This is an excellent wine by any measure, but I know which grand crus I would focus on for my own cellar *chez* Chartron! 2018-2040. **94.**



Domaine Etienne Sauzet (Puligny-Montrachet)

Gérard Boudot has made lovely wines in 2011, which are a very fine follow-up to the magical collection he crafted in 2010. Everything in the cellars had been racked and assembled into tank at the time of my visit in November, with the racking taking place at the end of the summer. The Bourgogne Blanc was bottled at the end of August, but everything else was still resting comfortably in tank, with the village wines scheduled for bottling in January and the premier and grand crus in March and April of 2013. With the combination of lots of old vines (most parcels here are in excess of fifty years of age) and a seasoned team at the domaine at the very top of its game, it is always a great pleasure to taste at Domaine Sauzet. The 2011s here are a very precise, pure and floral group of wines, with scents of apple and lemon blossoms very prevalent in so many of the cuvées this year. I very much like the purity of the fruit tones this year in the Sauzet wines, which are fresh, lively and very citric in composition, but with the fruit running more to lemon and tangerine than the more grapefruity tones of higher acid vintages such as 2007. The 2011s do not possess the same crunchy cores from the extremely low yields of

2010, but they are very precise wines that beautifully reflect their underlying terroir and are not very far off the pace of the previous vintage's vinous fireworks. I was very happy to hear that the domaine has been able to purchase in 2010 the parcels of Hameau de Blagny, Champs Gains and Truffières that it had been renting, so these are now part of the permanent vineyard patrimony going forward at Domaine Sauzet. The yields were a bit more normal in Truffières in this vintage, so I had the pleasure to taste the 2011 on this trip, as I had forgone asking to taste it last year, given that there was only a half barrel of production in 2010. I did not taste with Monsieur Boudot on this visit, so I do not have quite as much background information on the vintage as I did with the 2010s here, but there is little doubt that the domaine opted to pick on the early side to maintain acidity levels, as these are a very racy and well-structured set of 2011s.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Sauzet Bourgogne Blanc is a very pretty wine that offers up a lot of charm and pretty good complexity for its level. The stylish nose wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, a nice touch of chalkiness and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and bright, with solid depth, nice framing acids and sneaky length and grip on the focused finish. Good juice here. 2013-2020. **87.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Puligny *villages* is excellent, with a nice sense of reserve that will ask for a year or two worth of bottle age prior to really coming into its own. The excellent nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, peach, lemon zest, *terres blanches* and apple blossoms in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and racy, with a fine core, lovely acids for the vintage and very good length and grip on the well-balanced and still youthful finish. 2014-2030. **90.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Enseignères”- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Enseignères” is even more closed down at the present time than the Puligny AC, but it should be lovely with a bit of cellar time. The reticent bouquet eventually offers up a complex blend of apple, tangerine, a touch of beeswax, lovely soil tones, citrus peel and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with snappy acids, fine focus and a long, primary and soil-driven finish. This will be an excellent bottle, but give it a few years. 2015-2030+. **90.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne”- Domaine Sauzet

I am often struck how examples of Clos de la Garenne that I taste are usually more forward and fruit-driven in comparison to several other top Puligny premier crus, as the vineyard actually lies at the top of the slope and is generally quite a cool microclimate. But, the 2011 Sauzet Clos de la Garenne is true to form and shows a bit more early generosity than either of the village wines and this will be one wine from the domaine this year that really drinks well right out of the blocks. The ripe and classy nose delivers a mélange of apple, a touch of pineapple, lovely soil tones, spring flowers and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core, sound, framing acids and very good length and grip on the focused and wide open finish. Good juice that I would still try to give a year or so of bottle age to- despite its very precocious personality- as more complexity will emerge with just a bit of cellaring. It is a very nice wine, but not a huge step up from the two very good village wines in the lineup this year. 2014-2030+. **91.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Gains”- Domaine Sauzet

The old vines in Champs Gains (fifty-plus years of age) have worked their magic in 2011 and this wine was showing very well at the time of my November visit, offering up a more citric a complete profile than the Clos de la Garenne. The classy bouquet is a fine blend of lemon, apple, tangerine, a beautiful base of white soil tones, orange zest and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and delivers lovely depth at the core, with fine focus, very good structure and excellent length and grip on the poised and very well-balanced finish. This will demand a bit of cellaring to really come into its own, and will be far less accessible out of the blocks than the Clos de la Garenne. 2015-2035. **92.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Hameau de Blagny”- Domaine Sauzet

The domaine’s parcel of Hameau de Blagny are also old vines- fifty-five years of age in 2011- and the wine shows plenty of promise in its more reserved style. In my experience, this cru generally needs a few years to blossom and often starts out life fairly reticent, and this will certainly be the case with the 2011. The bouquet is a classy and reserved mélange of lemon, apple, orange, deep soil tones (lots of clay here), flowers and just a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite shut down at the present time, with a good core, crisp acids and fine length and grip on the well-balanced and primary finish. This is a bit of a block in most vintages when young, but with time, the 2011 will be a very tasty bottle. 2016-2035. **91+.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Referts from Domaine Sauzet is a superb wine in the making, with the low octane style of the vintage producing a wine that is very much defined by its lovely, chalky soil tones, which comes as a bit of a surprise, as there is actually a lot of deep clay in the *terroir* of Referts. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, lemon, a touch of paraffin, orange zest, chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with an excellent core, fine focus, zesty acids and outstanding length and grip on the still quite youthful finish. Lovely juice in the making. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Perrières”- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Perrières from Domaine Sauzet is outstanding, as it offers up a beautiful combination of the pure and elegant fruit tones of the vintage and the great underlying minerality of this vineyard. The classy bouquet delivers a mélange of lemon, pear, apple, stony and very complex minerality, lemon zest and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very precise, with a rock solid core, brisk acids and outstanding length and grip on the marvelously focused finish. These are some of the youngest vines exploited by the domaine, but at twenty-six years of age, they are certainly in their prime and producing great wine. A superb example of Perrières in the making. 2016-2040. **93.**

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières” - Domaine Sauzet

As I noted last year, the Domaine Sauzet parcel of Folatières lies up high on the slope in this very large vineyard, and consequently, produces a more racy and soil-driven example than is typical of this cru. The 2011 shows a bit more ripeness on both the nose and palate than the racy Perrières, offering up a lovely and quite complex blend of peach, apple, incipient notes of honeycomb, chalky soil, lemon zest, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite generous on the attack (particularly in the context of these very racy Sauzet 2011s), with a plump core of fruit, and plenty of youthful backend energy on the crisp and well-balanced finish. This is not quite as classy to my palate as the Perrières, as it does not

possess the same mineral drive, but it is a lovely and very serious bottle that should blossom nicely with a few years of bottle age. 2016-2035. **92+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Truffières” - Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Truffières” from Domaine Sauzet is a lovely example of the vintage, soaring from the glass in a stunning mélange of lemon, apple, tangerine, very complex minerality, a hint of beeswax and a lovely dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with superb, nascent complexity, a wonderfully discreet sense of elegance, fine mid-palate depth and outstanding length and grip on the crisp and youthful finish. This is a beautiful bottle of wine in the making, but give it a few years to fully blossom. 2016-2035+. **93+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”- Domaine Sauzet

These old sixty year-old vines in Champs Canet have turned out another beautiful bottle of wine in 2011, and this is not very far off the pace of the stunning 2010 that was produced here. The absolutely classic nose offers up a refined blend of white peach, delicious apples, lemon, chalky soil tones, citrus zest, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very elegant, with great purity and focus, and excellent core, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the perfectly poised and suave finish. 2017-2040. **93+**.

2011 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Combettes is an absolute classic in the making, delivering a very citric bouquet of apple, tangerine, lemon and orange zest, a beautiful base of complex minerality, apple blossoms, incipient notes of paraffin and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and almost silky on the attack, with a fine core, ripe, crisp acids and exceptional length and grip on the laser-like finish. This will be a very special bottle of wine in the fullness of time. 2016-2040. **94**.

2011 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Sauzet is a beautiful young wine that is quite reserved in profile, and though it cannot quite match the superb quality of last year’s monumental effort, this is a glorious wine in the making. The deep and primary nose offers up scents of lemon, white peach, beeswax, white flowers, a lovely base of soil, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very youthful in profile, with a rock solid core of fruit, crisp acids and a very, very long, primary and promising finish. This will be great wine, but it will need at least seven or eight years to really deliver on its early promise. 2020-2060. **95**.

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Bâtard-Montrachet is also outstanding, showing a touch more ripeness and early development on the nose than the Bienvenues, with a very complex mélange of apple, peach, tangerine, a touch of corn meal, deep soil tones, orange peel and vanillin oak wafting from the glass. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and much more closed than the nose suggests, with a rock solid core, crisp acids and outstanding length and grip. Fine juice. 2020-2060. **94+**.

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Sauzet

The 2011 Chevalier from Domaine Sauzet is a young and beautiful wine, delivering a pure and very refined bouquet of apple, tangerine, a touch of youthful grapefruit (the only wine in the cellar with this shading this year), chalky minerality, paraffin, orange zest, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in profile, with

excellent mid-palate depth, crisp acids and excellent length and grip on the elegant and classic finish. Lovely potential here. 2020-2060. **95+**.

2011 Montrachet- Domaine Sauzet

If the 2011 vintage is not famous fifty years down the road for the magical quality of so many examples of Le Montrachet, I will be very surprised (though probably not around to comment!), as the Domaine Sauzet version is another legend in the making, soaring from the glass in an utterly complete and stunning blend of apple, lemon, orange zest, a gloriously complex base of soil, lemon blossoms and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. I do not know how to adequately describe the sensation of these great 2011 Montrachets, but it seems as if the great *terroir* of this great vineyard is only now front and center in this lower octane vintage, as the great ripening power inherent here often masks this quality in powerful fruit tones. In any event, the gloriously soil-driven Sauzet Monty is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very vibrant, with a superb core, great cut and backend intensity on the very, very long and utterly profound finish. A brilliant wine. 2020-2060+. **98**.

Chassagne-Montrachet

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

Richard Fontaine was on his way to hunt wild boar early on a Saturday morning when my appointment arrived to taste the 2011s at this superb domaine in Chassagne. This was no surprise to me, as Madame Fontaine had graciously agreed to host our tasting to accommodate my very tight schedule on this trip and allow Monsieur Fontaine to exercise a much needed thinning of the wild boar population in the nearby hills, given how much they have been devastating the vineyards in dry summers over the last several years. My timing was not ideal for this tasting however, as the red wines had all been racked just two weeks before my visit and were really not back on form. After an attempt to taste one or two of the still quite shaken wines with Madame Fontaine, we decided to set a date in March to come back and visit the reds of this vintage. Given how fine the range of red wines is at Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard, with lovely bottlings of Chassagne rouge augmented by excellent examples of both Pommard “Rugiens” and Volnay “Clos des Chênes”, I was very sorry to catch the red wines at this moment in their evolutions, but it is always better to see the cellar regimens dictated by the needs of the wines, rather than the schedules of visitors. However, the 2011 whites were showing beautifully and more than made up for having to put off tasting the domaine’s fine reds until next spring. The entire range of white wines had been bottled in August of 2012 and had recovered nicely from their mise. Some of the wines are quite forward in style and will drink very well right out of the blocks, with lovely purity tied to fine expressions of their underlying soils and very good, supporting structures that keep the wines fresh and vibrant, while still wide open for drinking. But, as one moves up the hierarchy in the cellars, one comes across more classically structured wines here in 2011 and the crème de la crème in the cellar are truly stunning young white Burgundies that will require at least mid-term aging. Like many of the white Burgundies that I tasted from this vintage, the range of 2011 Fontaine-Gagnard wines will offer several that drink very well right out of the blocks, as well as a generous handful that will age very long and gracefully. This was a very impressive portfolio from a domaine that is currently at the top of their game.

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Fontaine-Gagnard Bourgogne Blanc is a lovely wine that is impressively soil-driven for its appellation, offering up a stylish nose of green apple, lemon, chalky soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and very fresh, with pretty acids, sound mid-palate depth and sneaky length and grip on the finish. This is very good for its level. 2013-2020+. **88.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard's 2011 Chassagne *villages* is also a very stylish wine, but with a bit of structural integrity that will demand at least a couple of years bottle age to really blossom. The classy nose delivers a youthful blend of apple, a touch of orange zest, pear, a lovely base of deep soil tones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full and still quite primary, with a good core, bouncy acids and good focus and grip on the long and still fairly closed finish. Give this a year or two in the cellar before popping. 2014-2025. **89.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "la Maltroie"- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Maltroie from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is cut in the more forward and succulent style of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a very pretty mélange of white peach, apple, lime zest, a good base of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent, with a good core, nice, framing acids and good length on the well-balanced and wide open finish. This will drink beautifully right from the outset and is quite 1992-like in structure, though with a completely fresh and classic profile. 2013-2025+. **89+.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean"- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Clos St. Jean from the Fontaine family is a step up in both depth and cut from the pretty Maltroie, offering up a very floral bouquet of apple, pear, citrus blossoms, deep notes of clay soil and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and juicy on the attack, with very good depth in the mid-palate, zesty acids, and very good focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This is showing more *gras* and a bit more breed than the Maltroie this year and will drink splendidly from very early on. 2013-2025+. **91.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet- "Clos des Murées"- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The tiny monopole of Clos des Murées from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is planted with forty year-old vines, and despite the soils here being *terres rouges*, the wine was showing superb minerality in 2011. The deep and classy nose offers up a lovely blend of apple, lime, white flowers, orange zest, beautifully complex minerality and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a very refined personality, crisp acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This too will drink very well upon release, but I suspect that the spine of minerality here will carry this a bit further in the cellar than the Maltroie or the Clos St. Jean. Good juice! 2013-2030+. **92.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeots"- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine family's parcel of vines in Morgeots lie near the Santenay border, and as is customary with wines from this end of the premier cru, the 2011 is quite a bit more closed and broad-shouldered than the previous premier crus in the lineup. The youthful nose is deep, pure and promising, delivering scents of apple, tart orange, deep soil tones, citrus peel, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite closed, with a very solid core of fruit, sound acids and very good length on the soil-driven and adolescent finish. This will demand a handful of years in the cellar to really blossom and should prove to be quite good in the fullness of time, but forget about opening bottles right out of the blocks! 2015-2030+. **91.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grande Montagne”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine’s parcel of Grande Montagne are some of the youngest vines in their vineyard patrimony, but at twenty-three years of age, they are now starting to come into their prime and the 2011 is a lovely wine. The very pretty and juicy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, orange peel, chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very elegant, with a fine core of fruit, bright, framing acids and lovely focus and grip on the well-balanced, long and classy finish. Here we have moved from primarily *terres rouges* soils to *terres blanches*, and the wine is racier and shows more of the great elegance of the vintage as a result. Lovely juice. 2013-2030. **91+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The domaine has three distinct parcels in Boudriotte, with one planted back in Madame Fontaine’s grandfather’s time, and the other two replanted in 1980 and 1985. The combination is lovely, as the younger vines are now into their prime and supply really lovely fruit tones, while the very old vines provide superb soil signature. The 2011 Boudriotte is quite a bit more reserved in profile than most of these previous wines (the Morgeots excepted), but very promising in its nascently complex bouquet of apple, tangerine, beautiful minerality, smoke, citrus zest, vanillin oak and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a very fine core, superb focus and grip and a very long, reserved and superbly mineral finish. This will be excellent, but give it a few years of bottle age. 2015-2030+. **92+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vergers”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Fontaine-Gagnard Vergers is a very pure and classic example of this lovely vintage. The bouquet is a stylish and complex mélange of apple, pear, lime zest, chalky soil tones, orange blossoms and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and displays outstanding *nervosité*, with a suave, almost silky aspect to the attack, lovely mid-palate depth, snappy acids and excellent length and grip on the beautifully focused, youthfully structured and classic finish. This is beautiful, beautiful bottle of Vergers that will be a great drink with just a year or two of bottle age, but will have no difficulties aging gracefully as well. 2013-2030. **92+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine’s parcel of Chenevottes is one of the smallest in their portfolio, and their 2011 is a forward, elegant and utterly seductive example of the vintage. The bright and gorgeous nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of lemon blossoms, apple, pear, beautifully complex soil tones, a touch of citrus zest and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, again with a silkiness to the mouthfeel, lovely mid-palate depth, bright, framing acids and excellent focus and grip on the long, poised and beautifully balanced finish. There will be absolutely no reason to defer one’s gratification when this wine is released, as it will drink splendidly from day one! 2013-2030. **92+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

I love Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard’s version of Caillerets, which is probably my favorite premier cru in all of Chassagne. The 2011 is outstanding, offering up a deep and classically youthful aromatic mélange of apple, pear, tangerine, complex, chalky minerality, orange blossoms, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a superb core of fruit, a classic sense of reserve, snappy acids, laser-like focus and simply superb length and grip on the elegant and still quite primary finish. This will be a terrific wine. 2015-2035. **93+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Romanée”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 la Romanée is a bit more closed than the Caillerets out of the blocks, but it too shows outstanding potential. The fairly primary bouquet is a classic blend of apple, pear, lime zest, beautifully complex minerality, citrus blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite youthful in profile, with a rock solid core, excellent focus and balance and superb backend mineral drive and *nervosité* on the long, nascently complex and very, very classy finish. This will be a dynamite example of the vintage. 2016-2035. **93+**.

2011 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is a stunning young bottle in the making, soaring from the glass in a complex blend of apple, orange zest, chalky, almost salty minerality, spring flowers, incipient notes of pastry cream and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a classic sense of reserve, excellent focus and balance, a superb core of fruit and a very, very long, bright and snappy finish. Just a beautiful bottle of Criots from the finest producer in this tiny grand cru! 2017-2040. **94**.

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2011 Fontaine Bâtard-Montrachet was also showing stunning potential at the time of my visit, with the superb elegance of the vintage dovetailing nicely with the power of this grand cru to produce a seamless and utterly suave young wine. The first class bouquet offers up scents of apple, a youthful hint of grapefruit, pear, deep soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved, with an excellent core, fine structure and grip and a very, very long, vibrant and completely soil-driven finish. This is a great Bâtard-Montrachet in the making. 2018-2045. **95**.

2011 Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

As is the case in so many cellars where one is fortunate enough to taste a range of grand crus, the 2011 Fontaine Montrachet is a notable step up from all the other grand crus in the cellar this year. The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a mélange of apple, tangerine, lime zest, beautifully complex and bottomless minerality, pastry cream, apple blossoms and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and refined on the attack, with a superb core of fruit, simply haunting balance, brisk acids and stunning precision and grip on the endless and dancing finish. What a great wine! 2020-2060. **97**.

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils (Chassagne-Montrachet)

Alexandre Moreau has been at the top of his game for many years now and I always find this one of the highlights of my November trip, as the collection in the cellar keeps expanding a little bit at a time and the wines become more and more refined and complete with each passing vintage. As I have said before, Noël Ramonet's taking a hearty dislike to me and banning me from the cellars does not sting at all when I get to taste and drink the brilliant Moreau wines year in and year out these days. Though, I did feel a little nostalgic over Christmas opening up my last bottle of Ramonet in my own cellar (a 2000 Puligny “Champs Canet”- sadly premoxed and I should have drunk it up several years ago, but could not find it in the cellar- at least it made a great base for the bouillabaisse on Christmas Eve!). The 2011s chez Moreau are stellar wines, with great purity of fruit and stunning underlying expressions of terroir and they make a very, very worthy follow-up to the brilliant wines Alexandre produced here in 2010. I was sloppy in my note taking and did not jot down the date the domaine started the harvest, but based on how vibrant these wines showed and their superb girdles of acidity, I have to assume it was quite

early on to preserve acids. The Bourgogne Blanc and the St. Aubin “Remilly” had already been bottled- the former right before the harvest of 2012, and the Chassagne-Montrachet AC cuvée had already been assembled and fined and was to be bottled a few days after my visit. The 2011 Moreau wines are remarkable for their zesty, vibrant acidities (which are not always the norm in this very suave, but sometimes, very forward, white Burgundy vintage), and the glorious floral aspect found in so many of these wines is yet another indication that Alexandre Moreau has absolutely nailed the vintage and made a great range of white wines. In fact, the more forward side of the 2011 white Burgundy vintage is felt more here in a bit more nascent complexity out of the blocks than was the case in more structured vintages such as 2010 or 2008, but the snap of outstanding acidity is part and parcel of all of these stunning young premier and grand crus. On the red wine side of the ledger- a group of wines that is getting more and more important with each passing vintage here- the Bourgogne rouge had been bottled over the summer and all the rest of the reds had been racked three weeks before my visit, but had bounced back nicely and were showing excellent potential. With the percentage of new wood used here for the reds way down from half a dozen years ago, the wines have become very terroir-specific and are every bit a match for the much more famous white wines at Domaine Moreau, and for those who lament the upward climb of some of their favorite red wine-producing estates, perhaps it is high time to see just how good the red wines at Domaine Moreau are these days!



Alexandre Moreau of Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils in his cuverie.

Vins Blancs

2011 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Moreau is a lovely example of the vintage, offering up scents of apple, peach, a touch of orange zest, salty soil tones and a gently floral topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and really has a lovely core for its level, with good focus and impressive mineral drive on the bouncy finish. Classy juice. 2013-2020. **87+**.

2011 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 St. Aubin “en Remilly” from Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils is one of my absolute favorite cuvées produced in the village, and for fans of Domaines Lamy and Prudhon in St. Aubin, add the Moreau Remilly to your short list of great white Burgundy bargains in this overheated world of Burgundy pricing! The 2011 offers up a simply beautiful bouquet, replete with scents of pear, apple, lemon blossoms, a touch of *crème patissière*, lovely soil tones and a gentle touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and crisp, with excellent focus and complexity, a fine core and lovely length and grip on the zesty finish. A joy to drink! 2013-2025. **90+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

In my experience, the Domaine Moreau Chassagne *villages* is one of the very best AC bottlings in the Côte de Beaune, and this is a wine I enjoy drinking very much in its elegant youth and look for often on restaurant wine lists. The 2011 is probably the most refined young vintage of this wine that I have yet had the pleasure to taste, offering up a beautiful nose of delicious apples, pear, lemon zest, a fine base of soil, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and impressively complex, with a fine core, crisp acids and lovely backend mineral drive on the long and supremely elegant finish. This is not your uncle’s chunky Chassagne AC from deep, clay soils, but a wine of cut, breed and class that shows an awful lot of *terres blanches* finesse- even if I am not certain of the soil composition of the parcels from which this wine hails- they are probably all clay, knowing my Irish luck!! But, you get the idea, this is a very classy and elegant example of Chassagne *villages*. 2014-2030+. **90+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Maltroie had not yet been fined, but was assembled in tank. The nose is very pure and captivating, wafting from the glass in a mélange of apple, tangerine, a beautifully complex base of soil, orange zest and a deft base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with lovely mid-palate depth, a fine signature of minerality, and lovely focus and grip on the well-balanced and impressively long finish. A very classic example of Maltroie, coupled to the inherent elegance of the vintage. It is not a huge step up from the lovely Remilly or fine Chassagne *villages* in 2011, but it will certainly show its premier cru pedigree in a far longer life in bottle. 2015-2035. **91+**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Vergers is the only wine made from purchased grapes in the lineup of superb premier crus *chez* Moreau, but over the last few years, I have seen no difference with it and the wines made from the domaine’s own parcels, and the 2011 is excellent. The classy bouquet is an expressive and quite citric mix of lime, orange, pear, beautiful, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy this year, with an almost crystalline expression of minerality, snappy acids and excellent length and grip on the laser-like finish. This is a great bottle of Vergers in the making. 2014-2030+. **92**.

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Champgains”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

As is the case with several other of these beautiful premier crus, the Domaine Moreau Champgains is very noteworthy for the beautiful floral elements it delivers on the nose, coupled to a crisp and racy palate impression. The stunning nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, tangerine, incipient notes of butter, a chalky base of soil, vanillin oak and a pungent topnote redolent of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very complex, with crisp acids, a rock solid core of fruit and stunning length and grip on the classy and very elegant finish. This will want a few years to really develop its layers of complexity completely, but it is going to be no easy task keeping hands off of bottles in the cellar! 2015-2035. **92.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Domaine Moreau Chenevottes is an absolute classic in the making, and as I find this premier cru often one of the most flattering in the village to drink on the early side (along with Vergers), this gorgeous wine is going to make a lot of fans early on. The glorious bouquet offers up a very pure mélange of pear, lemon, apple blossoms, beautifully complex soil tones, citrus oil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very generous on the attack, with a great core of fruit and superb backend cut and grip on the focused and very elegant finish. I have suggested giving it a year of bottle age to let it blossom even more fully, but I know that most folks are going to take one sip of this wine when it arrives and simply blow through their case! A beautiful wine. 2014-2030+. **92+.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

I love the superb minerality that Alexandre Moreau gets in his example of Morgeot year in and year out, and the 2011 is no exception. The outstanding nose wafts from the glass in a very elegant mélange of apple, lemon, lime, lovely minerality, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and far more reserved and primary in profile than the Chenevottes or Vergers, with a rock solid core, crisp acids and exceptional grip and focus on the very long and soil-driven finish. Structurally, this behaves far more like a 2007 or 2010 white Burgundy! A glorious young example of Morgeot. 2016-2035+. **94.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”- Dom. Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Grands Ruchottes from Alexandre Moreau looks at this early stage to be every bit as brilliant as the stunning 2010 version! The stunning nose offers up scents of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, orange zest, a magically complex base of soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and absolutely complete in every facet, with great mid-palate concentration, laser-like focus and grand cru intensity on the extremely long and dancing young finish. To my palate, this wine is as fine a bottling of premier cru white Burgundy as one can find today and deserves to be spoken of in the same breath as wines like Coche-Dury Perrières, Leflaive Pucelles or Ramonet Ruchottes- it is every bit as profound and ageworthy these days as the very best to be found in the Côte de Beaune! 2017-2040. **95.**

2011 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils is a beautifully elegant and classically youthful example of this great *terroir*, offering up a pure and outstanding nose of apple, pear, tangerine, lemon zest, a complex base of soil, floral tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very primary in personality, with great purity and focus, bottomless depth at the core, great cut and grip and an extremely long, snappy and refined finish. This is a great wine by any measure, but give it plenty of time in the cellar to totally blossom! 2022-2060. **96.**

2011 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

And the second vintage of Chevalier-Montrachet *chez* Moreau? Not bad at all- not bad at all! The stunning nose soars from the glass in a magnificent young mélange of delicious apples, pears, pastry cream, spring flowers, a profoundly complex base of chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and completely reserved at the present time, with a great core, laser-like focus, magical, nascent complexity and great backend energy on the supremely elegant and perfectly balanced finish. A great, great example of Chevalier- I only wish there was more of this great wine to go around to a thirsty world! 2022-2060. **97.**

Vins Rouges

2011 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

These days the Bourgogne rouge bottling *chez* Moreau is raised entirely in older wood. The 2011 version was bottled in July of 2012 and was showing lovely quality at the time of my visit, offering up scents of black cherries, coffee bean, woodsmoke and a fine base of dark soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, juicy and sports just a touch of backend tannin, with a good core and lovely length and grip on the youthful finish. I would give this a couple of years to blossom. 2014-2020. **86+.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge- Dom. Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2011 Chassagne Vieilles Vignes *rouge* is simply gorgeous this year, offering up a very elegant and “cool fruit” bouquet of black cherries, a touch of blueberry, woodsmoke, espresso and a lovely signature of its dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a lovely core, a bit of chewy tannin and excellent focus and balance on the long and youthful finish. This will age very well, but need at least a few years of bottle age to start to stir. It is a great value and for those savvy enough to put away some in the cellar, you can thank me six or seven years from now by sharing a bottle! 2015-2035. **90+.**

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Cardeuse” Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

As I have noted previously, la Cardeuse is a *lieu a dit* that is part of the greater premier cru of Morgeot, and where the *terroir* is particularly well-suited to pinot noir. The 2011 from Alexandre Moreau is stunning, offering up a deep and classy nose of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, deep soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft touch of cedar (the wine was raised in twenty-five percent new oak this year). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, a lovely sense of reserve, excellent focus and nascent complexity and lovely, fine-grained tannins perking up the long and very classy finish. This will be a dynamite wine with some bottle age. 2018-2035+. **92.**

2011 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

I was really struck at several addresses how the inherent elegance of the 2011 vintage has worked its magic on the *terroir* of Santenots, and the 2011 from Alexandre Moreau is yet again another very elegant young example of this premier cru, wafting from the glass in a classy blend of black cherries, dark berries, gamebirds, a lovely base of soil, a bit of bonfire and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and very deep at the core, with a suave attack, lovely focus, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the well-balanced and very promising finish. Lovely juice. 2016-2040. **92+.**

2011 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

I know I should be most excited about the new additions of Bâtard and Chevalier in the last few years at Domaine Moreau, but the new arrival of these two Volnays is every bit as important to me as the two grand crus now in the cellars. The 2011 Clos des Chênes included

twenty percent whole clusters this year and is a classic in the making, offering up a pure and sappy bouquet of black cherries, dark plums, lovely minerality, coffee bean, woodsmoke, cedar and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, superb soil signature and great length and grip on the suavely tannic and youthful finish. A really superb example of Clos des Chênes. 2020-2060. **93.**

2011 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

In 2011, the Caillerets includes forty percent whole clusters and it is another stunning young Volnay in the making. The great and quite sappy nose offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, dark chocolate, beautifully complex minerality, woodsmoke, incipient notes of game and a deft framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very primary in profile, with a fine core, a superb signature of soil, ripe tannins and lovely focus and grip on the young and very, very long finish. Another classic! 2020-2060. **93+.**

