

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

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CUNÉ AND CONTINO RIOJA LEGENDARY CLASSICS



Cuné is one of the great historical bodegas of Rioja. The company was founded in Haro in 1879 by two brothers, Raimundo and Eusebio Real de Asúa, and down to this day, the firm continues to be run by direct family descendants of its two founders, one hundred and thirty-five years after its establishment in the firmament of Rioja. The bodega is officially known as the Compañía Vinícola del Norte de España, but this has been shortened to Cuné for many generations, and most Rioja lovers know the estate by its easy to remember acronym. The name Cuné was actually arrived upon by accident, as it originated in a typo on a label from a printer, who was supposed to have printed “C.V.N.E.” on the label as the proper initials for the bodega, but “Cuné “ stuck and has now been in circulation as the alternative name for the winery for more than one hundred years. Cuné is one of the oldest of the great Rioja producers, as its formation in 1879 was only predated in the region by Marqués de Riscal in 1860, Marqués de Murrieta in 1872, and López de Heredia in 1877. The original winery and cellars are located in the vinous heart of Haro, in the *Barrio de la Estación*, near the train station, which was so crucial

for distribution of the Cuné wines up through at least the middle of the twentieth century (when a location next to a railroad hub was indispensable for serious wineries in the region). This was particularly true at the birth of Rioja as an important exporting wine region in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when the *Bordelais* arrived in the region to search out wine to replace the huge volumes that had been lost to phylloxera. The access to rail transportation from Haro to Bilbao on the Atlantic coast, where barrels could be shipped from Spain up to the port of Bordeaux, was a key element in the region's success at the end of the nineteenth century, and consequently, many of Rioja's finest producers can be found in this neighborhood. Witness Cuné's next door neighbors here today, López de Heredia, La Rioja Alta and Bodegas Muga, as well as several newer Rioja producers such as Roda. This is truly the vinous "gold coast" section of Haro, with as impressive a concentration of great wine-producing estates as one will find anywhere in the world.

Today, Cuné is run by Victor Urrutia Ybarra, who took over as Managing Director of the bodega in 2003 and is the fifth generation of his family to head the important Rioja estate. Señor Urrutia's tenure at the head of the firm has been one of dynamic growth and a few intense challenges, and he has done an absolutely admirable job of maintaining Cuné's great traditions, while still keeping both the bodega's feet pointed directly into the future. Under his watch, the winery has excelled with all of its various cuvées, and he has been instrumental in not losing sight of the importance of high quality in the entry level wines produced by the company. This is an increasingly rare focus for an important historical winery- or at least this is my distinct impression after more than thirty years combined in the wine trade and as a wine journalist- as most well-established producers in the world of wine these days seem to take entry level wines mostly as an afterthought, if they even bother to produce them at all in these times! Not so at Cuné, who may well make some of the most outstanding wine values to be found anywhere in the world of wine today, and this commitment to the entry level wines is something that has gained vitality under the watchful tenure of Señor Urrutia. During my tasting of the current releases from Cuné this spring, and also during my visit to the bodega in October, I was struck by just how serious and well-made the more basic bottlings are today at Cuné, and this is something that should be very highly praised, as it serves as a very sound foundation for the future growth of Cuné wine lovers in the years to come. A case in point is the superb Cuné Crianza bottling of Rioja, which has been consistently excellent in the vintages I have had the pleasure to taste in recent times, and is an absolute steal for its price! Keep in mind that this is not a wine that is made in small volumes, as there are more than two hundred and fifty thousand cases of this bottling produced in most vintages! Not surprisingly, it is one of the best-selling wines in the domestic Spanish wine market, as Spaniards know a great value when they taste it!

Cuné prospered from its very earliest days, and within a decade of its foundation in Haro, the Real de Asúa brothers were looking to expand their cellars and barrel aging capacity at the new winery. They turned to the famed Parisian architect, Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel to design and build their new cellars, and in 1890, Monsieur Eiffel and his team started construction of the beautiful barrel aging room that is still a focal point of the winery's Haro facilities- more than one hundred years out from its first unveiling in 1909. When it first opened, its unique structural style, with an iron grid-work and wooden beam construction supporting the roof without the need of columns, was completely unprecedented at the time of its elaboration, and it remains one of the most beautiful wine cellars in the world down to this day. It is one of the handful of

nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that surround a courtyard on the Cuné “campus” in Haro, which allows for the grapes to be delivered into the center of the complex, and then directed to whatever part of the winery in which they are destined to be vinified and then aged. The old Cuné winery buildings in the *Barrio de la Estación* are no longer sufficient for all of the production needs of the domaine, so the company has built a new winemaking facility outside of the city of Logroño in the early twenty-first century, which is their Viña Real winery. Today, the original Cuné winery near the Haro train station handles most of the fruit each vintage from the Rioja Alta region, whereas the new Viña Real winery handles incoming fruit from the Rioja Alavesa subsection of the D.O. Following in the footsteps of Gustave Eiffel, the firm decided again to use a French architect for their new Viña Real winery, and Cuné commissioned the work to the Bordeaux-based Philippe Mazières, who completed this strikingly modern, organically-inspired facility in 2004. The new winery sits up on the top of a hillside, looking down on surrounding vineyards in the Rioja Alavesa.

Cuné also owns another winery- though it is in effect a separate estate- their great Viñedos del Contino property, which is located outside of the village of Laserna in the Rioja Alavesa and was originally founded in 1973, as a joint project between Cuné and the vineyard owners. Cuné had long purchased the grapes from the owners of this sixty-two hectare estate, and in the early 1970s, the two formed a partnership that would lead to another winery under the Cuné umbrella. In 2013, Cuné bought out their vineyard partners of the last forty years at Contino and acquired sole ownership of this iconic estate. The unique microclimate of this sector of Rioja Alavesa has allowed the winery to create its own style and personality since its formation as an independent entity, and today Contino is an independent branch of the Cuné wine constellation, with its own rich historical legacy of fine wines since the inaugural vintage of 1974. In addition to their Contino wines, the Cuné estate is best known for its two flagship bottlings of red Rioja, Imperial and Viña Real, which were both first established as brands by the bodega in the first half of the decade of 1920s. The two great bottlings are made entirely from fruit grown in different sections of Rioja, with the Rioja Alta section of the D.O. supplying the raw materials that become the various Imperial bottlings, whereas Viña Real is produced from fruit hailing from the warmer, Rioja Alavesa section of the region. This makes the two marquis Cuné bottlings beautiful stylistic contrasts of Rioja, as both bottlings have always been made to very exacting standards. The bodega, of course, has a complete roster of wines beyond Imperial and Viña Real, with a very good Rioja Rosado, several stunningly fine (for the price) entry level bottlings of red Rioja, and their white Rioja bottling of Monopole, which was the first commercially released white Rioja on the market when it was originally produced in the 1915 vintage. The winery also produces, on rare occasions, a semi-sweet white wine called Corona, which is made from lightly botrytized grapes, and is only produced on the rare occasions when botrytis is found in this quite dry region. In the last two decades, the bodega has also augmented its lineup with two new bottlings of red Rioja, the Real de Asúa cuvée, which was first produced in the 1994 vintage, and the Pagos de Viña Real, whose inaugural vintage was 2001. Both of these wines are made in a more modern style, in French *Barricas* and with a bit more extracted and powerful personalities than the velvety Cuné classics.

As I alluded to above, Victor Urrutia Ybarra and his predecessors at Cuné have faced some stiff challenges, as the cellars and winery at Contino were one of several famous Spanish wineries to be hit with a TCA infection, and there was a huge project to clean out and sterilize

the cellars in the last decade of the twentieth century. The problems at Contino were first discovered in 1992 and 1993, as TCA was found in wooden pallets that the winery had purchased from a Bordeaux estate back in 1987. The problem was first noticed when the bottled 1988 Contino Reserva went on the market in 1992, and led eventually to the recall of both the '88 and some of the '89 Contino Reservas from the market because of the TCA issue. The contamination led to the wholesale cleaning up of the cellars at Contino- with the destruction of all of the casks for aging and wooden vats used for fermentation, as well as anything else in the cellars and winery that was made of wood (such as stairs, bannisters etc.) that could be housing the TCA. Walls, floors and ceilings had to be scraped down of any mold that might have been here (keep in mind that Contino has some of the oldest cellars in Rioja) and it was several years before wine could be made again at Contino. As Señor Urrutia commented, “we were open about the problem when it arose in the early nineties- especially the vintages released in 1992 and 1993- and we spent a lot of time and money fixing the problem and were transparent about the whole thing.” This is in notable contrast to a few other “big names” in the Spanish wine firmament, whose TCA cellar problems were hushed up, denied or conveniently blamed on the cork industry! Consequently, the 1992 and 1993 vintages at Contino had to be produced over at the Cuné cellars in the *Barrio de la Estación* in Haro, while the wholesale cleaning of the cellars and winery at Contino was underway. It was not until the 1994 vintage that wines were again produced in the cellars and winery at Contino.



Cuné's Technical Director, María Larrea and Managing Director, Victor Urrutia, taking time out from the harvest.

Happily, the very deep and majestic collection of old vintages that the bodega has maintained at the winery in Haro was not affected by the TCA issues over at Contino, so that what must be one of the most amazing collections of ancient vintages of Rioja was unscathed and the historical vinous legacy at Cuné remains extant for the wine education of future generations. As the company celebrated its centennial in 1979, there were several great vintages that were earmarked in the cellars from its first hundred years to be set aside to again be opened for the bicentennial celebration in 2079, so that some of the great old magnums in the collection at the estate in Haro will not be touched for a very, very long time now. As noted above, both the Imperial and Viña Real brands date back to the early 1920s, and the oldest vintage that the bodega still has extant in its cellars from these two bottlings is the 1917 Imperial. The Imperial lineup originally took its name from the English “Imperial Pint” (600 milliliters), as Cuné received a special order from a merchant in England for a Rioja bottled in that size bottle. Consequently, the cuvée made its debut for the English market in the early 1920s. By the end of that decade, the bottling could also be found available in Spain and other Cuné markets. Viña Real was created by the company at the same time as Imperial, but was not to find its way into the UK market for many years after the Imperial. Today, the bodega produces solely Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings of Imperial, and produces Reserva, Gran Reserva and also a Crianza under their Viña Real label.

During the history of the Cuné company, the cellars have been patrolled by some of the legendary winemakers in the history of Rioja. In the post-war years, one of the seminal winemaking figures in the history of Spanish wine called Cuné home, Ezequiel Garcia, who was in charge of the cellars and wine production here from 1958 until 1973. Señor Garcia was known regionally as “The Wizard” for his brilliant winemaking touch, and he clearly left a very rich legacy of Rioja bottlings during his fifteen years at the winemaking helm at the bodega, as this was one of the golden ages at Cuné. He was followed by another very, very highly-esteemed winemaker at the Cuné home-base in Haro, Basilio Izquierdo, who was recommended to the bodega by Emile Peynaud as a potential successor to Ezequiel Garcia. Señor Izquierdo took over the cellars as Technical Director in 1973, and remained as the chief winemaker at Cuné until 2004. Since Señor Izquierdo’s departure from Cuné, the cellars have been directed by his own long-time assistant, María Larrea Quemada, who joined Cuné in the early 1990s and the quality of the wines here at Cuné has not missed a beat during the transitions from one talented winemaker to the next over the course of the last fifty-five years! Moreover, this sense of continuity and winemaking excellence is not exclusive to the Cuné cellars in the *Barrio de la Estación*, as their Contino estate also has an extremely talented winemaker at its head in Jesús Madrazo, who has been with Cuné since 1995 and Contino’s Technical Director since 1999. So, the great legacy of wines produced at Cuné over the course of the second half of the twentieth century and the first decade and a half of the twenty-first has been the result of the bodega attracting and keeping on board some of the very finest winemaking talent in all of Spain.

Today, not counting the independent Contino estate, where all of the production is sourced from the single estate, Cuné produces their wines from a fifty-fifty blend of estate-grown fruit and grapes that they purchase from independent producers in the region. Most of their contracts for purchased grapes stretch back generations, and the bodega works with roughly three hundred different farmers in Rioja, with most of the families who supply grapes to Cuné having

done so for decades and decades. In total, between their long-term contracts and the vineyards that the bodega owns itself, there are five hundred and forty-five hectares of vines that contribute to the annual production figures of roughly six hundred and fifty thousand cases that are produced each year between Cuné and Contino. Cuné has owned a large percentage of its vineyard needs since very early on in the history of the company, and the vast majority of their own vineyards and also the fruit that they purchase hail from the sub-region of Rioja Alta, so that fully eighty percent of the grape production utilized at Cuné comes from this section of Rioja. The other twenty percent is all Rioja Alavesa fruit, with this twenty percent including both the production from Contino and the grapes that are earmarked exclusively for the Viña Real Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings, which are made primarily from Alavesa fruit. Looking at the breakdown of the vineyards used by Cuné, it is quite clear, that outside of their Contino and Viña Real Reservas and Gran Reservas, the estate is primarily a Rioja Alta producer, with almost all of the other bottlings produced by the bodega hailing from Rioja Alta fruit.

There has been evolution at the bodega in both vinification and cellar aging techniques at the estate over its long history. At the outset in the late nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth century, everything here was fermented in large older oak casks, called *Tinas*, which were produced primarily from American oak. In the 1941, Cuné constructed a state of the art vinification facility that utilized cement tanks for fermentations, known as *El Carmen*, and up through the 1980s, a large percentage of the wines produced here underwent their primary fermentations in these concrete vats (augmented still by fermentation in *Tinas* when quantities of grapes necessitated). In the 1980s, a switch was made to stainless steel tanks as the primary fermentation vessels for the wines at Cuné, with these augmented by use of the concrete vats of *El Carmen*. This epoch lasted about twenty years, at which time the use of oak casks and *Tinas* for fermentation began to be utilized again for certain bottlings. Since 2000, all the Imperial bottlings (Reservas and Gran Reservas) are fermented exclusively in oak casks and *Tinas* again, whereas the Viña Real bottlings are fermented in a combination of stainless steel tanks and concrete vats, reflecting the quite different origins of the fruit that will comprise each bottling (respectively, from Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa). While we did not discuss it specifically, I imagine that the Crianza bottlings at Cuné are also fermented in a combination of stainless steel and concrete these days.

For all of the various Cuné bottlings of Rioja (rather than those from the single estate of Contino), the oak aging has also evolved with the passing of time. During most of the first century at Cuné, aging was done almost exclusively in American oak casks. During the decade of the 1970s, the bodega began to incorporate some barrels of French origin into its aging protocol, with American oak always the predominant cask, but with the percentage of French barrels rising slowly over the course of the subsequent decades, until the percentages reached their current breakdown of seventy percent American oak and thirty percent French oak for the cask aging of the various Rioja bottlings at Cuné. The age of the barrels utilized has also changed over time at Cuné, with the old days here seeing barrels used for many decades prior to replacement, but over the last two or three decades, the bodega has settled on a ten year barrel rotation for both its American and French casks, so that essentially ten percent of the barrels in the cellars are replaced each year. The team at Cuné, led by María Larrea Quemada, has to make decisions quite early as to which grapes will be earmarked for Crianza bottlings, Reservas and Gran Reservas, as these distinctions are made each year beginning at harvest. Quality of *terroir*,

age of vines, and how a particular vineyard has excelled in any given vintage are the primary characteristics on which decisions are taken, with the oldest vines and the finest locations generally reserved for Gran Reserva bottlings, with the next tier of older vines and fine plots earmarked for Reservas and the remainder of the production used for either Viña Real or Cuné Crianza wines. How particular casks may be evolving in the cellars during the aging process are also considerations, but at Cuné, the differences between Gran Reserva and Reserva are primarily vineyard-based selections that are settled on during harvest and in its immediate aftermath.

Of course, the names of the various bottlings at Cuné have evolved, as in the rest of Rioja, over the years, as the current system of Joven, Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings is a child of the 1970s. As readers may already know, with the adoption of the Spanish wine laws in 1970, the classifications became: Joven Rioja, which does not require any extended aging prior to being released onto the market; Crianza, which must be aged for twelve months in the cellars (either in bottle or cask); Reserva, which must spend a minimum of twelve months aging in cask and two years in bottle before release, and Gran Reserva must spend a minimum of three years in wood and twenty-four months in bottle before it can be sent out to market. Prior to the changes in the 1970s, various bottlings were known by different names at Cuné, with there being a cuvée called “Clarete” or *Tercer Año* (Third Year) and another called Cuné “*Quinto Año*” (Fifth Year), which were the forerunners to today’s bottlings known as Cuné Crianza and Cuné Reserva. For Viña Real, which used to receive a bit more aging prior to release back before 1970, today’s Viña Real Crianza was known as “*Cuarto Año*” or “Plata” (or Silver), and the Viña Real Gran Reserva was known as “Oro” (or Gold). For a period of time in the 1960s, one could find the Plata and Oro designations printed on the Viña Real bottlings.

The genesis for this historical article on Cuné and Contino has been in the works for more than a year now, as the foundation for the piece was founded at a great tasting of wines from the two estates that a good friend of mine in southern California, Farhad Shah Hosseini, organized back in March of 2013. Farhad is a passionate collector of traditional Rioja (and plenty of other things as well!) and he decided to put together a first class lineup of old Cuné and Contino bottlings in the spring of 2013 to coincide with a visit to the California market by Contino’s head, Jesús Madrazo. At the time of this great tasting, I told Señor Madrazo that I would not write the feature on the properties until I had a chance to visit the bodegas in Haro and Laserna, as I had never had the pleasure to taste at either cellar in the past and really wanted to do so before writing my article on the two great Rioja estates. It took nearly eighteen months to get the trip organized, but I was delighted to schedule a day at Cuné and Contino on this recent Spanish trip in October of this year, and the visits finally made it possible to write this article properly. I have to chuckle in retrospect, as having waited a year and a half from the great tasting in Los Angeles to finally get over to Haro and Laserna, I arrived in the midst of contracting a very nasty stomach virus (which marred the last couple of days of my trip to Spain) and I was in absolutely no condition to eat anything during my visit. This really hurt, as Victor Urrutia and Jesús Madrazo had planned a great lunch at Contino to finish up our day, complete with little lamb chops cooked over vine cuttings (which I had been in search of since the time I got off of the plane in Madrid a week and a half earlier!) and I could not do anything but nibble on a crust of bread during the course of our day together at the two bodegas! Happily, the maelstrom in my

stomach did not affect my palate, so I could at least taste well during our visits. I will have to get a “re-do” on the lamb chops at Contino on my next trip to Rioja!

I have just heard the sad news, as this article goes to print, that José de Madrazo Real de Asúa, the founding director at Contino, has passed away this past weekend in Haro, after fighting a long illness. My sympathies go out to his family and everyone at Cuné and Contino that he touched during his long career at both bodegas. He left a beautiful legacy during his years as an integral part of the management team at the two estates and he will be missed.

Rioja Blanco “Monopole” and The Ancient Corona Semi-Sweet White Wine of Rioja

As I noted above, Cuné produced their first vintage of white Rioja labeled as Monopole all the way back in 1915. It was the very first bottling of white Rioja produced in the region, and probably the very first white wine brand established in all of Spain! In recent years, this wine has been produced entirely from Viura, but the wine has undergone some stylistic iterations over the years and it was not always a single varietal bottling of Viura. Today, Cuné’s Monopole bottling is all Viura and fermented entirely in stainless steel tanks, with no malolactic fermentation and the bottling happening the year following the harvest, so that the wine can maintain its vivacious freshness and bounce right out of the blocks, when the lion’s share of each vintage is consumed. The wine will typically finish up its elevage with six months aging in old oak casks, to round out its personality, prior to bottling. It is an important wine in the Spanish domestic market, where the lion’s share of its production is sold, and today the emphasis for Monopole is on producing a wine that is delicious upon release, though the wine certainly has the balance and structure to also age quite gracefully. All of the fruit for the Monopole bottling is grown in the Rioja Alta region, and the wine is produced at the Haro facilities. However, Monopole did not start out with the same stylistic profile as it maintains today, as it was originally barrel fermented in the giant, neutral oak “Tinas” and then aged for several years in old, smaller casks, prior to bottling, along the lines that are still maintained for the Viña Tondonia Blanco produced by López de Heredia. And starting in the early 1970s, Señor Garcia and his cellar team added a new wrinkle to the personality of Monopole, as they began to blend in fifteen percent of Manzanilla Sherry into the cuvée each year, with an eye towards giving the wine more of an aged character right out of the blocks (which was very much prized in the domestic market in this epoch), as well as a bit more mid-palate heft and complexity. The Manzanilla was sourced from the fine house of Hidalgo for the blending. Cuné’s Monopole continued to be made with a bit of Manzanilla in the blend up through the 1979 vintage, after which the current style of the wine was firmly established with its stainless steel elevage and single varietal personality. During my visit in October, Victor Urrutia was very kind in digging out one of the last remaining bottles of the 1979 Monopole from the cellars, so that we could revisit the wine in its old guise with a bit of Manzanilla in the blend, and as the note below will attest, the wine was still drinking beautifully and showed plenty of life still in it today, at age thirty-five! It is quite likely that one of the unintended consequences of including fifteen percent Manzanilla in the blend was that the potential longevity of the Monopole bottling was increased, as this 1979 still had decades of life in it.

Cuné also produces a very rare, semi-sweet white wine, produced from gently botrytized grapes, which is called Corona. The wine is only made in very small quantities when the

climactic conditions of a particular vintage favor the grapes to produce this semi-sweet wine, which is today produced from a blend of eighty-five percent Viura, ten percent Malvasia and five percent Garnacha Blanca. The wine is barrel-fermented in new American oak barrels, with the fermentation stopped at a point where the winemaking team at Cuné feels it has reached its optimal balance between alcohol and residual sweetness, with the fermentation terminated by chilling down of the vats and filtering the wine. It is then aged for another year in barrel prior to bottling. As botrytis is quite rare in Rioja, Corona is produced only when Mother Nature steps in and provides proper vintage characteristics to allow a bit of botrytis to form in the bunches.

2013 Rioja Blanco “Monopole”- Cuné

The Rioja Blanco “Monopole” bottling from Cuné is produced from one hundred percent Viura, and the 2013 offers up a fine bouquet of pineapple, a touch of coconut, white soil tones, beeswax, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely balanced, with a fine core, lovely complexity and a long, focused finish. Lovely juice that is made for early drinking, but with the balance to also age gracefully for many years. Superb value! 2014-2025+. **90.**

2011 Rioja Blanco “Monopole”- Cuné

The 2011 Monopole bottling from Cuné is a lovely bottle of white Rioja, offering up a lovely and youthful bouquet of grapefruit, tart orange, salty soil tones, a youthful touch of green olive and a topnote of lime peel. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and nascently complex, with a fine core of fruit, bright, snappy acids and lovely length and grip on the focused and beautifully-balanced finish. This is still very early days for this lovely wine, which will probably be at its apogee in another three to four years, though it is certainly approachable today. 2013-2030. **89+.**

1979 Rioja Blanco “Monopole”- Cuné

The very last vintage of Cuné’s Monopole to include fifteen percent Manzanilla in the blend, the 1979 is still drinking superbly well at age thirty-five and shows absolutely no signs of slowing down anytime soon. The excellent bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of lemon, orange peel, salty Jerez overtones, a nice touch of smokiness and a lovely base of white soil nuances. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and marvelously fresh and vibrant, with a solid core, bright acids, very good complexity and excellent focus and grip on the well-balanced and impressively long finish. This is quite unique stylistically, but is at its apogee and will continue to drink very well indeed for decades to come. 2014-2040. **93.**

1939 Rioja “Corona” Blanco Semidulce - Cuné

These days, Cuné makes its semi-sweet Corona Blanco from a blend of eighty-five percent Viura, ten percent Malvasia and five percent Garnacha Blanca, all from the cooler Rioja Alta region. It is a lightly botrytized wine. However, I have no idea if the legendary 1939 Corona was made similarly to how the wine is produced today, but it is clearly one of the greatest white wines ever produced in the history of Rioja. I cannot believe that I have had the good fortune to drink this wine on two occasions in the last year (as it is an extremely rare wine), and this most recent bottle was absolutely monumental, soaring from the glass in a glorious blend of toasted coconut, Sherry-like nuttiness, oranges, a touch of fresh almond, salty soil tones and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, fresh and magically complex, with a superb core of fruit, excellent focus and grip and a perfectly balanced, fairly dry, vibrant and endless finish. At age seventy-five, there is just a bit of remaining residual sweetness in this wine

(comparable to a Vouvray Demi-Sec), and it drinks beautifully with a wide array of dishes, but I have liked it best with the cheese course. A timeless and magical old wine. 2014-2050. **96.**

Rioja Rosado

Cuné's Rosado is produced entirely from Tempranillo that is sourced in the Rioja Alta region. The wine is fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks to preserve its freshness and is bottled after a few months of aging. The juice spends between twenty-four and forty-eight hours with skin contact at the outset, so the Rosado attains its beautiful vibrant rose hue from the saignée method. I have the gut feeling that this wine will age quite well, but have never had the pleasure to taste an example with some bottle age. However, having drunk a bottle of Rioja Rosado from the 1990 vintage during my recent trip to Spain, I am convinced that wines such as the Cuné Rosado are more serious candidates for the cellar than is generally acknowledged, and I would not hesitate to tuck recent vintages of this wine sealed under screwcap in the cellar and drink them three, four or more years out from the vintage. For the US market, the wine is currently bottled under screwcap, which is unfortunate.

2013 Rioja Rosado- Cuné

I had the pleasure to taste Cuné's 2013 Rosado at the bodega in Haro in October of this year, so that I was able to sample the wine under natural cork, rather than under screwcap, as it is sold in the US. The wine is quite lovely and seems more primary under natural cork than the 2012 did under screwcap at a similar point in its evolution, as it offers up a bright and youthful bouquet of cherries, pomegranate, a nice base of soil tones, rose petals and a gentle whiff of spiced meats in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and youthful, with a good core, bright acids and very good length and grip on the vibrant and classy finish. The 2013 under natural cork is also quite a bit rounder on the attack than the 2012 was under screwcap, as the latter closure seems to "scalp" the wine a bit on the palate. Tasty Rosado. 2014-2020. **89.**

2012 Rioja Rosado- Cuné

I really like Cuné's Rosado and for the life of me cannot understand why the bottle this under screwcap- at least for the American market (I suspect it is still bottled under natural cork for the Spanish market, which does not tend to buy anything under the screw). The wine is made entirely from tempranillo and the 2012 offers up a lovely nose of strawberries, cherries, roses and white soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, bright and impressively long, with a solid core, fine focus, bright acids and lovely balance on the finish. It is not overly complex, but very tasty. How about sending the states some under natural cork in the future? 2014-2016. **87.**

Straight Cuné Rioja Bottlings

As mentioned above, the bottling that today appears labeled as Cuné Crianza, used to be called by the name of Clarete up through the 1970 vintage, as this was the typical name of Rioja bottlings that did not spend an extended period in the cellars aging in casks back in the earlier decades of the twentieth century. The bodega uses primarily Rioja Alta fruit for their fine Crianza bottling, and the wine is typically a blend of eighty percent Tempranillo and ten percent each of Garnacha and Mazuela. It is fermented in stainless steel tanks and then aged for one year, exclusively in American oak barrels, prior to bottling. It will also spend another year aging in bottle prior to its release, and is a superb drink right out of the blocks, though I have the distinct impression that it will also age for at least a dozen years or more after release, as its

structural elements are always in excellent balance. It has to be one of the very finest red wine values out there in the market today, and is often overlooked by Rioja lovers looking to snap up bottlings of Imperial or Viña Real from the estate. The winery also produces Rioja Reserva and Rioja Gran Reserva bottlings under the straight Cuné label as well, in addition to the Crianza bottling. The Reserva cuvée is a bit different than the Crianza, as it is produced from a blend of eighty-five percent Tempranillo and five percent each of Garnacha, Mazuela and Graciano. The wine is raised in a blend of older American and French barrels for two years (seventy percent American oak and thirty percent French wood), with rackings every six months, and after bottling spends an additional year in bottle prior to release. These are pretty low profile wines in the American market, though they may have more presence in the home market of Spain, but savvy Rioja lovers abroad would do well to pay attention to the straight Cuné bottlings at the Reserva and Gran Reserva level, as I have found them to be outstanding examples of old school Rioja and really excellent values. In particular, I would love to see these excellent wines better represented on restaurant wines lists, as they tend to offer up earlier accessibility than Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings of Viña Real and Imperial and are less expensive to boot.



Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel's beautiful barrel aging cellar at Cuné's home base winery in Haro.

Cuné Crianza

2011 Rioja Crianza- Cuné

The 2011 Crianza bottling from Cuné is pretty ripe in this vintage, coming in at 13.5 percent alcohol, but impeccably balanced and really a lovely wine. The bright and youthful nose hops from the glass in a mix of cassis, dark berries, lovely Rioja spice tones, cigar smoke, soil and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and quite complex, with a nice core of sweet fruit, lovely soil inflection and a very long, tangy and modestly tannic finish. This is really good juice for the price and is clearly a wine that will be even better with a bit of bottle age. 2014-2030+. **89.**

2010 Rioja Crianza- Cuné

The 2010 Rioja Crianza from Cuné is a very nice wine and an excellent value. The bouquet offers up a bright and black fruity blend of cassis, black cherries, a touch of pepper, Rioja spice tones, cigar smoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, suave and velvety, with just a whisper of tannin, nice balance and surprisingly good length on the finish. This is made in an easy-drinking style for early consumption, but is very well done in this style. 2014-2020. **87.**

Cuné Reserva and Gran Reserva

2010 Rioja Reserva- Cuné

As the 2009 vintage is a very hot year in Rioja, it is not surprising that I like the 2010 Cuné Reserva bottling a bit better than the 2009 version. The 2010 is really an excellent example of old school Rioja, wafting from the glass in a complex mix of black plums, cigar wrapper, toasted coconut, coffee bean, spicy Rioja soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and extremely elegant in profile, with a lovely core of fruit, moderate tannins and excellent length and grip on the poised and complex finish. This is high class juice and another absolutely stellar value! 2014-2040+. **91.**

2009 Rioja Reserva- Cuné

The 2009 Rioja Reserva from Cuné is made in a blend of French and American oak barrels, and shows just a bit of cedary French wood on the nose and palate, making it a bit of a hybrid in aromatic profile, but still a pretty old school Rioja on the silky palate. The bouquet is really quite nice, offering up scents of dark berries, Rioja spice tones, a nice touch of soil, a bit of cigar ash, a whiff of coconut and cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and complex, with a good core, a bit of ripe tannin on the backend, good acids and a long, well-balanced finish. This is already quite accessible, but should be even better with a few more years in the cellar. I am probably too old-fashioned to ever get accustomed to French oak influence in my Rioja, but here, it is very reined-in and the wine is quite successful, albeit not as classic as my parochial tastes would like to see it! 2014-2025+. **88+.**

2010 Rioja Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2010 Rioja Gran Reserva from Cuné is an exceptional value and a superb wine. The pure and youthfully complex nose simply jumps out of the glass in a blend of dark berries, black cherries, cloves, dark soil tones, cigar wrapper and a deft framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in profile, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection, bright acids and fine length and grip on the moderately tannic, focused and nascently complex finish. This is already quite delightful to drink in its youth, but I would expect its

secondary layers of complexity to start to emerge with a few more years' worth of bottle age. A superb value! 2016-2035+. **91+**.

2009 Rioja Gran Reserva- Cuné

It is interesting that both the 2010 and 2009 Gran Reservas from Cuné are listed at 13.5 percent alcohol on their respective labels, as they seem to be a bit different in octane to my palate, with the 2010 seemingly lower than this number and the riper 2009 certainly over this threshold. There is, of course, a half degree swing that is allowed, so this is no big deal. Not surprisingly, I have a preference for the cooler fruit tones of the 2010, but the 2009 Gran Reserva is a good example of this warmer vintage. The bouquet is quite fine in its ripe blend of red and black cherries, Rioja spice tones, a hint of coconut, incipient notes of nuttiness, soil and a bit of lead pencil in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and quite nicely velvety on the attack, with a good core and focus, but a bit of backend heat detracts a bit on the long finish. The tannins here also show a bit of new wood influence, as no doubt the wood tannins in the oak leached into solution a bit more at the higher alcohol level of the 2009 versus the 2010. This is a good, honest wine that will appeal most to those who like a bit more muscle in their Rioja, but to my palate, it is not in the same league as the more classic renditions from the 2010 vintage. 2015-2030+. **88.**

2008 Rioja Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2008 Cuné Gran Reserva is also a pretty ripe example of Rioja, and I would not be surprised to see its 13.5 percent alcohol just a touch understated as well on the label. The nose is a bit jammy, though deep and complex, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of jammy black cherries, blackberries, woodsmoke, a bit of roasted venison, incipient cigar smoke, chocolate, Rioja spices, a gentle base of soil and a nice touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and ripe, with a good core of fruit, fairly suave tannins, good length and grip and a long, fairly youthful finish. Like the 2009 version, there is just a touch of oak tannin influence on the backend, but it is less pronounced with the additional year of bottle age and will probably disappear in the next couple of years. I like this wine quite well, but would have loved it if it were a half degree lower in alcohol. 2016-2030+. **89.**

Viñedos del Contino

Cuné laid plans for Contino property and the adjoining sixty-two hectares of vineyards in the town of Laserna in the Rioja Alavesa region that comprise Viñedos del Contino in 1973 and produced their very first vintage from this lovely property in 1974. This was one of the very first "single estate" wines produced in all of Rioja, as of course, the traditions here had always been for blending from a wide variety of different vineyards and often, different sub-regions of Rioja to produce various cuvées. The estate takes its name from the ranking officer of the elite guards that protected the Spanish King back several centuries ago, with the leader of these one hundred, hand-picked knights given the title of "Contino". One of these, Contino Don Pedro de Samaniego, retired and settled in the village of Laserna and developed an estate and vineyards that eventually formed the nucleus of Viñedos del Contino. Consequently, this name was selected in 1973 to celebrate the historical link with Don Pedro de Samaniego's original creation of an estate and the new winery in this location. Ever since its inception, Contino has been envisioned as a slightly more modern style of Rioja to augment and diversify the traditional lineup of Cuné, but in my experience, it has always been a modern-styled Rioja that pays proper homage to the traditions of Rioja and has both its feet firmly planted in the rich historical legacy of this region. Not surprisingly, Contino has been one of my absolute favorites of this genre for

as long as I can remember! In contrast to the slightly more modern style of the wines of Contino, the cellars are some of the oldest in Rioja, dating back to the sixteenth century and painstakingly preserved, with the modern winemaking facilities buried within its classic architecture, rather than overwhelming its historical veneer. Since 1973, the winery has called home (above ground) to a two hundred year-old farmhouse that sits above the cellars and in the middle of the beautiful bowl of vineyards. Today, production at Contino ranges from eighty thousand to thirty thousand bottles, depending on the year, as selection is always very strict for wines that will appear under the Contino label, and there have actually been a few years where no wines at all were produced at Contino, including, 1977, 1992 and 1993.

As I noted in the introduction, since its inception in 1973, Contino has been managed by the very talented father and son team of José and Jesús de Madrazo. José de Madrazo Real de Asúa was Cuné's General Manager of Viña Real (dating back to the 1960s) and a member of the board at the time that the Contino winery was formed, and he was in charge of creating the Contino estate and winery in its very earliest days. The Madrazos have managed this property since it first opened its doors in 1973, with Jesús de Madrazo also serving as the Technical Director at the winery since 1999. The Contino vineyards surround the winery on a bend of the Ebro River, on a superb alluvial soil base of chalk, sand and clay. About forty percent of the vineyards contain a fairly high concentration of limestone, with the small white stones very much in evidence on the surface as one walks through the vines. In the earliest days at Contino, the wines were made by Cuné's winemaker, Basilio Izquierdo, who would shuttle back and forth between the cellars of the two properties. When Jesús de Madrazo first joined Cuné in 1995, it was as an assistant to Señor Izquierdo at both Cuné and Contino, and in 1999, he became the first winemaker to be dedicated solely to the wines at Contino. Jesús de Madrazo had first started at Contino during his student days, working the harvests in both 1992 and 1993 (two very rainy vintages Jesús recalls), and when he first started full-time at Cuné in 1995, his chief responsibility was sourcing corks for the winery. However, he had first worked a harvest at Cuné all the way back in 1988, so his roots run deep at both estates. I asked Jesús what were his first memories at Contino, and he recalled that "my first experience was tasting a vertical of Contino with my father when I was still only ten years old."

The Madrazo family has been instrumental in championing one of the traditional grapes of Rioja on the property at Contino, Graciano, which had fallen into eclipse in the 1970s and 1980s and was nearly gone from most vineyards in Rioja by the 1990s. At Contino, though Tempranillo is of course still the predominant grape, with fifty of the sixty-two hectares of vines on the estate planted to this variety, but fully seven hectares of vineyard land are committed to Graciano today on the property and Jesús de Madrazo has begun to make an excellent single varietal bottling of Graciano over the course of his career. The remainder of the vineyards at Contino are planted with Garnacha and Mazuela. I asked Jesús de Madrazo how his father came to champion Graciano at Contino, and he noted that "my father, already being experienced managing the vineyards at Viña Real, knew that in south-facing, pebbly vineyards in Rioja Alavesa, such as those we have in several parcels at Contino, the Tempranillo grape loses its acidity very rapidly as the grapes start to mature, so he was looking for a grape to grow in some of these vineyards that would retain a good level of acidity." In the very earliest years, the senior Señor de Madrazo experimented with several grapes, including even Gamay and Cabernet Franc, but in 1979, he finally settled on Graciano as the proper grape for these warmer vineyards and

the wholesale planting of these hectares with that variety was set out upon in 1979. Jesús de Madrazo comments that “we still have about three hundred cabernet franc vines planted from those early experiments, which is enough to make one barrel of wine, but the gamay never worked in our *terroir*.” He joked, that they still have some bottles of single varietal 1977 Gamay in the cellars, if I ever want to see how poorly the grape was adapted to the soils at Contino!



Jesús de Madrazo, Contino's Technical Director, in the estate's vineyards in Laserna, Rioja Alavesa.

There are some old vine parcels here, with the oldest vineyards now more than sixty years of age, but the average for the whole of the sixty-two hectares at Contino is quite a bit younger at twenty-two years-old, as many of the vineyards are now just starting to enter their primes. Everything on the estate has been hand-picked since day one at Contino. From the outset, there was only a single wine produced at Contino, which was their Rioja Reserva bottling. It has only been produced in good vintages, so for example, there was no wine produced under the Contino label here in 1977, 1979, 1992 or the 1993 vintages, as the quality was deemed simply not up to the high standards of the estate. The Contino Reserva is today made up of a blend of eighty-five percent Tempranillo, ten percent Graciano, three percent Mazuela and two percent Garnacha. The wine is fermented primarily in epoxy-lined cement fermentations tanks,

but there are also some stainless steel tanks, as well as a few very large, wooden, 100 hectoliter vats in the winery to complement the stainless steel and cement. After its alcoholic fermentation, the Reserva bottling undergoes its malolactic fermentation in the cement vats, and the wine spends twenty-four months in barrel prior to being racked and bottled. As Jesús de Madrazo notes, “there are a few stainless steel vats that the wine can undergo its malo in, if we run out of space in the cement vats, and there is occasionally a cask of either the Viña de Olivo or Graciano that will be blended in that have undergone their malo in barrel, but the Reserva is essentially a wine that undergoes malolactic in cement tank, rather than barrel.” The oak regimen for the aging of the wines at Contino has evolved over time, with the first early vintages raised in a fifty-fifty blend of French and American oak casks, which were always used barrels. Today, there is just a bit of new wood used for the Contino wines, as there is a ten year rotation on barrels for the Contino Reserva bottling, so ten percent of the barrels are new in any given vintage, and the wood is now split between forty percent American oak and sixty percent French wood.

The lineup of wines here has grown over the years, as for the first twenty years of the winery, Contino only produced their Rioja Reserva (if one discounts the single varietal bottling of 1977 Gamay, which did not see the light of day commercially). Today, the winery produces essentially six wines here- Contino Rioja Reserva Red and White, Contino Gran Reserva in top vintages, as well as the single vineyard red Rioja bottling of Viña del Olivo and single varietal bottlings of Graciano and Garnacha. However, there are a couple other wines produced here from time to time, as one will see below. The Graciano varietal bottling is crafted from fruit grown exclusively on a five hectare parcel of Graciano grapes in the San Gregorio Grande vineyard that were planted in 1979. The first vintage of Contino Graciano produced from this 1979 plantation was in 1994, which was released as a Reserva after spending the requisite twenty-four months aging in barrel. As Jesús de Madrazo recalls, “the first two vintages of 1994 and 1995 Graciano were produced as Reservas and raised with the same oak treatment that we used for the Rioja Reserva (a fifty-fifty blend of French and American oak at that time, with none of it new), but I came to realize that this was too much oak for a mono-varietal bottling.” He continues, “from many early tastings with my father and Basilio, we came to realize that we wanted more fruit character to show through for the Graciano, so we started to reduce the amount of time that this wine spent in barrel- first twenty months, then eighteen months, and finally we settled on the fifteen months we currently use for the Graciano.” As the team at Contino got a bit of history with their Graciano, they also realized that the varietal did not take as well to the American oak as it did to the French wood, and so today, the wine is raised in eighty to ninety percent French barrels and the remainder in a mix of Hungarian and Russian oak. This is one of Jesús de Madrazo’s absolute passions, and it is quite clear that the Contino bottling has been instrumental in giving this indigenous variety a new life in today’s Rioja firmament.

The single varietal bottling of Garnacha is a much more recent phenomenon, having only been first produced in the 2008 vintage. The wine is produced in very small quantities (the 2010 vintage only produced 2,800 bottles) and is raised entirely in one wine barrels. The casks are the five hundred liter barrels that Jesús de Madrazo uses initially for his Contino Blanco Reserva, so they have been nicely seasoned prior to the Garnacha calling them home for a year and a half in the cellars prior to bottling. The Contino Gran Reserva bottling is only produced in top vintages, and in fact, has only been crafted in the 1994, 2004, 2005 and 2007 vintages over the history of the estate. It is made from an old vine selection in the finest vintages, with its *cépages* fluctuating

a bit depending on how each variety excels in a given vintage, though the heart and soul of the cuvée each year is the Tempranillo from the Las Anchas parcel of vines on the estate, which, at sixty years of age are the oldest vineyards that are cultivated by Contino. The blend usually includes at least seventy percent of this old vine Tempranillo, with the balance of the *cépages* comprised of Graciano and Garnacha. For example, in the 2005 vintage, the wine is seventy percent Tempranillo, fifteen percent each of the other two varieties, but in the previous year, the blend was seventy-five percent Tempranillo, fifteen percent Graciano and ten percent Garnacha. The wines all undergo their primary fermentation in cement, and then malo in French oak barrels. After malo is completed, they are racked off into a combination of French, Hungarian and American small barrels (225 liters), none of which are new, for their period of barrel aging. Contino Gran Reserva spends three years in barrel, with traditional racking every six months during its *elevage*, and then is given further bottle aging prior to release. In the most recent vintage of Gran Reserva, the unreleased 2007, the wine will only be bottled in magnums and a few larger formats, to ensure that it is well-suited for a very long life in the cellars of collectors fortunate enough to add the wine to their cellars.

The single vineyard Viña del Olivo bottling, which takes its name from the one thousand year-old olive tree that sits in the heart of this amphitheater of a vineyard, comes from a filet section of *terroir* which is planted to ninety percent Tempranillo and ten percent Graciano. The cuvée that bears the name of the ancient olive tree is made from a selection of the very best parcels of grapes in a given year from this core Contino vineyard. Like the single varietal Graciano bottling, the Viña del Olivo is initially fermented in huge, 100 hectoliter wooden vats, with the malolactic taking place in new French barrels and then the young wine is aged in 225 liter oak barrels of French, Hungarian and American origins. It spends a couple of months longer in barrel prior to bottling than the single varietal wines, usually seventeen months, and then is also given a year in the cellar of bottle aging prior to release. It too is only made in very top quality vintages, with the inaugural vintage of Viña del Olivo having been produced in 1994. This bottling is usually comprised of a blend of ninety percent Tempranillo and ten percent Graciano.

In recent times, Jesús de Madrazo has also begun to make very small quantities of Contino Blanco Reserva, from a blend of eighty-five percent Viura, ten percent Garnacha Blanco and five percent Malvasia. The first vintage ever produced of a white wine at Contino was the 2006, but the first few vintages were kept for “Cuné family consumption” and the bottling was not commercially made available until the 2009 vintage. The wine is raised entirely in five hundred liter French oak barrels, with ninety percent new in each vintage and the remaining ten percent being one wine barrels used for the previous iteration of the wine. It does not undergo malolactic fermentation and is bottled after seven months in cask. The white Contino Reserva is made in very small quantities, as there were not a lot of white varieties planted on the estate when it was first purchased in 1973, and only a very little have been planted since those times. The Viura vines are between thirty and forty years of age, planted in three different parcels, with one of these plots on a particularly stony *terroir*. The Garnacha Blanco was planted in 1980 on soils that are a mix of clay and limestone. The tiny parcel of Malvasia predates the formation of the winery in 1973, as these are sixty year-old vines that are also found in the Las Anchas section of the vineyard, where the equally old Tempranillo on the property is planted and is used for the rare bottlings of Contino Gran Reserva.

Contino Viños Blancos

2012 Rioja Blanco Reserva- Contino

The 2012 Contino Reserva Blanco is outstanding, coming in at a very civilized 13.5 percent alcohol and offering up great nascent complexity and charm. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a fresh and classy blend of pear, lemon zest, spring flowers, a nice discreet touch of banana, white soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and pure finish. A lovely wine that should age very well indeed. 2014-2030+. **92.**

2007 Rioja Blanco Reserva- Contino

The 2007 Contino Reserva Blanco was only the second vintage produced by Señor de Madrazo, and this wine was kept in house to be followed by the team at Cuné over the course of its life in the cellar. I was very pleased that one was prepared for our lunch at Contino in October, as the wine is excellent. It is a touch riper than the 2012, coming in at 13.8 percent, but is aging very well indeed and offers up an excellent bouquet of pear, tangerine, a touch of butteriness, fresh coconut, a lovely base of soil and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with fine focus and balance, still plenty of acidity and a long, bouncy and complex finish. I suspect its slightly higher octane than the 2012 will not allow it quite the same longevity in the cellar, but we shall see. Fine, fine juice. 2014-2020+. **92.**

Contino Viños Rosados

Jésus de Madrazo produces a very small amount of Contino Rosado here, but it is not really a commercially available wine, and is produced primarily for the consumption of the extended “Cuné family” or to be served at functions at the winery. The bottling is made of a blend of Graciano and Garnacha. Señor de Madrazo kindly opened a pair of vintages of the Contino Rosado during my visit to the winery in October, showing just how well this rare bottling ages.

2009 Rioja Rosado- Contino

The 2009 Rioja Rosado from Contino is an excellent wine, offering up a lovely and mature bouquet of desiccated cherries and strawberries, orange peel, a touch of new leather, woodsmoke and a superb, complex base of salty soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, ripe and complex, with a fine core, excellent focus and bounce and a long, bright and classy finish. This still has plenty of life in it, and may still be better with even a year or two more in the cellar. 2014-2020+. **90+.**

2008 Rioja Rosado- Contino

The 2008 Contino Rosado is also drinking very well, but it is from a cooler year and does not quite have the same mid-palate amplitude as a result. The lovely nose offers up a tertiary blend of dried cherries, leather, pit fruit, salty soil tones, orange peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, complex and still drinking very nicely, with finer focus and grip, sound framing acids and a long and stylish finish. 2014-2017. **88.**

Contino Viños Tintos

2010 Rioja “Selección”- Contino

The 2010 Rioja “Selección” from Contino is comprised of a blend of eighty percent Tempranillo and twenty percent Graciano. The wine offers up an outstanding bouquet of black

cherries, plums, Rioja spice tones, a touch of tariness, a complex base of soil, a nice dollop of fresh nutmeg and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very velvety already on the attack, with outstanding intensity at the core, excellent focus and balance and a very long, moderately tannic and still quite primary finish. This will be an outstanding bottle of Rioja in the fullness of time, but give it some time in the cellar to start to develop its secondary layers of complexity. 2020-2040+. **94+**.

2008 Rioja Reserva- Contino

The 2008 Contino Reserva is from a cooler vintage in Rioja, as there was some rain during the harvest, and Jesús de Madrazo only produced his Reserva wine in '08, with no single varietal bottlings and no Gran Reserva. The wine is really outstanding, as the growing season's characteristics has resulted in a wine at 13.7 percent (which is pretty low these days for Rioja Alavesa) and there was absolutely no new oak used during the *elevage* this year. The outstanding and very elegant wine delivers a lovely bouquet of red and black cherries, pepper, a touch of youthful meatiness, lavender and a really superb base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and already very velvety on the attack, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip and a very long, complex and suavely tannic finish. I know my penchant for cooler wines is showing, but this is one of the finest recent vintages of Contino Reserva I have had the pleasure to taste, and do not let the less than stellar reputation of the 2008 vintage dissuade you from buying this great young bottle of Rioja! 2016-2040. **93+**.

2007 Rioja Reserva- Contino

Because of the slightly amphitheater shape of the Contino vineyards, it can be quite a heat trap in some vintages and the 2007 comes in at a full fourteen percent alcohol, which is pretty ripe. However, the wine harnesses its ripeness quite well and shows good precision to its aromatic and flavor profile, and only a trace of fleeting backend heat on the finish. The fine nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cassis, dark berries, a bit of spiced meats, cigar smoke, coffee grounds, soil and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, nascently complex and very well-balanced, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, youthful and potentially velvety finish. This needs a few years in the cellar to really come into its own (not that the sample was bad with a steak on the grill!), and it is very well-made and will be lovely in the fullness of time. I would still have loved to have seen it lower in octane, as it would be better focused and pure, but this is a fine bottle that will age well. 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2007 Rioja Gran Reserva- Contino

Whereas I tasted the 2007 Contino Reserva from a sample bottle here in New York, I had the pleasure to taste the 2007 Gran Reserva at the bodega in October. This too comes in at an even fourteen percent alcohol, but seems even better-balanced than the Reserva bottling. Perhaps the wine seeing absolutely no new wood during its *elevage* has helped add to its sense of elegance, but Señor de Madrazo also notes that the later harvest, which began ten days later than normal, produced some parcels of absolutely beautiful, small berries of just impeccable ripeness. In any event, this old vine cuvée is brilliant in 2007, offering up a beautiful bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, fresh nutmeg, a very complex base of soil tones, a dollop of coconut and still a discreet touch of vanillin oak, from the previously used barrels (I suspect there were plenty of one wine barrels in the rotation for this wine in 2007). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with outstanding mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and still very primary finish. It is very, very early days for this great wine, which seems destined to be one of the legendary bottlings from Contino in the decades to come! 2019-2050. **95**.

2006 Rioja Reserva- Contino

The 2006 Contino Reserva is one of the ripest young vintages of this wine that I have tasted, coming in at 14.3 percent alcohol and showing just a bit of backend heat as a result. The bouquet is deep, ripe and exuberant in its mélange of black cherries, chocolate, a bit of roasted meat, dark soil tones and a touch of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a good core of fruit, very suave tannins and a bit of uncovered alcohol warming up the long and complex finish. It is a very well-made wine in this riper style, but it is not my favorite recent vintage of Contino Reserva. 2013-2025+. **87.**

2005 Rioja Gran Reserva- Contino (served from magnum)

The 2005 Contino Gran Reserva is a stunning young bottle of Rioja, with the ripeness of this beautiful amphitheater of vineyards delivering superb depth of fruit, without the wine losing any sense of precision or elegance. The bouquet is decidedly more red fruity than the 2007 Gran Reserva, offering up a youthful and very promising blend of cherries, red plums, Rioja spice tones, toasted coconut, fresh nutmeg, chocolate, chalky soil tones and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already quite velvety in texture, with a great core of fruit, lovely soil signature, outstanding focus and balance and a long, complex and moderately tannic and tangy finish. The 2005 Contino Gran Reserva is certainly approachable today (I had little trouble finishing the magnum over a couple of evenings!), but this great bottle of Rioja is still on its way up and its best is still many years down the road. I would be inclined to leave this magnum of great young wine in the cellar for at least another five to seven years and really allow its beauty to blossom fully. It will age for decades and decades and is another legend in the making at Contino! 2020-2070. **96.**

1994 Rioja Reserva- Contino

The 1994 Contino Reserva is a great, great wine, and it kills me that I was so sick when visiting the bodega in October that I was unable to drink my fair share of this wine at lunch! The stunning nose soars from the glass in a mature and complex blend of dried black cherries and plums, a potpourri of Rioja spices, a superbly delineated base of soil, a touch of pepper, smoke and still just a whisper of remaining vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure and refined, with a fine core, still bright, bouncy acids, outstanding focus and grip and a very, very long, meltingly tannic and complex finish. A gorgeous bottle of Rioja that is just entering its plateau of peak maturity at age twenty, but has decades of life still ahead of it! 2014-2035+. **95.**

1974 Rioja Reserva- Contino

It will be interesting to see if the newer vintages of Contino Reserva will age with the same grace as the inaugural vintage of 1974. This wine, back in the day, was raised in a blend of seventy percent American oak and thirty percent French barrels. At age thirty-nine (for this was last tasted at our vertical in Los Angeles in March of 2013) the wine is still at its apogee of peak drinkability, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of cherries, red plums, wild fennel, coffee, nutmeg, clove-like spices and a whisper of coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent focus and balance, melted tannins and a very long, complex and very refined finish. Lovely juice. 2013-2025+. **92.**

Contino Single Varietal Bottlings

2011 Garnacha- Contino

The 2011 vintage of Garnacha from Contino is a terrific example of this varietal. The wine comes in at fourteen percent alcohol and shows no signs of heat on either the nose or palate. The bouquet is classic Garnacha, offering up scents of cherries, raspberries, a bit of pepper, roasted game, lovely soil tones, *garrigue* and a nice, discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a fine core of fruit, broad shoulders, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and ripely tannic young finish. This is certainly approachable today, due to its well-integrated tannins, but it is still very early days for this lovely wine and I would be inclined to tuck it away in the cellar for at least another four or five years and really let it blossom and start to show its secondary layers of complexity. 2019-2040+. **92.**

2010 Garnacha- Contino

There were only 2,800 bottles produced of the Contino Garnacha in the 2010 vintage, with the wine coming in at an even fourteen percent alcohol (which is quite reasonably for this varietal in Rioja). The ripe and complex nose wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of red and black cherries, pepper, game, a lovely base of soil tones and a topnote of Rioja spices. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with lovely focus and grip, ripe tannins and a very long, balanced and primary finish. This is a very fine example of Garnacha that will need a few years in the cellar to start to show its secondary layers of complexity. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2009 Graciano- Contino

The 2009 vintage in Rioja is another riper year, but the Graciano from Contino has turned out exceptionally well, and does not seem particularly buxom at its fourteen percent octane. The deep and absolutely superb nose wafts from the glass in a constellation of black cherries, coffee bean, a bit of smoked meats, pepper, woodsmoke and a deft framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with a fine core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and outstanding grip on the very long and classy finish. This is still a young wine, but it should start to drink very well with a handful of years in the cellar. Very fine juice. 2018-2040. **93+.**

2006 Graciano- Contino

The 2006 vintage of Contino Graciano saw its malo all done in 225 liter French barrels and then was raised in a combination new French and Hungarian oak for fifteen months prior to bottling. The vintage tips the scales at 13.9 percent alcohol, but is not overtly jammy or hot on the palate. The ripe, but excellent bouquet offers up a blend of blackberries, dark chocolate, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil tones and a judicious framing of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and ripe, but also fresh and classy, with a fine core of fruit, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and well-balanced finish. Fine juice that is approachable out of the blocks, but which I would opt for giving at least a handful of years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to begin to emerge. 2017-2035. **90.**

Contino's Viña del Olivo

2010 Rioja Reserva "Viña del Olivo"- Contino

The 2010 Viña del Olivo is an outstanding example of this cuvée and looks likely to outpace the 2007 rendition of this wine, though I did not have the opportunity to taste them side

by side, as I tried the still unreleased 2010 at the winery in October. This is just a tiny bit lower in octane than the 2007 version, coming in at 14.04 percent alcohol, but it seemed cooler in profile than the small difference in ripeness might suggest. The superb bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, woodsmoke, incipient notes of meatiness, lead pencil and a very fine, complex base of soil nuances. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a superb core, ripe, seamless tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very long, poised and impeccably balanced finish. This is going to be a terrific vintage of Viña del Olivo! 2020-2050. **94+.**

2007 Rioja Reserva “Viña del Olivo”- Contino

The 2007 Viña del Olivo is comprised of a blend of eighty-eight percent Tempranillo and twelve percent Graciano and tips the scales at 14.1 percent alcohol. The wine is quite ripe on both the nose and palate, but manages its alcohol very well indeed and shows no signs of overripe flavors or heat on the backend of the palate. The fine bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, grilled venison, woodsmoke, eucalyptus, *garrigue* and a touch of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, fine focus and grip and a very long, youthful and promising finish. This is certainly a ripe wine that pushes right up to the edge in terms of alcohol, but at least out of the blocks, everything is in fine balance and this should age quite gracefully, but it is not cut from a classic, old school mold. 2017-2035+. **90.**



The thousand year-old olive tree in the heart of the Contino vineyards, from which Viña del Olivo takes its name.

1996 Rioja Reserva “Viña del Olivo”- Contino

The 1996 Rioja Reserva “Viña del Olivo” from Contino is a lovely wine, with its ripe and ready personality beautifully harnessed in a firm basis of *terroir* and exceptional balance. The wine is a big boy, coming in at 13.5 percent, but shows no signs of heat or overripe fruit tones. The excellent bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, a touch of game, pepper, dark soil tones, *garrigue* and a bit of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and complex, with a fine core, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and classy finish. This is probably only a few years away from really starting to drink well, but I might be inclined to keep it tucked away in the cellar for another five or six years and really let it get into its “sweet spot” of peak maturity. 2016-235+. **93.**

Viña Real

Viña Real is one of the two flagship brands of Cuné, having been established in the 1920s and now having been one of the iconic examples of Rioja produced for nearly a century. As noted in the introduction, the Viña Real bottlings were conceived as the bodega’s top expressions of Rioja Alavesa fruit and terroir since the creation of the label, and the wine has always shown a slightly more robust and black fruity personality than the Imperial Rioja bottlings, as a result of hailing from the slightly warmer region of Roja Alavesa. The Rioja Alavesa section is in Basque country, and these days, this means it is in a different country within the Spanish federation, which can certainly complicate tastings and transport, as there is a distinctly separate group of officials that preside over all of the Rioja produced in the Basque homeland across the Ebro River from the Rioja Alta region. I am sure that Cuné now having a separate winery dedicated to Viña Real on the Cerro de la Mesa, about five kilometers to the northwest of the city of Logroño in Basque country makes logistics far easier for them today. The Rioja Alavesa is sheltered to the north by the Sierra Cantabria mountains, and as it does not have the same high plateau vineyards as the grape-growing regions across the Ebro in the Rioja Alta, it tends to be a warmer region and produce more robust and hearty examples of Rioja. Interestingly, given that the Rioja Alavesa region is known for producing more robust examples of red wine and the Rioja Alta the more ethereal, perfumed and elegant examples, it is the Rioja Alavesa region that has the higher percentage of limestone in the alluvial soils here, whereas clay plays a larger role in the mixed soils of Rioja Alta. The contrasting style of the wines from the two regions shows how important altitude is in the equation between these two regions of Rioja, as the generally warmer growing conditions in Rioja Alavesa tend to trump the higher concentration of limestones in the soils. Of course, this is a generalization, as in the more westerly regions of Rioja Alavesa, where the vineyards start to climb significantly up into the foothills of the Sierra Cantabria, ripeness is arrives far later than it does in the heart and soul of the Alavesa between the cities of Logroño and La Guardia and wines produced from grapes in this section tend to be more delicately styled than the majority of Alavesa wines.

In any event, Viña Real is one of the great wines of Rioja. Today, Cuné will typically produce between fifty and one hundred thousand bottles between the Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings of Viña Real, depending upon the quality of any given vintage, and around a million bottles of Viña Real Crianza. True to its Alavesa origins, Viña Real, in all three iterations, is always a very black fruity interpretation of Rioja, with plenty of black cherry, cassis and dark berry fruit to be found in the wine, augmenting the beautiful base of soil tones, tobacco smoke

and spices of the wines from this region. And very much true to its Alavesa roots, at the Reserva and Gran Reserva levels, Viña Real is one of the longest-lived wines in the entire D.O. of Rioja, as the wine ages magnificently and the decades roll by with the wine simply getting better and better with further bottle age. I have had the pleasure to drink more old Viña Real bottlings than virtually any other Rioja, with the possible exception of the Viña Tondonia bottling from López de Heredia, and the only examples I have ever tasted that have been over the hill have been bottles, such as the 1951 Viña Real Reserva Especial that we tried at the bodega in October, where the cork has not stood the test of time. Whenever the cork has been sound and the storage good on the bottle, the old examples of Viña Real that I have had the pleasure to taste have been absolutely magnificent and I suspect that even the inaugural vintages from the decades of the 1920s remain excellent to drink down to this day. As the notes below will attest, I have been lucky enough to drink Viña Real all the way back to the 1946 vintage and the wines have remained full of vitality and complexity and fully underscore the capability of this bottling to age for a very, very long time. Interestingly, here in the United States, the Viña Real bottlings are generally the most prized of all of the Cuné Rioja cuvées, but amongst the winery's team, the Imperial is their favorite brand of bottlings. Viña Real is of course named for the founding brothers of the bodega.

As noted above, Viña Real these days is fermented in a combination of stainless steel tanks and concrete vats, prior to its aging in casks. The Viña Real Crianza bottling is comprised of a blend of ninety percent Tempranillo and the remaining ten percent equal parts of Graciano, Garnacha and Mazuela. The wine undergoes malo in barrel and then is aged in a combination of French and American oak (the customary thirty-seventy split in oak origin) for fourteen months, with several rackings, prior to bottling. Viña Real's Reserva bottling is produced from a similar cépages to the Crianza, with the Reserva spending a minimum of two years in barrel and at least a further year in bottle prior to release. The Viña Real Gran Reserva is made from a slightly different blend of grapes, with ninety-five percent of the cépages being Tempranillo and five percent being Graciano. Both the Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings of Viña Real are made exclusively from hand-harvested grapes, whereas a small percentage of the grapes that go into the Crianza bottling can be picked by machine, if they hail from some of the newer plantations that have been laid out for harvesting in such a manner. As noted above, since its very earliest days, Viña Real has tended to be aged a bit longer in the cellars prior to release than a comparable level of wine produced under the straight Cuné label, so that what became the Viña Real Crianza bottling used to be aged an additional year in the cellars (four years versus three) prior to its release. While the Viña Real Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings have been properly recognized as two of the greatest bottlings produced in all of Rioja, I should reiterate that I have been very, very impressed with the Viña Real Crianza examples I have tasted in the last few years, and this excellent value should emphatically not be ignored by fans of Viña Real.

Viña Real Crianza

2011 Rioja "Viña Real" Crianza- Cuné

The 2011 Rioja "Viña Real" Crianza from Cuné is a very lovely example of the vintage and this fine bottling, offering up a lovely bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of coconut, a fine base of soil, Rioja spice tones and a topnote of cigar smoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still a touch on the youthful side, with a good core, lovely textural sophistication, modest tannins and a very long finish that closes with excellent focus and grip. I

would be inclined to give the 2011 Viña Real Crianza a couple more years' worth of bottle age before drinking it in earnest, as it is only going to get better with a chance to spread its wings a bit with bottle age. 2016-2035. **90+**.

2009 Rioja "Viña Real" Crianza- Cuné

The 2009 Rioja "Viña Real" Crianza from Cuné is really a lovely entry level Rioja and one of the top bargains out there for wines from this region. The deep and complex nose offers up a typically black fruity Viña Real blend of dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, a bit of meatiness, soil tones, turmeric and spicy wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and spicy, with a perfectly respectable core of fruit, just a touch of tannin, tangy acids and really good length and grip on the complex finish. The wood tones here are at least partially French, with which I am not in love, but there is no denying that this wine packs an awful lot of intensity and complexity for its price. In the overheated US wine market, this can be found for around \$12 a bottle and in Spain, under \$5, and this is one hell of a wine for that price! 2014-2025+. **89**.

Viña Real Reserva and Gran Reserva

2010 Rioja "Viña Real" Reserva- Cuné

The 2010 vintage of Viña Real Reserva is a lovely young bottle of Rioja, offering up a complex aromatic constellation of black cherries, dark berries, toasted coconut, cigar smoke, dark soil tones and a nice touch of coffee bean in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and displays excellent mid-palate depth, with fine complexity, ripe, well-measured tannins and a very long, focused and still quite primary finish. This is still very early days for the outstanding 2010 Viña Real Reserva, which could do with another four or five years in the cellar to fully blossom and start to reveal some of its secondary layers of complexity. That said, I had no trouble drinking this wine today! 2018-2040+. **91+**.

2009 Rioja "Viña Real Oro" Reserva- Cuné

The 2009 Rioja "Viña Real Oro" Reserva from Cuné is a lovely wine, and though it is raised in both American and French barrels, it seems to have retained more American oak character than many of the other recent releases from Cuné. Needless to say, this is all to the good in my book. The superb nose is young, unevolved and really promising, as it wafts from the glass in a mélange of black plums, black cherries, a touch of fresh nutmeg, really fine soil tones, Rioja spice tones, espresso, a touch of toasted coconut, cigar smoke and a dollop of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and beautifully balanced, with a lovely core, impressive intensity of flavor without undue weight, a moderate dose of tannin and a long, bright and youthful finish. It seems that a bit of the tannins here are French wood-derived, but they will be absorbed seamlessly with a touch of bottle age, and this will be a really superb wine with a couple of years' worth of bottle age. 2016-2040. **92**.

2008 Rioja "Viña Real" Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2008 Viña Real Gran Reserva seems just a touch riper in style than the 2007 version. The bouquet is deep and youthfully complex, wafting from the glass in a mix of black cherries, cassis, cloves, cigar ash, dark soil tones, a bit of pepper, incipient notes of coffee grounds and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite suave and velvety already on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, very good soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, tangy, complex and ever so slightly jammy finish. There is little sign of heat at all on the palate, and the label's 13.5 percent alcohol is probably not too far off, but unless I am mistaken, the 2008 Viña Real Gran Reserva will never quite offer the same precision and breed as the superb 2007 rendition, as its ripeness will always take just a bit away from its purity. But, that said, this is still a very good

young wine that will age quite gracefully and may well offer more complexity at age twenty than it will at age ten. 2018-2050. **89+**.

2007 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

Cuné’s Viña Real Gran Reserva is a fantastic young bottle of Rioja, coming in with perfectly measure ripeness and great purity and nascent complexity. The outstanding bouquet is a constellation of dark berries, black cherries, cigar wrapper, tobacco ash, dark soil tones, a bit of coffee bean and a nice touch of toasted coconut in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, suave, seamless tannins and exceptional focus and grip on the very, very long, refined finish. This is so beautifully balanced that it is already a great glass of wine, but it is clearly still a puppy and will only grow exponentially with further bottle age. Great juice. 2014-2050+. **94.**

2006 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2006 Viña Real Gran Reserva is a beautiful and quite classic, riper-styled vintage for this great bottling, wafting from the glass in a deep and black fruity nose of cassis, dark berries, cigar ash, a fine base of dark soil, coconut, Rioja spice tones, incipient notes of the meatiness to come, just a whisper of pepper and a lovely, understated mix of vanillin and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is suave, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a plump core of fruit, fine soil signature,, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced and complex finish. This is a warmer year in Rioja and the wine does not have quite the same bounce on the palate as the 2007 Viña Real Gran Reserva, but it is also more ready to go right now and really is a lovely example of this bottling. While it will continue to age for many decades to come, the wine is already drinking very well indeed. 2015-2050. **92.**

2005 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2005 vintage of Viña Real Gran Reserva is a bit less aromatically evolved than the riper 2006 version, but probably more complex in the long run and destined to be a classic vintage for this cuvée. The deep, nascently complex and fairly reserved nose offers up a fine blend of black fruit, cigar smoke, a touch of clove, toasted coconut, a hint of cinnamon, a beautiful base of dark soil tones, espresso and again, that lovely discreet base of vanillin and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite young, with ripe tannins, tangy acids, outstanding focus and grip, lovely blossoming complexity and a very long, soil-driven and modestly tannic finish. The 2005 is far more precise and complex than the 2006 version, but also quite a bit younger in its evolution. One gets so accustomed to a ten year-old bottle of Rioja not possessing much remaining tannin that the fairly youthful structure of the 2005 Viña Real Gran Reserva comes as a bit of a surprise, but all of the constituent components are here in this excellent wine to promise the ’05 will be one of the classics in the decades to come! A great wine, but give it a bit more time in the cellar to really reach its zenith. 2020-2075+. **94+.**

2004 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 2004 vintage of Viña Real Gran Reserva is an utter classic in the making, wafting from the glass in a very complex blend of black cherries, cassis, cigar ash, dark soil tones, coffee beans, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, toasted coconut, Rioja spice tones and the now well-known mix of vanillin and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and beautifully balanced, with a fine core of fruit, lovely bounce and grip, impressive complexity and a very long, pure, intensely flavored and still modestly tannic finish. This is not as deep, nor as structured as the 2005 version, but it too is from a less ripe vintage than the 2006 and is another signature vintage of Viña Real Gran Reserva. This is eminently drinkable today, but I would love to give it another

five years in the cellar to allow the remaining tannins to more fully fall away and all of the secondary nuances here, which are just starting to come to the fore, to fully blossom. It is a lovely middleweight vintage of Viña Real Gran Reserva and will be at its best with another four or five years of bottle age, but the wine is already a very lovely drink. 2015-2055. **93.**

1990 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1990 Viña Real Gran Reserva from Cuné is still a tad on the adolescent side, but is starting to really drink well. This is a riper vintage, which shows more on the nose than the palate of this particular bottle, as the bouquet is a deep and youthful blend of black raspberries, coffee bean, damp soil tones, charred wood, a nice touch of Rioja spice, celery seed and a hint of oxidation. On the palate the wine is fullish, suave and focused, with lovely complexity, good mid-palate depth, melting tannins and good length and grip on a finish that closes with just a whisper of pruniness. This reminds quite a bit stylistically of the 1982 and shows that the ripest vintages in Rioja are not necessarily the best. 2011-2020+. **89.**

1982 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva- Cuné

1982 has never been my favorite vintage of Rioja, as this torrid summer generally produced wines that were a tad on the overripe side for my tastes, despite the reputation of the vintage being quite high amongst the producers themselves. That said, the 1982 Viña Real Reserva is a stellar example of this vintage and one of the best 1982 Rioja bottlings that I have had the pleasure to taste. The deep, pure and simply gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, coconut, a complex base of dark soil tones, a touch of dill, coffee bean and a lovely topnote of fresh nutmeg. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and velvety, with a great core of fruit, melting tannins, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and *à point* finish. This is a stellar 1982! 2013-2040+. **94.**

1981 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva- Cuné

Cuné’s 1981 Viña Real Rioja Reserva is drinking beautifully at age thirty-one and is just entering its plateau of peak maturity. This is one of my favorite vintages of the last thirty years for Rioja, and the Viña Real Reserva shows off all the purity and complexity that made this such a special year in the region. The deep and still quite youthful nose offers up a beautiful blend of black cherries, nutskins, Rioja spice tones, orange peel, lovely soil nuances and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite powerfully built, with a fine core of black fruit, modest tannins, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the complex and classy finish. The fruit tones on the palate here show a touch of a dried fruit character to them—which I would have expected more with the riper 1982 version than the 1981, but everything seems in place for a long and eventful like in bottle. 2012-2040. **92+.**

1981 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

While the 1981 Viña Real “Reserva” is a very fine bottle of Rioja, the most recent bottle that I tasted of the Viña Real “Gran Reserva” from this great vintage is absolutely monumental. The Gran Reserva was aged for four months in concrete vats after fermentation, and then racked into *Tinas* for thirteen months, followed by thirty-seven months in old, smaller barrels. It is 13.8 percent alcohol, which is pretty ripe for a 1981 Rioja, but it shows absolutely no signs of *sur maturité* or heat and is cool in the mouth, complete and very classy. The stunning bouquet is still a touch on the youthful side, jumping from the glass in a vibrant mélange of black cherries, incipient meatiness, marjoram, cigar smoke, espresso, wild fennel and a lovely base of coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and stunning, with a rock solid core of fruit, moderate tannins, tangy acids and laser-like focus on the very long, poised and perfectly balanced finish. This is already a very complex wine and drinking beautifully, but another

decade's worth of bottle age will really allow this wine to start to deliver all of its magic. 2015-2060+. **96.**

1976 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The Cuné '76 Viña Real Gran Reserva is a beautiful wine that does not possess quite the same mid-palate stuffing of the gorgeous 1981 version, but is an utterly complete and classic example of this fine bottling. The really lovely bouquet offers up a blend of black cherries, spit-roasted meats, dark soil tones, wild fennel, cigars, Rioja spice tones and a lovely framing of coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a very good core of fruit, melting tannins and a long, velvety and *à point* finish. The 1976 Gran Reserva is a superb example of Viña Real at its apogee. 2013-2030. **93.**



1975 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

This particular bottle of Cuné's 1975 Viña Real Gran Reserva was just a touch plagued by volatile acidity, which kept its score down a bit. The nose is deep, ripe and complex, offering up a fine blend of black cherries, a touch of raisin, woodsmoke, herbs, damp soil and the aforementioned bit of VA. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complex, with a lovely core of fruit, fine focus and balance, little remaining tannin and a slightly volatile finish. I assume that the volatile acidity issue was just with this particular bottle and that there are superior examples out there. 2010-2025. **87.**

1970 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1970 Viña Real Gran Reserva is a beautiful bottle of Rioja that has still not reached its apogee of peak maturity- even at age forty-four! The excellent nose still has more development to come with further bottle age, but offers up a pure and still fairly primary blend of cassis, dark berries, cigar smoke, nutskin, just a whisper of barnyard, Rioja spice tones and a beautiful base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with tangy acids, still a bit of backend tannin and outstanding focus and grip on the long, complex and perfectly balanced finish. This is an outstanding vintage of Viña Real Gran Reserva, but I would be tempted to give this still a few more years of bottle age before having at it in earnest, as this wine is still climbing! Fine, fine juice. 2018-2050. **94.**

1968 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1968 Viña Real Gran Reserva is an excellent bottle, offering up a deep and very pure bouquet of cassis, black cherries, dark soil nuances, woodsmoke, a touch of red curry, cigar ash, just a touch of pepper and a hint of sweet balsamic tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and at its absolute apogee today, with a great core of fruit, melting tannins and superb length and grip on the complex and very vibrant finish. Just a quintessential example of Viña Real at its peak of maturity, but with decades of life still ahead of it. 2014-2040. **94+.**

1966 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva Especial- Cuné

Cuné’s 1966 Viña Real Rioja Reserva Especial is a very lovely wine, but it is not quite in the league with the beautiful wines made under this label in 1968 and 1964. Ironically, for a wine that is nearly fifty years old, it still seems slightly constricted on the palate by its structural elements, which takes a way a bit of the velvety palate impression that makes the two flanking vintages of this bottling so superb. The bouquet on the ’66 is excellent, wafting from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, cloves, a fine base of soil tones, nutskins and a nice touch of grilled meat. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and tangy, with a fine core, moderate tannins and fine length and grip on the focused and complex finish. It is possible that the serious acids of the ’66 vintage will never really give up their grip on this wine, but it may also be that another decade’s worth of aging will produce a wine that is even more generous and expansive on the palate. Certainly, the 1966 Viña Real Reserva Especial is in no danger of decline! 2014-2035+. **91+.**

1964 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva Especial- Cuné

The 1964 Viña Real Rioja Reserva Especial from Cuné is a stunning wine at its absolute zenith of peak drinkability. The beautiful, poised and very complex nose wafts from the glass in a refined blend of black cherries, dark plums, walnuts, singed soil tones, fresh thyme, wild fennel, a touch of autumn leaves, a fine base of coconutty oak and a spicy topnote redolent of turmeric. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety, with superb complexity, beautiful mid-palate depth, outstanding focus and balance and a long, pure and *à point* finish of great refinement and breed. There are no tannins remaining here, but this wine is so finely balanced that it should continue to cruise along at this superb plateau for at least a couple of decades. 2014-2040+. **95.**

1962 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

I had not tasted a bottle of the Viña Real Gran Reserva from the ’62 vintage since a friend’s fortieth birthday celebration all the way back in 2002, and this most recent bottle at our Cuné vertical out in Los Angeles in the spring of 2013 was absolutely magical. The brilliant nose soars in a constellation of raspberries, cherries, meaty tones, loads of Rioja spices, coconut,

beautifully complex, dark soil tones, a bit of *garrigue* and a topnote of nutskin. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and velvety, with outstanding mid-palate depth, laser-like focus and still just a bit of backend tannin on the very long, tangy and oh, so complex finish. I have always thought of the 1964 as the legendary vintage from this era, but this bottle of 1962 Viña Real Gran Reserva was every bit as profound as its 1964 counterpart! 2013-2040+. **95.**

1954 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cune

The 1954 Viña Real Gran Reserva has always been a personal favorite, and I am embarrassed to say that I have probably drunk this vintage more than any other. The bottle at our tasting in Los Angeles in March of 2013 was another excellent example, soaring from the glass in a stunning mix of dark berries, cassis, Rioja spices, wild fennel, charred wood, lovely nuttiness and a fine base of spicy soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very velvety in texture, with an excellent core, melted tannins, good acidity and outstanding focus and grip on the classy and very long finish. After an atypically red fruity bottle of the '54 a couple of years ago, this bottle was more typically black fruity and meaty in the classic Viña Real style. 2013-2040. **94.**

1951 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva Especial- Cune

Victor Urrutia very generously prepared this rare bottle for our visit in October, but unfortunately, the bottle had a failing cork and the wine was not one hundred percent pristine. There was some overt oxidation on both the nose and palate from the leaking cork, but I noted that the wine had a lovely core of fruit and still very good sweetness in the mid-palate, and I suspect that sound bottles would still be very good indeed and would transcend the modest reputation of the vintage and would probably merit a score in the high eighties.

1950 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cune (served directly from bottle)

We had two bottles of the 1950 Viña Real Gran Reserva at our tasting in Los Angeles, and so the host decided to serve one directly from the bottle and one after an hour in decanter, to see which would be the better methodology in the future for serving sixty-plus year-old bottles of Viña Real. The example poured directly from the bottle was slightly sweeter and more vibrant at the core, though not quite as aromatically complex, as it offered up a beautiful bouquet of cherries, hickory smoke, nutskins, lovely spice tones, coconut, wild fennel, fresh nutmeg and a touch of good, old American oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and beautifully focused, with a fine core of sappy old fruit, melted tannins and excellent length and grip on the complex and vibrant finish. A beautiful bottle of old Viña Real that still has plenty of life in it. 2013-2030. **93.**

1950 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cune (decanted one hour prior to service)

The decanted version of 1950 Viña Real Gran Reserva was far more open on the nose and really showed beautiful tertiary aromatic elements in its bouquet of mustard seed, cherries, toasted coconut, fresh herb tones, a very refined base of soil tones, cinnamon and cigar smoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very velvety on the attack, with great complexity, but not quite the mid-palate punch of sweet fruit that the above example displayed. The finish is equally long and pure, but the wine also relinquished just a bit of grip on the backend from its sojourn in decanter. Two conclusions: probably the finest move would be to decant this wine just before serving, to give it a bit of aeration and remove the sediment, and also, the 1950 Viña Real Gran Reserva is a beautiful bottle of old Rioja that is still cruising along at its plateau of maturity! 2013-2030. **92.**

1950 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva Especial- Cuné

This particular bottle of the Cuné’s 1950 Rioja “Viña Real” Reserva Especial was very complex on both the nose and palate, but was just starting to show a touch of oxidation and was probably starting to slide gently over the far side of its plateau of maturity. I am not sure if this is indicative of the wine in general, or just of our bottle. In any case, there was still plenty to love here in the complex bouquet of black cherries, black figs, fresh nutmeg, coffee grounds and a nice touch of dark, slightly damp soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety, with a wide open and tertiary personality, still a good core, thoroughly melted tannins and just a bit of oxidation now poking out on the long and classic finish. I imagine that there are still even better bottles of this wine out there, but this particular bottle was in need of drinking up over the very near-term. That said, there was still a lot going on in the glass here and it was a very tasty glass of old Rioja. 2012-2015+? **88+?**

1949 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

I had never previously crossed paths with a bottle of the 1949 Viña Real Gran Reserva, whose reputation is excellent, as this was an outstanding year in Rioja, but our bottle at the tasting at Valentino was getting a bit towards the far side of its plateau and threatening a descent down into senility in the not too distant future. I have to imagine that there are even more vibrant bottles out there, but this wine was not a disappointment in any way, other than its reputation suggested it would even a bit better! The lovely and quite tertiary bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, raspberries, a touch of eucalyptus, nutskins, a bit of spiced meats, coffee and lovely soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and quite silky today, with nice mid-palate sweetness, beautiful refinement, delicate structure and very good length and grip still defining the lovely finish. This bottle, at least, needs drinking up in the next half dozen years or so, before it starts to slide, but as I said, there may well be more vibrant bottles out there. 2013-2020. **90.**

1946 Rioja “Viña Real” Gran Reserva- Cuné

1946 was not a great vintage in Rioja (the bodegas calls it a “regular” vintage), but the Viña Real Gran Reserva from this year has aged beautifully and showed great style at our vertical tasting. The beautifully resolved nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of backed black cherries, red plums, *garrigue*, spicy Rioja soils, nutskin, fresh nutmeg, a bit of bonfire and a whisper of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and complex, with a lovely core of fruit, superb focus and grip, melted tannins and a long, elegant and classy finish. A beautiful wine and a total surprise! 2013-2030. **93.**

Imperial

Cuné’s superb Imperial bottling is produced entirely from fruit sourced in the Rioja Alta sub-region, and the wine is raised in a style different from Viña Real. Since 2000, the wine is aged for one year in large, older foudres, which are called “Tinas” and which are constructed from French oak. After its first year’s élevage in Tina, the wine then is raked into smaller, 225 liter barrels for the next three years, with seventy percent of the barrels being made from American oak and thirty percent from French oak. As is the case with the other Cuné bottling, ten percent of the casks are new barrels in any given vintage for Imperial, as the bodega practices a ten year barrel rotation in their cellars for both their Imperial and Viña Real bottlings. As I mentioned above, Cuné originally created their Imperial bottling specifically for the English export market, with the wine taking its name from the size of the bottle that was necessary for this market back in the 1920s, the “Imperial Pint”. In contrast to Viña Real, Cuné

only produces a Reserva and a Gran Reserva version of Imperial, and these are only produced in top vintages in the region.

As is the case with the Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings from Viña Real, the winemaking team at Cuné uses only hand-harvested grapes for their two bottlings of Imperial. The Gran Reserva bottling of Imperial is produced from older vineyards (twenty years of age is the minimum vineyard age considered suitable for possible inclusion in Imperial Gran Reserva), with the vineyards for this designation hailing from the western area of Rioja Alta, centered between Haro and Villalba, just to the west of the city. The wines are made from a blend of eighty-five percent Tempranillo, ten percent Graciano and five percent Mazuela. Today, production of the two Imperial bottlings ranges from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand bottles, if it is a top vintage in Rioja, and in lesser years, all of the production from the vineyards that typically will contribute to Imperial are instead consigned to the bottlings that appear under the straight Cuné labels. For me, it was interesting to discover during my conversation with Victor Urrutia that Cuné has long considered Imperial to be their flagship wine and it is cherished perhaps just a touch ahead of their Viña Real by the winery team. This is in contrast to Rioja lovers in the US, where the Viña Real seems to have been the slightly more highly-esteemed bottling from Cuné. While my tasting experience with Imperial does not stretch back quite as far it does with Viña Real, it is my impression that Imperial, with its one hundred percent Rioja Alta fruit origins, may not be quite as long-lived as Viña Real, but it is certainly every bit as magnificent during its apogee as that wine, with a more refined, perfumed and elegant profile on both the nose and palate. There is little doubt that it is one of Rioja's greatest wines.

2009 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

As I have noted in other notes on 2009s from Cuné, this is a riper vintage in Rioja, but the 2009 Imperial Reserva has retained all of the inherent elegance that this bottling is renowned for, despite it tipping the scales at a pretty robust fourteen percent alcohol. The bouquet shows some of the generosity of the vintage, but also lovely refinement in its mélange of cassis, dark berries, cigar wrapper, a touch of clove, dark soil tones, coconut and a bit of youthful cedar as well. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a rock solid core of sappy fruit, impeccable focus and balance, ripe tannins and exceptional length on the pure and classy finish. I suspect this wine will evolve along the lines of the lovely 1982 Imperials. 2020-2060. **92+**.

2008 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

The 2008 Imperial Reserva is still a young wine, but this seems destined to be one of the great recent vintages for this iconic bottling (I cannot wait to taste the 2008 Gran Reserva). The beautiful bouquet presents a primary and very pure constellation of plums, black cherries, toasted coconut, sweet Cuban cigar tones, a beautifully complex base of soil, cocoa, just a touch of fresh nutmeg, Rioja spice tones and a lovely base of vanillin and coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure, with a sappy core of fruit, impeccable focus and balance, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the nascently complex and very classy finish. This is still a puppy and really should be tucked away in the cellar for another decade, though it is so beautifully balanced that it is already all too easy to drink in its youth. But, it will be a profound wine, so just buy it, put it in the cellar, and forget you own it for the next decade! 2023-2065+. **94+**.

2007 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

The 2007 Imperial Reserva from Cuné is fairly ripe, coming in at 13.5 percent alcohol, and this probably reflects the bodega’s decision to harvest their fruit in La Rioja Alta late in the fall, after the rains had passed through in this vintage. Like several of the recent wines from Cuné, there is a bit of French oak influence apparent on both the nose and palate, with some cedar in the mix, which I find distracting, but others may like quite well. The bouquet is certainly deep and complex, offering up scents of black cherries, dark plums, a bit of coconut, woodsmoke, spicy soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is suave, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a good core, fine focus, a bit of chewy tannin and a long, slightly hot, and quite cedary finish. Like the above wine, this will probably age along the lines of the 1982, and while it is very good, I would love to see it a tad less ripe and without the French wood in the mix. 2017-2035+. **90+**.

2007 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

2007 is a great, classic vintage of Imperial Gran Reserva in the making, and, not surprisingly, the wine is absolutely stunning in its youth. This is a touch more reserved out of the blocks than the Viña Real Gran Reserva from this vintage, not to mention the seemingly riper ’07 Imperial Reserva, as it wafts from the glass in a nascently complex blend of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of nutskin, cigar wrapper, a lovely base of complex soil tones, toasted coconut and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and already very velvety on the attack, with a superb core of fruit, beautiful transparency down to the soil, ripe, suave tannins and simply great length and grip on the very pure and promising finish. This is a legend in the making. 2019-2075+. **95**.

2005 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

The 2005 Imperial Reserva is a bit riper in style than the classically balanced 2007 Gran Reserva, but it is a very, very fine bottle of Rioja and at age ten, it is really starting to drink very well indeed. The bouquet offers up some secondary complexity now in its mélange of sweet blackberries, black cherries, cigar ash, chocolate, a nice touch of meatiness, lovely soil tones, clove-like spices, and a nice blend of oak that shows a bit of French spice to go along with a lovely base of vanilla. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and fairly broad-shouldered for Imperial, with a lovely core of black fruit, good soil inflection, still a bit of ripe, well-integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the complex and very satisfying finish. This is a lovely example of a riper Imperial vintage that has not lost one bit of the cuvée’s inherent elegance, despite being a bit more muscular in style, due to the vintage’s character. This will probably age quite similarly to the 1982. Fine, fine juice. 2015-2040. **93**.

1999 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1999 Imperial Gran Reserva is a lovely young bottle of “old school” Rioja, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, coconut, fresh nutmeg, lovely soil tones and a nice touch of nuttiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and vibrant, with a lovely core of sweet fruit, impeccable focus and balance, fine intensity of flavor and lovely length and grip on the modestly tannic finish. This will be a wine of velvety purity and elegance at its apogee, and while it is very approachable today, I would opt for keeping it tucked away in the cellar for at least another four or five years and really let its secondary layers of complexity emerge. A lovely middleweight in the making. 2017-2040+. **91+**.

1995 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

The 1999 Imperial Reserva shows a bit more ripeness on both the nose and palate than the beautifully ethereal 1999 Gran Reserva, but retains all of the inherent elegance of this

bottling. The deep and complex nose wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of red and black cherries, Rioja spice tones, a touch of youthful celery seed, a fine base of soil and a lovely framing of coconutty American oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and potentially quite velvety in texture, with a superb core of sappy fruit, outstanding soil inflection, moderate tannins and outstanding length and grip on the bright and beautifully balanced finish. A superb bottle in the making. 2015-2050. **93+**.

1994 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1994 Imperial Gran Reserva is another stellar young vintage of this bottling, and it will be a great pleasure to compare the evolution of the 1994 and 1995 versions of Imperial over the coming three or four decades. The 1994 offers up a more black fruity bouquet than the '95, jumping from the glass in a superb blend of dark berries, cassis, Rioja spice tones, a beautifully complex base of soil, coffee, cigar smoke and a touch of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and rock solid at the core, with well-measured, suave tannins, lovely focus and nascent complexity and excellent grip on the very long and intensely flavored finish. A beautiful Imperial in the making. 2018-2050+. **93+**.

1991 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

I have always loved the 1991 vintage in Rioja and the Imperial Reserva is an excellent example of how this classic vintage has succeeded in aging with great style and grace. This is still not a wine that has reached its apogee, but it is starting to get close, as it wafts from the glass in a fine, and utterly classic aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, nuts, complex soil nuances, a potpourri of Rioja spices and a lovely base of coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and tangy, with blossoming complexity, superb mid-palate depth, silky tannins and really excellent acidity on the perfectly focused, long and exceedingly well-balanced finish. This simply a classic bottle of young Imperial. 2015-2050. **95**.

1989 Rioja “Imperial” Reserva- Cuné

The 1989 Imperial Reserva is a really lovely wine that is now drinking at its apogee, but shows all of the prerequisites to age gracefully at least another couple of decades. The pure and wide open nose wafts from the glass in a mix of raspberries, cherries, Rioja spice tones, a beautifully complex base of soil, gentle notes of cedar and a lovely topnote of fresh nutmeg. On the palate the wine is medium-full, deep and tangy, with lovely transparency, still a touch of backend, modest tannins to resolve and outstanding length and grip on the spicy and very pure finish. Just a lovely bottle of Reserva. 2012-2035. **91**.

1988 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1988 Imperial Gran Reserva was bottled in the spring of 1994 and is a beautiful example of the vintage that has now entered its apogee of peak maturity and is drinking with great breed and style. The superb nose offers up a constellation of cherries, red plums, coconut, a touch of fennel seed, lovely soil tones and a deft base of vanillin and coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely tangy today, with a lovely core, melting tannins and outstanding length and grip on the pure and elegant finish. A lovely, lovely wine. 2013-2035+. **93**.

1982 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

Cuné made some of my absolute favorite wines in the vintage of 1982, as the bodegas seemingly avoided any of the potential pitfalls of overripeness in this torrid summer and produced truly superb and classic wines in '82. The 1982 Imperial Gran Reserva is an excellent wine, wafting from the glass in a complex and still fairly youthful blend of cherries, raspberries, Rioja spice tones, a nice touch of nutskin, a dollop of menthol and a fine framing of coconutty

American oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and elegant, with a fine core of fruit, tangy acids and fine length and grip on the well-balanced and complex finish. High class juice. 2014-2040+. **93.**

1976 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1976 Imperial Gran Reserva is an absolutely classic vintage of this iconic wine, and at age thirty-eight, it is at its apogee of peak drinkability. The outstanding bouquet offers up a very elegant blend of strawberries, cherries, fresh nutmeg, a beautifully complex base of soil tomes, toasted coconut nutskins and a gentle topnote of cinnamon. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and velvety, with the elegance of the nose echoed in the mouth. The wine has a fine core of sweet fruit, gorgeous complexity and still just a touch of remaining tannin on the long, perfectly balanced and very classy finish. Just a lovely, lovely wine at its zenith. 2014-2035. **94.**



1973 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

For current drinking, the 1973 vintage in Rioja is in an absolutely magical place, and the Imperial Gran Reserva from this year is simply marvelous. The stunningly pure and perfumed nose delivers a complex constellation of black cherries, nutskins, toasted coconut, dark soil tones, plenty of Rioja spices and a lovely base of old, American oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with outstanding complexity and breed,

tangy acids, melted tannins and a very, very long, refined and still quite youthfully vibrant finish. This is a beautiful vintage of Imperial that is now at its absolute apogee of peak drinkability, but with decades of life still ahead of it. 2014-2040. **94.**

1970 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1970 Imperial Gran Reserva is not far off the pace set by the beautiful Viña Real and is drinking at its absolute peak at the present time. The deep, pure and utterly enchanting nose wafts from the glass in a fine mélange of plums, cherries, a touch of fresh nutmeg, a lovely base of soil, Rioja spice tones and coconutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and beautifully transparent, with a fine core, impressive complexity and breed and excellent length and grip on the focused and *à point* finish. A beautiful bottle of fully mature, classic Rioja, the 1970 Imperial Gran Reserva still had plenty of life ahead of it. It is a touch more elegant than the 1970 Viña Real Gran Reserva, but does not possess that superb wine’s same depth and complexity. 2011-2035. **92.**

1966 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1966 vintage in Rioja is a good, but not a great year, and this is reflected in the rather moderate ripeness level of 12.6 percent alcohol of the ’66 Imperial Gran Reserva. Consequently, the wine is just a touch austere in personality, even at age forty-seven, but I very much like this wine for its impressive aromatic and flavor complexity and its classic Imperial refinement. The bouquet is pure and classy, offering up scents of dark berries, a touch of raspberry, tobacco, gentle meatiness, spices, discreet notes of nutskin and a bit of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and just a touch angular, but with a very good core, fine soil signature, tangy acids and good, but not great length and grip on the complex finish. This is not one of the legendary old vintages of Imperial Gran Reserva, but the wine is still very lovely and a far cry from a disappointment. 2013-2025+. **89.**

1960 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1960 Imperial Gran Reserva from Cuné is probably the first good, non-Port wine I have ever had from my birth year. I have now had the pleasure to taste this wine on two occasions and it has been very, very good both times. This most recent bottle was still quite vibrant, wafting from the glass in a blend of black cherries, dark berries, charred wood, nutskin, dark soil tones, toasted coconut and Rioja spices. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and just a touch four-square in personality, with a fairly extracted personality (particularly for the supremely elegant Imperial bottling), but at the same time, the wine is long, complex and quite satisfying. There is still a touch of tannin on the long finish, and this very good 1960 Rioja still has years and years of life in it. Not a great Imperial, but a superb effort for the 1960 vintage. 2014-2030+. **89.**

1957 Rioja “Imperial” Gran Reserva- Cuné

The 1957 Imperial Gran Reserva, which hails from a rather middling vintage, has aged quite nicely and is still a lovely middleweight for relatively near-term consumption. The pure and complex nose offers up a perfumed and delicate bouquet of strawberries, cherries, fresh nutmeg, nutskin, cigar ash and a lovely base of spicy Rioja soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and silky, with fine intensity of flavor, impressive complexity and a long, suave and classy finish. The 1957 Imperial Gran Reserva is not as powerful as the 1960 version, but is more delineated and does not reflect any of the slightly chunky character of the 1960, though, on the other hand, it is not as vigorous today as its rival. For drinking over the next decade or so, there is still a lot of pleasure to be had from this stylish old Rioja. 2014-2025. **89.**



The Clos de la Barre vineyard in Meursault lying fallow in the cool sun of December.

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**UNE BELLE SURPRISE:
THE GOOD TO TRULY EXCEPTIONAL 2013 BURGUNDY VINTAGE**



The Place Carnot all decked out for Christmas in the center of Beaune.

The 2013 Burgundy vintage is not a consistent year from region to region, as the realities of harvest time were dramatically different in Chablis than further south in the Côte d'Or, so the sectors of Burgundy have fared far differently in this year. The challenging growing seasons that led up to the harvest in the regions were quite similar, with constant work needed in the vineyards during the course of the spring and summer, but the weather at harvest time did not cooperate in Chablis, and all that hard work was undone to varying degrees by a combination of heavy rain and a few days of soaring temperatures at the end of September, which sent the rot racing through the vineyards almost faster than *vignerons* could get out and pick the fruit. Further south in the Côte d'Or, the weather was far more cooperative at picking time, and producers here were able to gather their fruit under far more favorable conditions and they were given the possibility to be rewarded for all the vigilance in the vineyards over the course of the summer and were able to bring in very good fruit in the end and have succeeded against pretty long odds in making excellent wines. Such is the capricious nature of Mother Nature these days in Burgundy, where all the attention to detail and constant work keeping the vines and fruit healthy in Chablis were undone in the end by brutal harvesting conditions, whereas the Côte

d'Or was able to reap their reward- provided they were sufficiently draconian with their selection process and only took pristine fruit and rejected what was sub-par. This was no easy matter, as there was already a very low crop level across the board in both major sectors of Burgundy, which varied according to how brutal nature had been during the spring and summer, and the very successful estates had to sort carefully and reject all but the best fruit to end up with high quality wines, so it will be yet again another year of short production. However, given all of the travails of the growing season and challenges at harvest, in the end the most successful wines in the Côte d'Or have proven to be truly outstanding and have exceeded expectations. Or as Bertrand Chevillon, of Domaine Robert Chevillon in Nuits St. Georges termed them, “*une belle surprise*”.

The growing season did not get off to a particularly good start, as a damp, cold and rainy spring got everything moving slowly, and over the first month or so of the spring, the Burgundians began to lose time early, so that it became clear that it was going to end up being a late harvest. The year of 2013 was one of almost constant rain, with winter and early spring flooding far from rare (there were photos in the local newspapers of ducks swimming in the flooded vineyards in Gevrey-Chambertin down by the RN-74!), and the rainy weather was not to relent a whole lot during the summer months. The sap rose slowly in the cold, grey and rainy spring and by the end of May, the vines were already lagging at least three weeks behind schedule and it was already quite evident that the Burgundians were going to be dependent on a good September and early October if they were going to be able to produce a good vintage. The weather during the flowering was once again (for the fourth year in a row) very poor, with rain and cold temperatures causing plenty of problems with the *floraison*, so that by the end of June, *vignerons* throughout Burgundy were not only at least three weeks behind schedule, but also looking at another short crop, if everything else was to go well from that point forward in the summer. But, of course, this was not destined to be, as the Côte de Beaune once again was visited upon with a brutal hailstorm that ravaged vineyards and caused another short crop to be reduced in certain sectors to catastrophically low levels. This year, the main brunt of the hail, which struck on July 23rd, was a bit further north in the Côte de Beaune than has been the case in the last two years, so the epicenter was in Beaune and Savigny-lès-Beaune, with hailstones falling that were often larger than golf balls and just shredding the vineyards. Hail caused major damage from the hill of Corton (particularly brutal on the Pernand side) all the way south through Pommard (and once again) Volnay, stopping along the line of Bourgogne Blanc vineyards in the village of Meursault. As Laurent Lignier of Domaine Hubert Lignier commented, the hail in Pommard was particularly brutal on the vineyards on the Beaune side of the commune, where losses were up to ninety percent, but in his fine *villages* section of the Chanlins vineyard over on the Volnay side of the village, he felt himself lucky to “only” have had two-thirds of his crop in this *climat* wiped out in the storm.

The irony was that the hail storm that struck on July 23rd, ripping its swath through the Côte de Beaune at 4:00 PM, was in the midst of one of the two good months that the Burgundians had during the summer of 2013, as both July and August, excepting the hail, were actually quite sunny and warm, which had allowed the vineyards to catch up a bit on their very late and poor flowering, and ultimately, for those who made good wines, they noted that this simply would not have been possible without the very good weather that the region had for these two months. However, even during the good weather months of July and August, there were still

plenty of rainstorms, so that *vignerons* had to continue the constant vigilance in the vineyards, spraying against rot and mildew, which were ever present threats from May until October this year, and as Jean-Marie Fourrier commented, “we had all spent so much time on our tractors over the course of the summer, that by the time the grapes were ready to pick, I think everyone was just sick of this year and wanted to get it over with and turn their backs on 2013, so none of us expected the wines to turn out anywhere near as good as they have.” He noted that the mud and the rain were a lasting images for him of the vintage- at least until he started to taste the wines in February of 2014 and found that they seemed to hold quite a bit of promise. In the spring, he and a co-worker were out in the vines in Gevrey, planning to spray and plow after yet another rainstorm, and his small caterpillar got so bogged down in the mud, that he found himself out in front, with a rope over his shoulder, trying to pull the tractor out of the mire, while his co-worker drove! He noted that in Burgundy “we have had so much experience in the last ten or fifteen years in fighting to keep our vines healthy in damp growing seasons, that for the most part, leaves stayed green and bunches free of rot, which allowed the photosynthesis to continue on into September and kept the ripening going, with green leaves still to be seen out on the vines as late as the end of October this year.” He concluded, “I have no doubt that without the level of viticultural experience we now have fighting rot and mildew in rainy weather, we would have lost most of the crop in 2013.”

One can easily understand how surprised the Burgundians were by the quality of the wines in 2013, as the good weather (ignoring the brutal hail for the moment) in July and August, had no intention of sticking around in September, and though the sun remained around intermittently, the temperatures dropped and stayed quite cool for this month, so that while photosynthesis kept inching along the ripening process, the sugars were mounting at a snail’s pace. Up until this point in the year, the fortunes of the growers in Chablis and the Côte d’Or were similar, but fate was going to take each region’s *vignerons* in decidedly different directions at the end of the month. In Chablis, the region got pummeled by a torrential rainstorm on Saturday, the 28th of September, and then it just kept raining, with temperatures soaring at the same time to tropical heat levels for a couple of days, which caused such an immediate and vicious outbreak of rot that there was nothing for growers to do but just get out there in the mire in the vines and try to bring in as much fruit as quickly as possible. As Jean-Claude Bessin commented, “one day we were waiting for the sugars to just get up to a good level, with fine acidities in our grapes and clean fruit, due to all the work we had done all year, and in the matter of two days, all this was gone in the tropical heat and very humid conditions.” The two days of scorching heat and humidity not only sent sugars soaring and acids plummeting in Chablis, but the skins of the grapes quickly moved from golden to brown. Almost everyone in Chablis had been waiting to just get over the finish line in terms of sugar accumulation when the rain hit on the 28th and the soaring temperatures quickly followed, with the notable exceptions of Patrick Piuze and Domaine William Fèvre, who had decided to start earlier (September 20th for Patrick Piuze) and just try and bring in clean fruit. For those who waited, which was the majority in Chablis, disaster had struck and the vines were rampant with fast-spreading rot and grapes began to give up their acidities in dramatic fashion over the course of just a couple of days. So, they ended up with higher sugars and relatively good fruit tones, but with much lower acids than normal, and strikingly fruit-driven wines, as the minerality seems to have simply disappeared along with the acids in the rain and tropical heat of harvest time. So in a few days, all of the hard work done in the vines over the course of the growing season to protect the grapes from rot,

came to naught in the end, and one simply had to go out and gather the fruit as quickly as possible and then be draconian at the sorting tables to only use the healthiest fruit possible, making the already low yields from the poor flowering even lower.

In the Côte d'Or, the harvest weather was far more benevolent, as a bit of rain on September 30th spurred on most domaines to get on with the picking, and a great many estates in the Côte de Nuits began harvesting between October 2nd and October 5th, seeking to bring in their fruit as quickly as possible. In the Côte de Beaune, the harvest was already started when the rain of the 30th hit, but no one felt the rainy day was particularly detrimental. The harvesting weather was as cold as it has been for a generation in the Côte d'Or, with chilled pickers not particularly happy with the conditions under which they had to work this year. Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, who like so many in the Côte de Nuits, started picking on the 5th, commented "that in 2013 we had a very small window for harvest this year, as the weather began to deteriorate within a week of our starting to pick, and we ended up bringing in all of our fruit in five days." What domaines found as they started picking was that the sugars were not particularly high (as they had moved quite slowly upwards in the very cold temperatures of September), with potential natural alcohols generally in the 11.5 to 12 percent range, but that the grapes had ended up with very good physiological ripeness from the long hang time this year. Furthermore, in the cold weather of September, the acids had not dropped much, and the vintage has plenty of acidity to it and which has served to really translate the underlying *terroir* of each vineyard into the finished wines, so that the *typicité* of the wines of 2013 is really quite remarkable. A great many *vignerons* echoed the comments of Laurent Lignier, who observed that "the berries were really small in general in 2013, with very few seeds in them, so that almost all of the tannins we have found (in the pinot noirs) have come from the skins this year, which were ripe and have given the wines very suave tannins." Jeremy Seysses was one of several producers who told me that he had used less whole clusters than customary in 2013, as the bad flowering had produced small bunches with plenty of shot berries, so that the ratio of grapes to stems was quite different than normal in the bunches and it was necessary to take this into consideration. Gentle extractions for the reds were also the norm in both the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits in 2013, as *vignerons* sought to follow the shape of the vintage in the cellars and not try to force things. Malolactic fermentations were generally quite late in finishing in 2013, with most finishing between June and September of 2014, and since 1993, this has often been the harbinger of a high quality vintage, as is again the case in 2013.

Several producers echoed the comments of Jeremy Seysses of Domaine Dujac, who observed that "the grapes were very high in malic acidity this year, and the malos were slow and when the wines did start to emerge from the end of their malos, they were often still quite bound up in their structures and there did not seem to be all that much fruit in the wines," but, he continued, "as the wines have gotten further out from the conclusion of malos, they have really begun to blossom and show beautiful fruit to go along with their excellent transparency." Jeremy commented that the very earliest journalists this year, who showed up at the end of October to taste the wines, did not get treated to particularly good showings of the vintage, as many were still coming out from their malos and not showing the same level of fruit that was so readily evident when I was here in the first three weeks of December, and I felt quite thankful that I had come a bit later this year to Burgundy and had the good fortune to catch the wines when they were really starting to blossom. However, malolactic fermentations were not consistent from

climat to *climat* in growers' cellars, and often not even consistent from cask to cask, so wines were often in different stages of evolution in a single cellar at the time of my visit. As Dominique Lafon commented, "malos were quite individually-minded this year, so sometimes several casks from a particular vineyard would have finished up their malos, whereas others from the same parcel would not have budged at all in the cellars." He had to take the steps with a couple of his wines to assemble in tank certain casks where the wines had finished malos with casks of the same wine that had not really even gotten started, so that the bacteria from the finished casks could get the malos going in the sluggish barrels, and after the malos were completed in tank, then rack the wines back into barrel to finish their *elevage*.

So what are the style of the wines this year? Let us start with Chablis, which took it on the chin during harvest and has really had a pretty difficult vintage in 2013. The non-stop rain and couple of days of tropical temperatures at harvest time made it imperative for producers to scramble and bring in fruit as fast as they could. Patrick Piuze commented that when he got his team of pickers out in the vines on Friday, September 20th, having come to the conclusion that "it was best just to bring in as clean of fruit as we could this year," he observed that Vincent Dauvissat had also gone out to pick some grapes as well on that day, but decided that a bit more ripeness would be preferable and did not come back out into the vineyards until Monday, the 24th to get rolling, by which time it was already forecast for heat, rain and humidity in the days to come. Domaine William Fèvre sent their large teams of pickers out in earnest on the 26th and really sought to bring in everything as quickly as possible and managed to collect a goodly portion of their crop as well before the weather turned downright nasty. Of course, all of these producers harvest every single grape by hand, and the entire crop could not be brought in before the rain of the 28th hit hard (Patrick Piuze's team picked their very last grapes on that Saturday morning in torrential rain, having "inspired pickers with a case of Jameson's Irish Whiskey to face the rain and get the last parcel picked that morning") and it just kept on raining the rest of the harvest.

In any event, producers had to make the best of it, though one imagines that everyone was plenty disheartened by this time, as all of the hard work spraying and plowing and fighting off rot in the rainy weather early in the season had been undone by such difficult harvest conditions. Almost everyone I met with in Chablis, and I did only taste at five domaines on this trip (as well as the Joseph Drouhin Chablis cuvées that I tasted back in Beaune), as Vincent Dauvissat was away on the day that I visited, said that selection was critical and that the already low yields fell precipitously as less than desirable bunches were excluded. The resulting wines have ranged a bit stylistically, depending on if a particular wine was made prior to the heat turning the color of the grapes from yellow to reddish brown, with the wines made from the former bursting with pure and succulent, more classically-inclined Chablis fruit, whereas those more affected by the heat and soaring sugars showing far more tropical fruit tones and notes of *confiture*. The heat also sent the acids plummeting, so grapes went from a bit green and aggressively acidic around the middle of September to relatively low acid in the matter of a couple of weeks, and often in the course of those two really blistering days of tropical heat and insufferable humidity. What all of the examples of Chablis that I tasted shared was a relatively modest expression of minerality in the finished wines in 2013, which is far from typical of Chablis! Even in the wines where the minerality is pretty impressively present for a 2013, in wines from folks like Patrick Piuze, Louis Michel or William Fèvre, the minerality is a bit more

“anonymous” than usual, so that typical *Chablisienne* variations of soil such as oyster shell, pure chalk, flint or wet stone are very rare in this vintage, with most wines that show any minerality at all mostly showing a gentle chalkiness.



It is not that the wines are bad (at least at the very fine addresses that I visited on my short stay in Chablis), but they are very forward, fruit-driven wines that range from very pure expressions of fruit to more tropically-inclined wines. Where the acidities are reasonably good, they are more framing acids than providing the customary spine and cut one typically associates with top flight vintages in the Yonne Valley, and this will clearly be a Chablis vintage for quite early drinking. Of course, the *Chablisienne* greatly prize the variations of minerality in their wines, so these are not wines that are much to their tastes and there are very few people excited about the wines, but there really are some very succulent and quite rare examples of “fruit-driven” Chablis in 2013 that will actually be quite tasty bottles out of the blocks. Many are pretty fragile structurally, so tucking them away for an extended period in the cellar will be more fraught with risk than usual (though in this day and age of premox, why anyone is still burying vintages of white Burgundy in the cellar for a decade before starting to drink them is a complete mystery to me!), but there are plenty of wines that will provide early pleasure, if one is not searching for wines classically defined by their underlying minerality. As Jean-Claude Bessin observed, “in 2013 we went from promising grapes that only needed just a bit more ripeness to

deliver a good vintage to grapes that were tropical, soft and lacking in minerality.” But that was the scornful mood of Mother Nature in Chablis at harvest time 2013.

Further south in the Côte d’Or, harvest was far less difficult, though as mentioned above, it was very cold for the end of September and early October and pickers hands, feet and spirits were chilled to the bone. But, the grapes were at least in good condition and *vignerons* were going to be given a bit of compensation for all of the hard work in the rain of the spring and early summer. The beautiful weather of July and August (again, trying to ignore the battering from the hail on July 23rd) had at least allowed the grapes to catch up a bit on their very late spring start and poor flowering, so that there was hope of at least adequate ripeness in the grapes when it came time for picking. But, most producers were not overly sanguine about the potential of the vintage, and as Jean-Marie Fourrier noted, “most of us just wanted to be done with the year and pick the grapes.” No one was expecting great wines, as sugars had inched up very slowly in the cold of September, acids were shrill until the middle of the month, and it had already been a very, very long and hard year out in the vines even before it came time to pick. However, those who were not too disheartened did note that phenolic maturity in the grapes was really quite good for their modest sugar levels (most grapes came in with potential alcohol ranges in the 11.5 percent- give or take a couple of tenths), and most *vignerons* chapitalized from a half to a full degree in 2013. The alcoholic fermentations were easy, but malos were all over the place, as mentioned above, and the struggle continued from vineyard to cellar for some of the cuvées. Berries were small, but they had few seeds this year, skins were relatively thick, and there were plenty of bunches with less grapes than usual, due to the shot berries of the spring. In the Côte de Beaune, where hail damaged grapes had dried up and fallen out of the bunches, there was even more need to carefully sort and often de-stem, but the tannins have ended up far more suave in 2013 than was the case with the tiny yields here in 2012 and the wines are far less structured out of the blocks than was the case with the red wines from the hail-damaged sectors of the Côte de Beaune in 2012.

The resulting wines of 2013 are not particularly big and powerful and far more shapely than a vintage like 2009 for example, but probably with a bit more stuffing than similarly svelte vintages such as 2007 or 2011. In size and shape there is a bit of similarity to 2008 for the red wines, though as Charles Van Canneyt of Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat observed, “the 2013s are significantly deeper and more complete wines than those from 2008, with greater depth of fruit and more of a personality like a combination of 2008 and 2010.” Other *vignerons* mentioned 2001 as a bit of a stylistic partner to the 2013 reds, though always with the caveat that the 2001 vintage was a big crop, whereas 2013 is another very small crop, and the 2001s were a bit more coarse structurally out of the blocks than the utterly refined 2013s, which are so noteworthy for the absolutely beautiful texture of their tannins. The 2013 reds certainly share extraordinary transparency with the vintages to which they have been partially compared, though as Louis Boillot commented, “the 2013s really have their own style, which I have never seen before- but, then every vintage is different, and only time will tell just how highly we will ultimately rate this very good vintage.” In general, 2013 is a “cooler fruit” vintage, so that there means that there are a lot of more black fruity wines this year, but there are a number of crus which are traditionally defined by more red fruity tones and which exude red fruit in spades this year, so it makes it hard to say that it is overall a “black fruity” vintage. More than anything else, 2013 is a stunningly pure vintage for expression of underlying *terroir*, and this is true both for the reds and

the whites in the Côte d'Or. The 2013 reds are very, very pure wines with really lovely depth of fruit that in many cases seems likely to get quite sappy with bottle age, coupled to very suave structures (particularly in the Côte de Nuits, where there was no hail issues) and superb *typicité*. Several *vignerons* commented that the wines seemed very generous earlier in the autumn, but as the temperatures in the cellars were starting to decline just a bit in early December (this winter has so far been very warm in Burgundy, with November temperatures in 2014 far higher than normal, so the cellars are far warmer this year than is often the case in December), the wines are starting to show a bit more structural reserve than was the case a month earlier, and it may well be that the structural elements here will become more pronounced as the wines start their second year in barrel. But the reds are really, in general, beautifully balanced at the present time, and for those wines which are now a bit removed from the finish of their malos, *vignerons* mentioned that they may bottle the wines a bit earlier than normal, just to retain the simply gorgeous balance which they are currently showing.

On the white wine side of the ledger in the Côte de Beaune, the wines are also very, very fine and very much defined by their underlying signatures of soil. As Emile Boudot of Domaine Etienne Sauzet observed about the 2013s, “often in years with later harvests we get the best expressions of *terroir*.” Many of the white wines I sampled seemed just a bit more forward stylistically than their red counterparts at the time of my visit, but also with gorgeous acidity that keeps them bright, bouncy and likely to also age longer than their early generosity might suggest. However, there were some exceptions to the rule that were absolutely tensile, mineral and in need of at least some bottle age to blossom. In general, *vignerons* share the opinion that the white wines of 2013 will drink beautifully from a fairly early age and will not need the same bottle age as the more concentrated 2012s to reach their peaks, though as Dominique Lafon noted, “these wines have such lovely balances that I think that they may last far longer than many people imagine.” The 2013 whites in the Côte de Beaune are not anywhere near as powerfully concentrated from the low yields as was the case with some of the examples from 2012, and I have a general preference for the size and shape of the latter vintage, which is quite classical in personality. This is not to say that some of those heroically-proportioned and very pure 2012 whites will not someday be legendary, but the 2013s have a beautiful sense of proportion, purity and *typicité* that is extremely beautiful, or as some growers have termed them *Très Bourguignon*. Some *vignerons* have mentioned 2004 as a somewhat similar vintage- at least in terms of size and shape- for the white wines, but they quickly add that the 2013s have far better ripeness than the 2004s and will deliver pleasure far earlier than the 2004s did in their youth, and everyone adds parenthetically that 2013 is certainly a superior vintage for white wines than 2004. Of course, this is in the villages where there was no hail damage, as Meursault, Puligny, Chassagne and St. Aubin were spared for the most part this year. However, on the hill of Corton, for example, Christophe Roumier lost such a high percentage of his crop on the Pernand side that he will not commercialize his Corton-Charlemagne this year, though the wine has turned out quite well, but he only has a half barrel and how does one allocate that amongst one's client list? But, for those with quantity of white wine in 2013, they are going to make their clients very, very happy, as the wines have loads of personality, beautifully pure fruit tones again, lovely freshness and excellent underlying *terroir*.

While on the subject of the white wines of 2013, it is probably good to once again mention the scourge of premature oxidation. As I have noted for the last several years, the

problem continues on unabated and no solution has yet been found, though several various potential remedies have been undertaken at different domaines to try and offset the effects of premo. Many producers are using wider diameter corks for their white wines, hoping to get a better seal against the interior of the neck of the bottle, others have switched over wholesale to Diam from single punch corks for their premier and grand cru whites, hoping this will hold off premature oxidation, and almost everyone is bottling the wines a bit more reductively than was the case back in the mid to late 1990s and using a bit more SO₂ at bottling that was the case back then. However, none of these efforts has, up to this time, proven themselves a curative for premo and it will still be many years before any of them can claim to be a remedy for the plague that affects so many dry white wines from around the globe. As I have done for many years, in my tasting notes that follow for the white wines of the 2013 vintage, I have given their projected windows of peak drinkability as if premo did not exist, as this seems to be the best way to describe the inherent structure of the wine in question and indicate how it would age, if premature oxidation did not exist. As premo remains a bottle by bottle phenomenon, there will be some bottles somewhere of 2013 whites that will actually age along the lines of my projected windows of drinkability, but the lion's share will still need to be drunk up before they are more than five years old, if one does not want to risk a premoed bottle.



The vineyard of Feusselottes in Chambolle-Musigny, under a fleeting touch of December sun.

At this point in time, premature oxidation of white wines has been around for a long time, as the first high quality Burgundy vintage to be widely affected by this plague was 1995, and by at least 2002 or 2003, everyone should have already been well aware of the problem. More than a decade on from that point in history, it seems to me that if one is still cellaring large quantities of white Burgundies (or white Bordeaux or Savennières or what have you) and tucking the wines away for a decade before starting to drink them, then one really only has themselves to blame! I had assumed that people who were still buying and cellaring large quantities of white Burgundies for the long haul these days either had far more discretionary income than I do and could afford to dump seven or eight bottles down the sink out of every dozen that they opened after the wines' tenth birthdays, or they were simply drinking most of each case up over the first five years after release and minimizing their risk of premoxed bottles. However, having read some recent wine bulletin boards where outraged collectors were lampooning "domaines and importers for still selling high-priced white Burgundies that were inherently flawed because of their premo potential", it seems that there still remains a significant and vocal minority of Burgundy collectors out there who are tucking their top premier and grand cru whites away and expecting them to age along the traditional timelines that were prevalent in the region before the days of premature oxidation. This practice strikes me as extremely naïve, and if one is going to do that, then one really needs to take personal responsibility if their bottle of ten or fifteen year-old Chevalier "les Demoiselles" from Louis Jadot or the like has crashed and burned from premo and stop blaming someone else, as premature oxidation is far from a new problem. Maybe one day all of the research efforts that are underway to understand and solve the problem of premature oxidation of dry white wines will bear fruit and we can look back on this period as a closed chapter and return to the days of aging our dry white wines for the long haul. But, we are not there yet, and I am beginning to think that it is not going to happen soon enough for me to put away a new vintage with zero premo potential and see the wines through to their grand old age, as my grand old age may well come along first! In the meantime, either reconcile yourself to drinking your dry white wines at a younger age, cellar wines from regions that heretofore have not shown any problems with premo, or bite the bullet and be prepared to dump a significant percentage of bottles held past the five year mark down the sink.

The following wines were all tasted during my sixteen day trip to the Burgundy region between the 3rd and 19th of December of this year. As I noted in my earlier remarks, and also revisit in the introductory remarks for each domaine, the wines were in varying points of evolution in the cellars this year, due to the generally late malolactic fermentations experienced by many *vignerons* with at least some of their cuvées in 2013, and so this snapshot of the vintage is even less homogenous than usual for an early report on the vintage. However, as such a large percentage of the wines I tasted were showing brilliantly, it seems quite clear that the potential to make absolutely superb wines in 2013 in the Côte d'Or was here in this vintage, and the most talented (or lucky) *vignerons* have made absolutely magical wines in this vintage. Will they ever reach the same lofty heights of the greatest recent vintages, such as 2005, 2010 and 2012? Perhaps, but only time will be able to answer that question. However, there is no denying that many producers whom I visit (and one must remember that I am pretty selective about my appointment schedules during my four and a half weeks each year in Burgundy, as I cannot cover all of the ground I would like- even with over a month here each year) are utterly thrilled with how their 2013s have come out- not to mention surprised- and the Burgundians themselves (excluding Chablis) are already ranking 2013 extremely highly and are certainly open to the

possibility that 2013 may well rank right up there in the fullness of time with other great recent vintages. I should note that a few of my favorite domaines it was not possible to visit on this trip, due to scheduling conflicts, so a few estates are not represented in the notes from my December tastings, but I hope to have the opportunity to circle back around to them in the spring and see at least a selection of their 2013s.

Chablis

Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin (La Chapelle Vaupelteigne)

Jean-Claude Bessin is one of my favorite growers in all of Chablis, and he consistently makes superb wines of great purity and mineral definition. So, it is not too surprising that he is not entirely satisfied with the turn of events at harvest time in 2013, as he observed that in two days all the hard work in the vineyards was undone and the classic minerality that makes Chablis was lost in the heat and humidity. Flowering was once again a big problem in Monsieur Bessin's vineyards, so that yields ended up in the thirty hectoliters per hectare range again for his domaine, and this includes his village wine. As he noted, when the heat hit and the sugars soared, his grapes went from pristine and promising to overripe, with vanishing acidities and spreading rot that forced a strict selection in a vintage where there was already not a whole lot of bunches out on the vines. But, he stoically soldiered on, as has been the case for so many in Chablis in the last several vintages, as the only normal crop load here in the last four years having been the 2011 vintage, and in general, most vignerons in Chablis have produced less than three full crops in the combination of the last four years. Happily, the 2014 crop level was more "correct" and there is a bit more hope for next year's wines in terms of both quantity and quality, as the minerality seems likely to be back to its accustomed levels in this vintage. Monsieur Bessin began harvesting on October 1st, which was too late in his book to keep minerality in the resulting wines and I suspect he would have been delighted to have been out there on the 20th of September with Patrick Piuze. However, as he noted, he "traditionally likes to pick a bit later and get a bit more ripeness in the grapes, and one takes a risk with this philosophy." Despite the depredations of the vintage, Jean-Claude Bessin's 2013s have turned out really pretty well, with lovely freshness and purity of fruit, if not a whole lot of minerality, and though it is somewhat strange to be drinking Chablis that has absolutely pristine fruit tones, but without the customary underlying mineral drive, they are very clean wines that do not lack freshness, have retained sufficient acidity to remain vibrant and bouncy on the palate, and I suspect that those drinking these wines in their youths are not going to be disappointed. But, one will notice that when I asked Monsieur Bessin if I could take a photo, he moved to a cask of the fermenting 2014s, rather than a 2013, perhaps unconsciously already having turned his back on the 2013 vintage!

2013 Chablis "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2013 Vieilles Vignes cuvée had just been bottled a few weeks prior to my December visit, but was showing very nicely in the more fruit-driven guise of the vintage. The wine is ripe and pretty on both the nose and palate, wafting from the glass in a blend of tangerine, pink grapefruit, beeswax, a discreet touch of chalky soil and a bit of candied lemon in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite fruit-driven in personality, with a good core, sound framing acids and very good length and grip. If one is not a diehard for minerality, there is a lot to like in this wine in 2013. 2015-2020+. **88.**

2013 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2013 Montmains (from vines actually in La Forêt, as I have noted in the past, but in the opposite end of the vineyard than his vines which he labels as from La Forêt, so he bottles the two separately) is another wine that is noteworthy for the absolute beauty of its fresh fruit tones, but again, there is not the customary mineral drive to accompany it in this vintage. The bouquet offers up lovely notes of candied lemon, tangerine, fresh lime, a dollop of chalky soil and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and succulent, with good framing acids, fine focus and grip and a long, vibrant, quite delicious finish. The structure here is pretty fragile and I would opt for drinking this wine early on, but it is really quite fine for near-term consumption, despite its very modest expression of soil. 2015-2022. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The Fourchaume is always the first vineyard that Monsieur Bessin picks, as this is one of the warmest microclimates in all of Chablis, and the wine shows a touch more mineral personality as a result. The bouquet is quite lovely, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, lemon, a nice touch of stony minerality, white flowers, a touch of smokiness and citrus oil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite refined on the attack, with fine mid-palate concentration, good framing acidity and fine length and grip on the succulent finish. A good result in 2013. 2015-2025. **89+.**

2013 Chablis “La Forêt”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2013 La Forêt bottling from Jean-Claude Bessin probably has the finest underlying minerality of any of his wines in this vintage. The bouquet offers up a lovely aromatic constellation of lemon, apple, a touch of orange zest, chalky soil, a bit of beeswax and a topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and has a fine core, with good cut and grip and really, in the context of the vintage, a nice bit of mineral drive on the long finish. Of course, in a normal vintage, this would still be pretty fruit-driven in personality, but I like its soil signature for a 2013. 2015-2025. **90+.**

2013 Chablis “La Pièce au Comte”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

Monsieur Bessin explained that his special old vine bottling from Fourchaume, the La Pièce au Comte, is now so popular with his clients that they ask for it in every vintage, though if it were up to him, he would not separate it out in vintages such as 2013. The wine is quite lovely this year, with impressive purity and focus in its nose of tangerine, fresh lemon, some chalky minerality and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more reserved in personality than the other premier crus in the lineup this year, with a fine core, sound acids and very good length and grip on the stylish and well-balanced finish. Good juice. 2015-2025+. **91.**

2013 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin

The 2013 Valmur from Monsieur Bessin has turned out quite well in the context of the vintage, with a nice sense of reserve and really pretty good underlying minerality for this year. The bouquet is a complex mix of apple, pear, a touch of grapefruit, a good base of chalky soil tones, just a whisper of paraffin and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely focus and balance, fine grip and a long, primary finish. In the context of 2013, this has good minerality, but in the context of Monsieur Bessin’s Valmur, it is still a pretty fruit-driven example of this great *terroir*. But, a notable success in 2013. 2016-2030+. **92.**



Jean-Claude Bessin in his small cellars in the village of La Chapelle Vaupelteigne.

Domaine William Fèvre (Chablis)

I did not have the opportunity to taste with Domaine William Fèvre's extremely talented Managing Director, Didier Séguier, as he was already booked up on the day of my visit to Chablis, but one of his fine team graciously hosted my tasting of the 2013s here. As was the case elsewhere in Burgundy this year, the number of wines that had already been bottled at Domaine William Fèvre was a bit lower than usual, as the later harvest found more wines assembled in tank and awaiting bottling, than actually having been bottled in early December. As I noted in the introduction, the domaine started harvesting on September 26th this year, which allowed them to gather most of their fruit before the heat spike profoundly changed the personality of the vintage, and once again, the William Fèvre wines are amongst the best to be found in the region in 2013. If my memory serves me correctly, the domaine has been gently increasing the percentage of wine they barrel ferment in old casks over the last few vintages, using a system not dissimilar to Champagne Krug in fermenting wines in old, neutral casks, and then doing the élevage in stainless steel. It seems to me that this manages to give the wines just a touch more mid-palate amplitude, while still allowing Didier and his team to harvest on the earlier side if harvest conditions dictate that this is the preferable course to take in any given year, as was certainly the case in both 2012 and 2013. In 2013, all of the grand crus here were sixty percent barrel fermented in old casks, with the exception of the Clos and Preuses, which were seventy percent barrel fermented. As another very classically-minded vigneron in Chablis observed

about Domaine William Fèvre, “the success here is all about Didier and he deserves far more recognition than he receives, as he has done an absolutely masterful job since taking over the direction of this domaine, and given the size of the range he manages, his success cannot be understated!” I could not have said it better myself.

2013 Chablis “Champs Royaux”- Maison William Fèvre

The *négociant* bottling of Chablis *villages*, the Champs Royaux is really quite racy for the vintage, offering up a fine bouquet of lime, apple, tart orange, a very good signature of minerality and just a touch of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with good core and fine cut and focus on the backend. A very good AC that may have just a touch more raciness than the domaine version this year. 2015-2022+. **88+**.

2013 Chablis- Domaine William Fèvre

The domaine bottling of Chablis *villages* was one of the few 2013s already bottled at the time of my visit on the 8th of December, so perhaps I have underestimated this just a touch *vis à vis* the Champs Royaux. The bouquet is certainly very pretty, though the overall impression today is of a more forward wine, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of green apple, lime, white flowers and a nice touch of the vintage’s rather generic chalkiness. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and focused, with a good core, a generous attack and a nice bit of backend minerality on the bouncy finish. 2015-2022. **88**.

2013 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Montmains was thirty percent barrel fermented this year and was still in tank awaiting bottling at the time of my visit. The wine was showing beautifully, offering up scents of apple, pear, orange zest, a nice base of chalkiness, floral tones and a touch of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely round on the attack, with a good core, fine length and grip and again, really quite good cut on the finish. Good juice that will drink well right out of the blocks, but should keep quite well. 2015-2030. **90**.

2013 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Vaillons from Domaine William Fèvre shows a bit more of the forward personality of the vintage than the Montmains, but this too has very good minerality for the year. The bouquet is a fine mix of pear, lime, chalky minerality, lime zest and a topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and complex, with good core and balance and a long, vibrant finish. The acids here seem just a touch softer than the Montmains, but perhaps there is just a touch more mineral drive at the backend to compensate. This will drink very well out of the blocks and would be an excellent restaurant Chablis. 2015-2022. **89**.

2013 Chablis “Les Lys”- Domaine William Fèvre

The Les Lys bottlings from William Fèvre is usually one of my favorite of their premier crus for earlier drinking, and the 2013 will be another wine to drink on the early side. This is supremely elegant this year, wafting from the glass in a wide open mélange of lime, pear, smokiness, a nice dollop of flinty soil tones and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very suave on the attack, with a good core, zesty acids and lovely length and grip on the focused and complex finish. While the soil tones here are quite nice for 2013, there is not the same mineral drive as this bottling usually offers, with the minerality playing a supporting role this year, but the wine is beautifully balanced and quite delicious. 2015-2025. **89**.

2013 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine William Fèvre

Domaine William Fèvre’s 2013 Montée de Tonnerre is another quite forward example of this wine, at least in its customary tensile guise of youth, but the wine shows excellent backend

minerality that marries very nicely with the nice roundness on the attack and will provide excellent drinking from the outset. The complex nose is a blend of apple, lime, tart orange, chalky minerality and a bit of orange zest up high. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite round on the attack, with a good core, very good acids for the vintage and excellent cut, grip and mineral drive on the long finish. An excellent result. 2015-2025+. **91+**.

2013 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Fourchaume is also very good at Domaine Fèvre, but it is a bit more forward and succulent in style than the fine Montée de Tonnerre, which really does show uncanny soil signature for the vintage. The nose on the Fourchaume is a very fine and inviting blend of apple, pear, a bit of the vineyard’s “woody” soil tones, dried flowers and minerals. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite fruit-driven on the attack, with a fine core and good backend cut and soil signature on the long, bouncy finish. This is for early drinking, but it is very well-made. 2015-2022+. **89+**.

2013 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Vaulorent *chez Fèvre* was fifty percent barrel fermented in this vintage and has turned out very well indeed. The wine is again quite forward, particularly for this bottling at Domaine Fèvre, but it shows very good minerality and plenty of complexity on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is an excellent constellation of lime, apple, a touch of orange, flint, dried flowers, lime peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a lovely core, excellent soil inflection (though not in the same league as the Montée de Tonnerre in this regard in 2013), with fine balance, good acids and fine length and grip. Fine juice. 2015-2030. **91+**.

2013 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine William Fèvre

The domaine’s Bougros has turned out very well indeed in 2013, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, tangerine, a touch of *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones and white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with lovely purity to its fruit tones, really quite good soil signature and fine length and grip on the vibrant finish. A fine result. 2015-2030+. **92**.

2013 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Chablis “Vaudésir” from Domaine William Fèvre is another very good example of the vintage, but this was the first wine in the range that seemed to show a bit of the slightly more deeper-pitched fruit tones of the vintage. The bouquet is still quite pretty, offering up scents of candied lemon, pear, spring flowers, chalk, citrus zest and a bit of straw in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep and full-bodied, with a fine core, sound framing acids and a decidedly deeper-pitched personality than the Bougros or the top premier crus. This is still pretty primary and probably could do with at least a few years in the cellar to blossom. 2017-2030. **90+**.

2013 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Valmur, not surprisingly, is one of the top wines in the cellar this year and here the earlier picking at the domaine really shows through, as the wine offers up a pure and vibrant bouquet of pear, apple, lime zest, a bit of tart orange, chalky minerality, white flowers and a touch of anise in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and nicely structured, with a rock solid core and fine sense of reserve, crisp acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and still fairly youthful finish. 2017-2035. **93**.

2013 Chablis “Bougros- Côte de Bouguerots”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 Côte de Bouguerots is another really excellent example of the vintage, with far more soil signature than the standard 2013 grand cru. The wine offers up a lovely nose of apple, a touch of grapefruit, lime, complex, almost crystalline minerality (I cannot emphasize how rare this is in Chablis in 2013!), spring flowers and a touch of tarragon in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very long, with an excellent core, lovely focus and grip and great backend energy on the focused and still quite primary finish. Great juice. 2018-2035. **94.**

2013 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine William Fèvre

The 2013 William Fèvre les Preuses is another truly exceptional example of the vintage in terms of the depth and precision of its mineral expression. The outstanding bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of lime, pear, oyster shell, chalk, beeswax and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a suave attack, lovely focus and fine mineral drive on the very long, poised and racy finish. This really does not have the profile of a 2013 Chablis, as it has far more minerality than the vintage is typically capable of delivering. Most impressive! 2018-2035. **94.**

2013 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine William Fèvre

Domaine William Fèvre’s 2013 les Clos is another stellar success for the vintage, with a quite complex and fairly open bouquet coupled to a far more reserved and racy palate. The superb nose delivers an aromatic constellation of apple, pear, kaleidoscopic minerality, citrus peel, straw and nice smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite closed, with outstanding mid-palate intensity, excellent focus and grip, fine balance and a long, racy and still fairly monolithic finish. This behaves on the palate far more like a classic example of les Clos than a grand cru from the 2013 vintage! 2018-2035. **94.**

Domaine Louis Michel et Fils (Chablis)

Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel was quite content with the success of his family’s domaine in 2013. As readers may recall, this is one of the few very top estates in Chablis that still harvest most of their premier crus by machine (if memory serves me correctly, only the very old vines in Butteaux are picked by hand). As Monsieur Gicqueau-Michel observed, “in a vintage like 2013, to our minds it was certainly an advantage to be able to harvest many plots by machine, as we were able to race to bring in the grapes as quickly as possible, which was really key in this year.” The domaine started picking on October 2nd and brought in everything in a six and a half days (normally it takes fully twelve days to harvest all of the Louis Michel parcels if conditions are more favorable), which seems to have helped them avoid the more overtly “confiture” fruit tones that some estates have in their wines. Yields were down here in 2013 by thirty-five percent from a “normal” crop, with Monsieur Gicqueau-Michel noting was most disruptive in their holdings in Petit Chablis, Chablis villages and the Grand Crus, with their yields better across the board in their premier cru holdings. The domaine started harvesting in the premier crus of Vaillons and Séchet this year, and I would guess that the better crop loads in the premier crus was reflective of machine harvesting quickly here, while waiting to tackle the villages level vineyards after the premier crus, so that much of the production in the lower appellations was sorted out through a strict selection process. As is typical at the time of my November or December visits, a range of wines had already been bottled, with all of the wines up to the premier cru already bottled, with the exception of Séchet and the Butteaux Vieilles Vignes, and, of course, the Grand Crus were still in tank and would be bottled in the spring. The finished

wines here are really very strong in 2013, with most wines coming in around 12.8 percent alcohol, without chapitalization, and many show very impressive minerality for the vintage. The wines in general show some of the ripeness of the vintage in their more pear and apple profiles, rather than the lime and grapefruit that one often finds chez Michel in racier vintages, but they all show quite good minerality, at least sound framing acids and some are really going to prove to be amongst the longest-lived and most successful wines of the vintage. The 2013s here will drink sooner than is typical of racier vintages, but they are a strong set of wines in this difficult vintage.

2013 Petit Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Petit Chablis is quite pretty this year and will drink well right from the outset. There is not a ton of minerality in the wine, but there is some to serve as a foundation in its aromatic blend of green apple, citrus zest, a touch of smokiness, dried flowers, a nice touch of chalkiness and a bit of anise in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and really quite solid at the core, with good length and grip on the wide open and bouncy finish. 2015-2018. **87.**

2013 Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Chablis *villages* also shows pretty good minerality for the vintage, as it offers up a stylish bouquet of apple, tangerine, white flowers, a nice touch of flintiness and a bit of lime zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and succulent, with a nice spine of minerality giving a bit of drive to the clean and generous fruit tones, sound framing acids and really quite good length on the juicy finish. This is really quite delicious out of the blocks and a fine success for a 2013 village wine. 2015-2020. **88+.**

2013 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Montmains from Louis Michel et Fils is also quite fine in its forward format, wafting from the glass in a blend of lime, apple, spring flowers, a touch of smokiness and a good dollop of the vintage’s chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, bright and fairly complex, with a good core, again nice framing acids and good length and grip on the focused and wide open finish. This will drink just fine for the first five to seven years, and is well-balanced enough that it may well last longer. 2015-222. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The regular bottling of Butteaux was one of the few of the already bottled premier crus during my visit to the domaine that seemed still a bit out of sorts from the *mise*, as it was still quite closed down and not yet back on form. The bouquet is quite nice in its blend of pear, citrus zest, chalky soil tones, hay and apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite primary, with a good core, solid acidity and good length and grip on the currently grumpy finish. I am sure this will be quite fine in the more fruit-driven style of the vintage, but it was still a bit off form from the *mise* when I tasted it in the second week of December. 2015-2022+? **88-90?**

2013 Chablis “Forêts”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Forêts was much more on form from the recent *mise* and was showing very well, wafting from the glass in a bright and stylish bouquet of apple, pear, white flowers, a nice touch of beeswax and a good base of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and well-balanced, with good mid-palate concentration, fine focus and grip and really excellent acidity for the vintage. This is certainly cut in the more forward style of 2013, but I quite like the touch of raciness the wine is showing out of the blocks. 2015-2025. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Vaillons is another very strong example of the vintage, delivering a complex and juicy nose of green apple, a touch of pear, beeswax, chalky soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is round, succulent and full-bodied, with a good core, fine focus and grip, impressive complexity and a long, bouncy and nicely balanced finish. This is another wide open 2013, but it is really quite nicely based in minerality and will offer up very good drinking over the first decade of its life. 2015-2025. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

As I have noted in the past, the Vaulorent from Louis Michel et Fils continues to be labeled as Fourchaume in the US, German and Belgian markets, at the requests of their importers, but the wine has always been entirely from the superb vineyard of Vaulorent. The 2013 is excellent, wafting from the glass in a vibrant mélange of apple, a touch of grapefruit, chalky minerality, paraffin and a lovely, pungent floral topnote redolent of white lilies. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and bright, with a fine core, good acidity and fine backend energy and grip on the long and classy finish. A lovely bottle for relatively near-term drinking. 2015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Montée de Tonnerre is another very strong effort from the domaine, offering up a lovely nose of pear, apple, orange zest, a touch of flintiness in the good base of minerality, spring flowers and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and really quite soil-driven (in the context of 2013), with a fine core, lovely length and grip and a focused and really nicely vibrant finish. A fine success for the vintage. 2015-2030. **91+.**

2013 Chablis “Séchet”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

As I noted in the introduction, the Séchet was still in tank at the time of my visit. The wine is very strong in 2013, delivering a fine nose of apple, pear, smoky overtones, a touch of straw, lime peel and a nice base of minerality. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and really quite nicely concentrated at the core, with good acids, fine focus and grip and a long, well-built finish. Good juice. 2015-2028. **91.**

2013 Chablis “Butteaux” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The old vine Butteaux bottling has really turned out well in 2013, offering up a complex and classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of fresh lime, flinty soil tones, lemongrass and a dollop of licorice in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and nicely mineral on the backend, with a fine core, quite racy acids for the vintage and excellent length and grip on the classy finish. A really successful example of 2013. 2016-2030+. **91+.**

2013 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Vaudésir from Louis Michel et Fils shows a nice sense of reserve out of the blocks, which I take to be a very positive sign in this quite forward vintage in Chablis, and this will actually want a bit of bottle age before it starts to drink with generosity. The youthfully classy nose delivers scents of pear, lime, chalky soil tones, beeswax and a bit of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite elegant, with a good core, nice acids and very good length and grip on the still decidedly youthful finish. Good juice in the making. 2017-2030+. **92+.**

2013 Chablis “Grenouilles”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Louis Michel Grenouilles is more typical of this forward vintage, but it does offer up a fine, riper style on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a blend of tangerine, apple, a touch of anise, plenty of smokiness and a good underpinning of minerality. On the palate the

wine is full-bodied, forward and complex, with a fine core, good acids and a long, primary and fairly powerful finish. This will be a bit more fruit-driven in personality than the Vaudésir, but will offer up good drinking at a fairly early age. 2016-2025+. **92.**

2013 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils

The 2013 Les Clos from the domaine is a really successful example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a youthfully complex constellation of apple, pear, lemon, a nice blend of wet stone and flinty minerality and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and complex, with lovely structural tension, a rock solid core and fine focus and grip on the long, zesty and quite refined finish. This will need a bit of bottle age (a very good sign in the forward 2013 vintage) and should prove to be one of the ringing successes of the year. 2018-2035. **93.**



Patrick Piuze in his cellars in Chablis, with a fine range of 2013 samples on the barrelhead in front of him.

Domaine Patrick Piuze (Chablis)

Patrick Piuze and his fine assistant winemaker, Sylvie Quittot, have made quite lovely examples of the 2013 vintage, for they decided that the mantra of the vintage was “simply to bring in clean fruit” and they got started picking earlier than anyone in the region. As Patrick observed, “sugars were not ideal when we got started on the 20th, but by starting to harvest when we did, we were able to miss the two day blast of heat that turned the skins brown and gave the confiture tone to so many wines.” But, as Monsieur Piuze was quick to point out, no one in

Chablis is going to say this is a good vintage, as the season was miserable and we are just really quite happy to have produced good early drinking wines that are fresh and balanced.” Like Bernard Raveneau, he was quick to point out that the potential of the young 2014s in the cellar are a completely different story, and at this early stage, things are looking really good for the coming vintage. The Domaine Piuze wines have really turned out quite well, with a bit more signatures of soil to their personalities than many of the wines made from fruit harvested a bit later, and with a bit more cut and bounce as well. The flip side is that they were made at lower sugar levels (even with a bit of chapitalization), so pretty much the entire lineup is composed of svelte middleweights this year, but they are really quite good wines and I suspect that a great many other vigneron, given the advantage of hindsight, might have opted for the early harvesting that was practiced here. The vintage was also bottled on the early side as well, so that everything had already been bottled from 2013, with a great many of the cuvées bottled just before the harvest of 2014. The entire range is very consistent in terms of quality, with a handful of bottlings really showing extraordinary soil signatures for the vintage, and the others more typically fruit-driven 2013s, but with good focus, complexity and freshness.

2013 Petit Chablis- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Petit Chablis from Patrick Piuze is a pretty middleweight that shows a bit of chalkiness in its bouquet of apple, orange and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, bright and bouncy, with a nice core, fine focus and pretty good length and grip on the easy-going finish. Good everyday juice for near-term drinking. 2015-2019. **87.**

2013 Chablis “Terroir de Chichée”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The vineyard for the Terroir de Chichée bottling is quite flat, according to Patrick, and this was not ideal with all of the rain in 2013. The wine has ultimately turned out quite well, but it does not possess the same degree of minerality as the other village wines in the domaine’s roster this year. The bouquet is a juicy blend of pear, apple, beeswax and white flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, succulent and really quite fruit-driven, with a solid core, fine framing acids and good length and bounce on the finish. A good solid result, but the least of the village wines this year. 2015-2020. **87+.**

2013 Chablis “Terroir de Decouverte”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The vineyard that makes up the Terroir de Decouverte bottling of *villages* was the last one harvested in 2013, on Saturday morning, September 28th in a driving rain. As Patrick Piuze noted, “I would much rather pick grapes in the rain and dry them out before pressing, rather than let the vines soak up the water and dilute the berries.” The wine has turned out really very well indeed, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, lemon, paraffin, spring flowers and a nice base of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and quite pure, with a good core, lovely framing acids and very good length and grip on the nicely balanced finish. Good juice. 2015-2022. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Terroir de Chablis”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Terroir de Chablis is my favorite village wine from Patrick Piuze this year, as the wine has turned out impressively transparent and zesty for the vintage. The bouquet is a fine blend of lemon, apple, chalky minerality, a touch of straw and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and intensely flavored, with lovely soil signature, good acids for the vintage and impressive grip on the long and vibrant finish. This is a very good *villages*. 2015-2022. **89+.**

2013 Chablis “Terroir de Courgis”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Terroir de Courgis is another very strong example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a constellation of apple, pear, beeswax, chalky soil tones and orange zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with lovely succulent fruit on the attack, quite good soil signature for the vintage and fine length and bounce on the nicely framed finish. Good juice as well. 2015-2022. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Terroir de Fyé”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Terroir de Fyé from Patrick Piuze is the most emblematic of the vintage in this lineup of village wines, with a more deeply-pitched personality that includes a bit of *confiture* in its aromatic constellation of pear. Orange, a touch of almond paste, chalk, dried flowers and citrus zest. On the palate the wine is round, full-bodied and pretty fruit-driven in personality, with sound framing acids and good length on the wide open finish. This one will need early drinking. 2015-2019. **87.**

2013 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

I think this is the first tasting where I have been served the Vaulorent first in a lineup of premier crus! The old vines here really suffered from *millerandage* during the flowering and only produced eighteen hectoliters per hectare in 2013, and though the wine is very pretty, it has the least minerality of any of these Domaine Piuze premier crus this year. The bouquet offers up a lovely fruity mélange of pear, apple, *crème patissière*, orange zest and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, round and vibrant, with sound framing acids, good focus and a long and juicy finish. This is a very pretty wine that simply lacks the customary mineral drive of great Vaulorent. 2015-2023. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Vaillons” Les Minots- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Vaillons Les Minots is another quite tasty wine, but one is so accustomed to the beautifully strident base of chalky soil that defines this wine in most vintages, and which is not here in its customary volume in 2013. The wine has a bit more cut and grip on the backend than the Vaulorent, but is perhaps not quite as clean, as it offers up scents of lemon, orange zest, dried flowers, a touch of anise, straw and a pretty gentle base of chalkiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite wide open, with a good core, fine balance and length and a complex finish. Good juice in the context of 2013. 2015-2023. **89+.**

2013 Chablis “La Forêt”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Patrick Piuze’s 2013 La Forêt is a step up from both the Vaulorent and Les Minots, as it is more precise on the both the nose and palate. The fine bouquet is a lovely and quite wide open mélange of pear, lemon, orange zest, a fine base of chalky soil tones and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and impressively long, with a good core, sound framing acids and lovely focus and grip on the complex finish. This is really a very good bottle. 2015-2025. **90+.**

2013 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Piuze Butteaux is another tasty example of the vintage, but it is a bit more fruit-driven in personality than the very strong La Forêt this year. The succulent and classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of pear, apple, lemon, a touch of chalky soil tones, white flowers and a dollop of pastry cream in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and classy, with a fine core, really pretty good acids and fine length on the complex, fairly fruit-driven finish. 2015-2022. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Patrick Piuze’s 2013 Montée de Tonnerre is another very successful example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a wide open and stylish nose of candied lemon, pear, delicious apples, beeswax, a touch of chalky soil and a topnote of fruit blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and long, with a succulent personality, good mid-palate concentration, sound framing acids and lovely length on the fruit-driven finish. Good juice for the near-term. 2015-2025. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Bougros from Patrick Piuze is noteworthy for its impressive signature of soil this year, which Patrick wonders could be “probably because Bougros has the least soil normally of all the grand crus, so perhaps there was less to lose in this vintage?” In any event, this is really one of the stars of the vintage, offering up a deep and complex bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of tangerine, flinty and chalky minerality, dried flowers and lime peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and wide open and drinking beautifully right out of the blocks, with the fine minerality on the nose carrying through as well on the palate. The wine has a fine core, sound acids and really lovely length and grip on the complex finish. Fine, fine juice. 2015-2030. **93.**

2013 Chablis “Côte de Bouquereaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Côte de Bouquereaux is also outstanding, jumping from the glass in a complex aromatic constellation of lime, pear, lemon, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and a touch of upper register anise. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and rock solid at the core, with good acids, fine focus and grip and a long, round and very classy finish. This will not make old bones, but it will offer up a lot of pleasure over the coming decade or so. 2015-2030. **93.**

2013 Chablis “Blanchots”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Patrick Piuze’s 2013 Blanchots is another relatively forward grand cru, but with lovely complexity and a pretty good signature of soil as well. The fine bouquet delivers scents of pear, lemon, chalky soil, dried flowers, a hint of beeswax and a topnote of orange oil. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very long, with lovely mid-palate depth, good framing acids and lovely length and grip on the wide open, but focused finish. A very good bottle of Blanchots. 2015-2030. **93.**

2013 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

The 2013 Valmur is a bit deeper-pitched than the other grand crus in the cellar this year, offering up a complex bouquet of peach, pear, a touch of honey, orange oil, incipient notes of corn meal and only a whisper of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very suave on the attack, with a good core, sound framing acids and a long, succulent and complex finish. This is drinking very well today, but I would bet on this being one of the shortest-lived of the grand crus *chez* Piuze in 2013. 2015-2025. **92.**

2013 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

For whatever reason, the 2013 Les Clos is a bit more fruit-driven in personality this year than several of the other grand crus, offering up a ripe and juicy nose of apple, peach, a touch of pineapple, corn meal, gentle chalkiness and incipient notes of honey. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite forward in personality, with fine concentration, supporting acids and a long, complex finish that closes with impressive grip. A very good bottle, but one gets so accustomed to the complex minerality of Les Clos that it is hard to really embrace a vintage where the fruit is so predominant in the personality of the wine- no matter how well it has been made. 2015-2025. **91+.**

2013 Chablis “Les Preuses”- Domaine Patrick Piuze

Patrick Piuze’s 2013 Les Preuses may have the most classic expression of its underlying *terroir* of any wine I tasted in Chablis on this trip. The wine jumps from the glass in a very classy blend of apple, pear, lemon, complex, chalky minerality, orange zest, white flowers and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and impressively racy for the vintage, with a fine core, excellent focus and grip and a long, pure and very impressive finish. There are not a lot of wines in Chablis in this vintage that show this pedigree of *terroir*! 2015-2030. **94.**

Domaine Raveneau (Chablis)

Isabelle Raveneau and her father, Bernard and uncle Jean-François have done a very good job with the difficult vintage of 2013, but the domaine’s preference for picking later than some of their neighbors was not an ideal complement to the very difficult harvest conditions of this year. Like many top estates in Chablis, the Raveneau family had found themselves out in the vineyards nearly non-stop the whole summer long, keeping grapes healthy during the constant series of rainstorms of 2013, only to find that they were undone a bit at the end by the tropical heat and rain again at harvest. Like Domaine Louis Michel et Fils, the Raveneau family began picking on October 2nd in 2013, but as they have always collected all of their fruit by hand, they could not bring the grapes in as fast as they would have liked, so that some of their wines in this vintage are far more fruit-driven in personality than is customary at this great domaine. Others are more defined by their underlying minerality, but in general, this is going to be a very forward vintage chez Raveneau and the family is already looking ahead to the far more classic style of the 2014s that they had in tank at the time of my visit in December. Bernard and Jean-Marie Raveneau concurred that the 2013 growing season was one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult of their careers, as it was a constant battle out in the vines to keep the grapes healthy over the course of the tempestuous summer. As Isabelle Raveneau commented, “I hope that they are right and there are not more difficult vintages in the future, and that I have gotten my ‘hardest vintage’ out of the way already!” Much of the great depth that characterizes the wines from Domaine Raveneau is the result of getting optimal ripeness in their grapes, but this was just not possible in the wet and hot harvesting conditions of 2013, and though the wines have turned out quite well in the context of the vintage, I have little doubt that the family will be content to turn a page on this year as soon as the 2014s start to come into focus. The 2013 Raveneau wines are quite forward and will make lovely drinking out of the blocks, with some sharing the more fruit-driven and slightly confiture style of so many wines in the region in this vintage, while others are far more minerally and seem likely to be good candidates for mid-term aging. But, overall, this is a quite forward vintage at this fine estate and it will not be hard to enjoy these wines right out of the blocks. There will be no Chapelots bottling in 2013, as the quantity of grapes here was so small that it was impractical to make a separate cuvée and the small production has just been added into the Montée de Tonnerre this year.

2013 Chablis- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 village wine from Domaine Raveneau is a very pretty and fruit-forward example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a mix of pear, a touch of peach, lemon zest, a dollop of honey and a gentle base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish, round and succulent, with good focus and nice backend energy on the gently zesty finish. This will want drinking on the early side, but it is well-made and tasty. 2015-2019. **87.**

2013 Chablis “Forêt”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Forêt from Domaine Raveneau is one of the more tropically-inclined premier crus in the cellar this year, with lovely complexity and bounce, but not the customary soil signature of this bottling. The bouquet is a blend of pineapple, apple, spring flowers, just a touch of beeswax and a nice base of the vintage’s rather gently anonymous chalkiness. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, a bit deep-pitched and shows a bit of *confiture* to its flavor profile, with a good core, sound framing acids and good length and grip on the wide open finish. Not a bad result for early drinking, but this will not make old bones. 2015-2020. **88.**

2013 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Montmains is again, a bit more fruit-driven in style than is typical here, but the wine is complex and offers up fine focus and balance on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a ripe blend of pear, tangerine, paraffin, a touch of orange zest and a nice dollop of chalkiness. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, forward and succulent, with a good core, quite a fruit-driven personality and good length and grip on the bouncy, wide open finish. A very tasty bottle of chardonnay this year, but not a lot of Montmains character in residence in 2013. 2015-2020. **89.**



Isabelle and her father, Bernard Raveneau, in the cuverie at the domaine.

2013 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Domaine Raveneau Vaillons is a notable step up in terms of soil signature from the first two premier crus in the lineup, as the wine offers up fine depth and complexity on both the nose and palate. The lovely bouquet is a mélange of apple, lemon, chalky minerality, a touch of anise and a lovely, classic Raveneau topnote of lemon oil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite precise, with a good core, very good framing acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This is one of the strongest premier crus in the cellar this year. 2015-2025. **91.**

2013 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Butteaux from the Raveneau family is quite rich in personality, but not heavy, as it wafts from the glass in a generous constellation of pear, tangerine, floral tones, just a touch of beeswax, a nice base of soil and a topnote of lemon zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more reserved in personality than the previous premier crus, with a fine core, sound framing acids and a long, classy finish. There is just a bit of *confiture* to the fruit tones this year, but I really like the depth and nascent complexity here and this is going to be a very tasty bottle from the moment it is released. 2015-2025. **90+.**

2013 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Raveneau

The domaine’s 2013 Montée de Tonnerre is excellent and by a pretty good margin, the strongest of the premier crus this year. The minerality is really very impressive for the vintage, as the wine wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, clementine, a fine base of chalky minerality, paraffin, a bit of anise and the first signs of the lemon oil that comes with maturity in this bottling. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and beautifully focused, with a fine core, quite racy acids for a 2013 and lovely length and grip on the excellent finish. This will drink early by the high standards of Domaine Raveneau Montée de Tonnerre, but this is an excellent success for the vintage. 2016-2030. **92.**

2013 Chablis “Blanchots”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Blanchots shows some deeper-pitched notes of *confiture* in its aromatic profile of orange, pear, apple, chalky soil tones, citrus peel and incipient notes of honey. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with sound framing acids and a long, fairly forward finish. The Blanchots is always the first grand cru to start drinking in the Raveneau cellars, and the 2013 will certainly be quite tasty right out of the blocks. It does not possess the customary cut and grip of a top vintage, but there is plenty of depth and complexity here to be enjoyed in its uncharacteristic guise in 2013. 2015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Raveneau Valmur is really strong this year and is my favorite wine in the cellar in this vintage. The bouquet is pure and classic in profile, albeit a bit more forward than typical, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of tangerine, lemon zest, apple, a lovely base of chalky soil tones, incipient notes of citrus oils, a touch of paraffin and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long, and very soil-driven by the standards of the vintage, with a rock solid core, crisp acids and lovely length and grip on the beautifully focused finish. A fine, fine result. 2017-2030. **93+.**

2013 Chablis “Clos”- Domaine Raveneau

The 2013 Clos is another very fine result in this vintage, offering up a lovely bouquet of apple, orange, flinty minerality, white flowers, beeswax and incipient notes of lemon oil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and again, really pretty minerally for a 2013, with good acids, fine focus and grip and a long, classy finish. I am so accustomed to young vintages

of the Raveneaus' Clos being almost hermetically sealed at this point in its evolution, but the 2013 is really going to be a forward vintage for this great wine and will not demand too much time in the cellar before it really starts to drink with style and grace. This is not quite as classic and pure as the Valmur in this vintage, but it is another lovely wine. 2016-2030. 92+.

Gevrey-Chambertin:

Domaine Denis Bachelet (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Denis Bachelet was quite content to have a bit more wine in the cellars from the 2013 vintage than in the tiny crop of 2012, and 2014 is looking even a bit more "normal" in terms of yields here as well, so the nearly empty cellars of last year were happily now relegated to the past. That said, 2013 is still a short vintage here, as Monsieur Bachelet has almost all old vines and their flowering every year tends to be pretty modest, and this was certainly the case in 2013. For example, the fine, fine Bourgogne rouge bottling chez Bachelet usually consists of sixteen barrels in a proper crop, but in 2013 there are only eleven casks- certainly not as bad as in the 2012 vintage, but still not one would call robust! The family is in the process of expanding their cellars to get a bit more room in which to work in the future, and I am looking forward to seeing them during next year's visit. Monsieur Bachelet began picking on October the 5th, like so many of his colleagues in the Côte de Nuits. He observed that "careful sorting was very important in 2013, as the rain on September 30th caused rot to start to spread a bit in the bunches and one had to be careful to keep those grapes out of the selection." I was very pleased to see that the yields were sufficient in 2013 to allow the domaine to produce its Gevrey-Chambertin "les Evocelles" bottling this year, as I really love this terroir in Brochon and hope that its application to be elevated to premier cru status will find favor with "Les Officials" at the INAO in the future, as the vineyard here is really quite lovely and certainly worthy of being ranked as a premier cru. I often imagine how nice it would be for a domaine such as Pierre Damoy to approach the Bachelet family and say, "you, know, we really have a bit more Chapelle-Chambertin and Latricières-Chambertin than we can comfortably work each year, would you like to take a little on by mettayage," as it would be so nice to see this lovely family of superb vignerons working with a few more terroirs in the village- just to see what might happen! In any event, the 2013s from Domaine Denis Bachelet are simply brilliant examples of the vintage and yet another ringing success story from one of Burgundy's smallest and highest-quality domaines.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The Domaine Bachelet 2013 Bourgogne rouge is a lovely example in the making that will need a few years in the cellar to blossom (as is customary with this excellent cuvée) and should be really quite fine when it has opened up. The youthfully pure and vibrant nose wafts from the glass in a mix of black cherries, espresso, a nice touch of grilled meats and a fine base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and quite soil-driven this year, with moderate tannins, fine intensity and good length and grip on the bouncy finish. Good juice. 2018-2030+.

88.

2013 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Denis Bachelet

The 2013 Côte de Nuits Villages from Domaine Denis Bachelet is truly exceptional this year, as the purity of the fruit and the superb transparency promise very good things in the years to come. The complex bouquet is a blend of cassis, sweet dark berries, grilled meat, coffee bean and black minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really quite sappy already at the core, with fine soil signature, ripe tannins and a very long, classy and tangy finish. These

vines are also located in Brochon and I cannot really understand why the INAO cannot allow a Brochon *villages* bottling for wines of this quality level- certainly they are at least as good as the wines produced in Maranges, which gets its own appellation! This will be one of the great bargains of the vintage, as is so often the case. 2018-2035+. **90.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Denis Bachelet

I love Denis Bachelet’s Gevrey Vieilles Vignes bottling, which year in and year out is the quality equivalent of a top premier cru. The 2013 is another in the long line of successes for this excellent cuvée, as the wine offers up a youthful and very classy aromatic constellation of black cherries, cassis, raw cocoa, grilled meats, black minerality, woodsmoke and a deft framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very elegant on the attack, with an excellent core of sappy fruit, outstanding soil signature, suave tannins and lovely grip and focus on the long and youthful finish. High class juice! 2020-2045+. **92.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Evocelles”- Domaine Denis Bachelet

There are only three *pièces* of les Evocelles in the cellars this year, but that is a significant improvement on the zero casks that were here in 2012, as the yields last year were so short in this parcel that it was just blended into the Vieilles Vignes bottling. These vines were planted in 1955, making them relatively young vines by the very unique Bachelet standards, and the cool *climat* of Evocelles has done very well indeed in this vintage. The 2013 Bachelet Evocelles is showing simply stunning *terroir* out of the blocks, as the bouquet delivers a gloriously mineral expression of dark soil tones, to go along with notes of dark berries, black cherries, gamebirds, woodsmoke, espresso and a touch of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, and a bit more tightly-knit than the Gevrey V.V. out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the transparent and primary finish. A lovely wine. 2022-2045+. **92+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Corbeaux” V.V.- Domaine Denis Bachelet

We are starting to get close to the hundredth birthday of these fine old vines in Corbeaux, as the Bachelet family’s parcel here was planted in 1920. The nose on the 2013 version is nicely reserved, delivering a refined constellation of dark berries, cassis, coffee bean, grilled meats, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a discreet framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary in profile, with a rock solid core of fruit, outstanding soil inflection, ripe, firm tannins and great focus and balance on the very, very long, youthful and classic finish. Quite 1993-like in profile. 2023-2060. **94.**

2013 Charmes-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Denis Bachelet

Monsieur Bachelet’s very, very old vines in Charmes-Chambertin were actually some of the most generous in terms of yields in his entire lineup this year, as they tend to be a bit self-regulating in most years, so that they did not struggle quite as much during the *floraison* of 2013 as they did the year previous. This is one of my favorite wines in all of Burgundy year in and year out, and the 2013 is another brilliant wine in the making, as it jumps from the glass in a beautiful blend of black cherries, sweet cassis, grilled meats, coffee bean, a beautifully complex base of dark soil tones and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite primary out of the blocks, with a particularly soil-driven personality this year, ripe, perfectly-integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and tangy finish. A great bottle in the making. 2023-2075. **96.**

Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The Burguet brothers, Éric and Jean-Luc, have produced another very strong range of wines in the 2013 vintage. I had the pleasure to be hosted by Jean-Luc Burguet during my visit in mid-December of this year. The brothers began harvesting on October 4th in 2013, which they note was later than any “start date” during the entire stretch of their father’s career at the helm of the family domaine. The Burguet family will be adding to their vineyard holdings beginning in 2014, as they had just finalized the arrangements to purchase their uncle’s vineyards in Gevrey-Chambertin, which will include quite a few different lieux à dits in the village to augment the domaine’s bottling of Cuvée Symphonie (and perhaps Mes Favorites?), as well as a bit more Bourgogne rouge and a new premier cru for the domaine, Lavaux St. Jacques! By buying the vineyards from their uncle, the Burguet brothers have been able to reunite their grandfather’s original domaine, which was split between Alain Burguet and his brother when they inherited the vineyards from their father. The Burguet brothers purchased the fruit from the production of their uncle’s vineyards in the 2014 harvest, anticipating the deal being finalized, so that their range will be augmented from this upcoming vintage, despite the fact that the sale was not finalized until the end of November and 2015 will be the first year where they are in charge of the viticulture of these new parcels. I am very much looking forward to trying the new bottlings next year and wonder if there will be an additional Gevrey AC bottling to augment the Cuvée Symphonie and Mes Favorites bottlings in the future. And a Burguet brothers’ bottling of Lavaux St. Jacques is really something to look forward to for next year! The malos on the 2013s chez Burguet were quite late, and consequently, nothing in the cellar had been racked yet and everything remained on its fine lees at the time of my mid-December visit. Across the board, the 2013 Burguet wines are very pure, transparent and many are extremely red fruity this year, with all of the potential of the vintage manifest in each and every wine. A superb vintage chez Burguet!

2013 Bourgogne “les Pincés Vin”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2013 Bourgogne “les Pincés Vin” from Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils is a very pretty and very red fruity example of the vintage. The bouquet offers up a vibrant blend of wild strawberries, cherries lovely spices tones, a stylish base of soil and a gentle topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tangy and transparent, with a bit of ripe tannin and impressive length and grip for its level. A fine bottle in the making, but give it a few years of bottle age to blossom. 2017-2025+. **88.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cuvée Symphonie”- Domaine Alain Burguet

The 2013 Cuvée Symphonie is another quite soil-driven and red fruity bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in an excellent aromatic constellation of blood orange, cherries, gamebirds, a complex base of soil tones, a bit of fresh herb tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very transparent out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, modest tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. 2019-2040. **90.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Mes Favorites”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

I love the 2013 rendition of Mes Favorites, which beautifully synthesizes the elegance of the vintage with the broad shoulders and impressive depth of this bottling. The excellent nose delivers a complex and very refined blend of red and black cherries, grilled meat, spice tones, a classy base of soil, coffee, roses and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied,

focused and tangy, with an excellent core of fruit, ripe tannins, impeccable balance and a long, youthfully complex and very promising finish. A lovely bottle in the making. 2021-2050+. **93.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2013 Champeaux from the Burguet brothers is also outstanding, wafting from the glass in a very pure and very red fruity mélange of cherries, red plums, cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, cedar and again, a floral topnote very much redolent of rose petals. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and soil-driven, with excellent mid-palate depth, suave tannins and a very, very long, youthful and tangy finish. An outstanding example of this exceptional *terroir*. 2022-2055+. **93+.**



Jean-Luc Burguet in the family cellars in Gevrey-Chambertin.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Echézeaux”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* bottling from Domaine Burguet is a lovely wine that is a bit more accessible out of the blocks than the two Gevrey AC bottlings (if one can call the Mes Favorites cuvée truly a *villages*, as I have always found it to be of premier cru quality!), offering up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, plums, gamebirds, a fine base of chalky soil tones, a touch of cedar and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite sappy at the core, with a lovely signature of soil, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the classy finish. A fine bottle of Chambolle. 2020-2045. **91.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The 2013 Domaine Burguet Vosne AC is more aligned with the Gevreys in the cellar this year than the Chambolle *villages*, as this is nicely reserved and will want a bit of bottle age before it blossoms. However, there are lovely raw materials here on both the nose and palate and this wine has lovely potential. The bouquet is a fine, red fruity blend of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spices, a lovely base of soil, game and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off lovely minerality, with a good core, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and youthful finish. All this fine Vosne *villages* needs is a bit of patience. 2021-2045. **91.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Rouge Dessus”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The lovely premier cru of Rouge Dessus, which lies up above one of the *lieux à dits* of Echézeaux on the slope, is very, very strong *chez* Burguet in 2013. The outstanding nose is nicely reserved, wafting from the glass in a classy blend of red and black raspberries, gamebirds, lovely minerality, coffee, Vosne spices and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with a fine core of fruit, excellent focus and grip, tangy acids and a long, moderately tannic finish. Fine, fine juice in the making. 2021-2050+. **93.**

2013 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils

The Burguet brothers 2013 Clos de Bèze is a very young wine, but it is already showing outstanding complexity and is going to be a legend in the fullness of time. The pure and sappy nose delivers a classic constellation of red and black cherries, plums, grilled meats, lovely spice tones, dark soil, woodsmoke, a touch of orange zest and a fine base of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, outstanding transparency, ripe, beautifully integrated tannins and exceptional length and grip on the tangy and still very primary finish. Great juice in the making. 2025-2065+. **95.**

Domaine Duroché (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Domaine Duroché was a new estate to me on this December trip to Burgundy. I did not have a chance to visit the cellars, but Pierre Duroché kindly sent me four samples to try during my stay in Beaune, so that I could get a snapshot into the work that he and his son Gilles are doing at the estate today. The domaine has enviable holdings in some of Gevrey’s very top crus, including parcels in Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”, Latricières-Chambertin, Griotte-Chambertin, Charmes-Chambertin and top premier crus such as Lavaut St. Jacques, Champeaux and Estournelles St. Jacques (this is a rather unique spelling of Lavaut, which I assume is a more ancient spelling of the vineyard). I really liked the lighter colors and more classically-extracted style of the four wines that I tasted, though the two 2013s had only been bottled two weeks prior to my tasting them. However, like many domaines in Gevrey-Chambertin and Vosne-Romanée these days, there is more of a spicy, new oak signature to all the wines that I tasted than I would optimally like to find here. Perhaps this was just a reflection of the particular cuvées that I tried? There is very good underlying terroir, as well as a really nice sense of shape and balance to the fruit and soil components to the wines here, and both vintages showed very nice, tangy acids that seem to indicate very well-chosen harvesting times and a good touch in the cellars, but the expression of new wood was a bit more than I would really like to see in the wines. That said, they were clearly absorbing their new wood tannins and will be better balanced with some bottle age. I suspect that at their peaks all four wines will have all reasonably integrated their new wood, but the question is how much terroir will have been exchanged for the signatures of new wood that they carry? There are obviously very good things happening at this domaine, and I will be adding them to my schedule of cellar visits on one of my upcoming trips to learn better

what is going on in the cellars and vineyards here and am looking forward to tasting their full range of wines. I have scored the following wines in a range, as they all need to fully integrate their new wood tannins, which they had not yet done, and until they do so completely, it is hard to predict exactly where they will land.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”- Domaine Duroché

The 2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques from Domaine Duroché had only been bottled two weeks prior to my tasting the wine and had not yet fully recovered from the *mise*, but seemed to show lovely depth of fruit and good structural attributes. The wine is not particularly dark in color, which I always take as a good sign, and offers up a bright bouquet of cherries, strawberries, mustard seed, a nice base of soil tones and a fair bit of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, tangy and nicely transparent, with a good core, bright acids, ripe tannins and just a whisper of new wood tannins firming up the long finish. The wine is obviously not as focused as it will be when it fully bounces back from its recent bottling, but it seems to have very good potential. 2020-2050? **89-91?**

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Duroché

The 2013 Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Duroché has also been bottled a very short time prior to my tasting the wine and was not in peak form so soon after its bottling, but again showed some nice raw materials and very solid potential. The color is again nicely ruby, rather than dark, and the bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, red plums, cocoa, a fine base of soil, a touch of gamebird, mustard seed and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very nicely transparent, with a fine core of red fruit, excellent soil signature, tangy acids, ripe tannins and good length and grip on the finish. There is a bit of wood tannin sticking out today on the backend, but this may just be the consequence of having just been bottled. If the new wood slides back into place, this will be a very good example of Charmes. 2023-2060+. **89-92+?**

2012 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”- Domaine Duroché

The 2012 Estournelles St. Jacques from Pierre Duroché and his son, Gilles, is a very nice example of the vintage, but it is a bit more marked by its spicy new oak component (at least at this early point in its evolution) than it really needs to be. The nose offers up a complex blend of red and black cherries, a good base of soil, mustard seed, coffee and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and shows pretty good depth at the core, with a bit of an understated expression of its *terroir*, bright acids and a long, chewy finish that shows a bit of uncovered oak tannins on the backend. There are some really good raw materials here, but the new oak gets in the way a bit, at least at this early stage of its evolution. It will be interesting to see how well it manages to integrate its new wood component over the coming years. 2020-2040+? **88-90?**

2012 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Duroché

The 2012 Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Duroché really has a very stylish bouquet, offering up a fine constellation of cherries, red plums, cinnamon, a touch of fresh nutmeg, a nice dollop of soil, coffee and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite suave in profile, with a sound core of fruit, good, but not great soil signature, lovely acids and focus and a long, reasonably well-balanced finish of moderate tannins. There are still traces of uncovered oak tannins here on the backend, but the wine is quickly absorbing them and they should be fully integrated in the next year or two. The open question is whether or not there could be a bit more vibrant expression of *terroir* here with a bit less new wood, but I have little

doubt that the balance here will be very good with a bit more bottle age, and the wine will be a very tasty and velvety middleweight when it reaches its apogee. 2020-2045. **89-92.**

Domaine Fourrier (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Jean-Marie Fourrier how has an amazing selection of négociant bottlings to augment his fine lineup of domaine wines, as he has contracted with several growers in the region to purchase fruit. As he noted, "I only work with growers whose viticultural practices I respect, and who have terroirs that are of interest for me to work with, as the idea was not to just add more wines to the portfolio, but to have the chance to work with some of the finest terroirs in the Côte that I did not have experience with before." Last year, because of the very short crop of 2012, I did not taste the entire range of new bottlings, but with the yields a tad better in 2013, I had the great pleasure to sample a far more representative selection of the new additions in the cellar. As is Jean-Marie's custom these days, he does not taste the wines from the new vintage until after the New Year following the harvest, as he feels if one tastes the wines too often, then one will lose objectivity about the quality of the vintage. Consequently, he was very, very pleasantly surprised by the quality of the wines he found in early 2014 in the casks in his cellar, as he was not overly optimistic about the prospects of the 2013 vintage at the time of harvest. The domaine began picking on October the 2nd and brought in all of their fruit in a five days in 2013. As Jean-Marie's style is for wines of great elegance, transparency and finesse, it is not surprising that the style of the vintage of 2013 has beautifully dovetailed with what he loves in wine, and the entire range here is absolutely stellar in this vintage. As the wines had already been racked into cuve here in preparation for bottling in the spring, Jean-Marie had prepared samples of nearly the entire range of 2013s (with the exception of the Morey "Clos Sorbés", which he forgot to prepare a sample of prior to my arrival). As we were on a pretty tight schedule, with Jean-Marie's son finishing up soccer practice at 5:00 PM and expecting to be picked up by dad, we contented ourselves with the samples that were prepared and I will look forward to trying the 2013 Clos Sorbés sometime in the future.

Domaine Bottlings

2013 Morey St. Denis "Clos Solon"- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Morey villages bottling from Domaine Fourrier is excellent, jumping from the glass in a very pure blend of red and black cherries, nutskin, vinesmoke, cocoa and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and nicely transparent, with a good core, modest tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. This will drink with great style with only a few years of bottle age (mostly to let some of the secondary layers of complexity emerge). 2018-2035+. **89+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Chambolle old vine bottling is really lovely as well, with a combination of pure and sappy red fruit and fine soil tones that will make for a superb village wine. The bouquet is a fine mélange of cherries, red plums, cocoa, chalky soil tones, violets and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very sappy at the core, with tangy acids, very suave tannins and excellent balance and grip on the focused and vibrant finish. Quintessential Chambolle. 2018-2040. **90+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Aux Echézeaux"- Domaine Fourrier

Of the two bottlings of Gevrey villages in 2013, the Aux Echézeaux is the more structured of the two out of the blocks, but this is quite typical for this bottling. The wine offers

up an excellent nose of red and black cherries, incipient notes of meatiness, mustard seed, a fine base of soil and a topnote of bonfire. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and potentially quite elegant, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection, ripe tannins and good length and grip on the youthful and nicely structured finish. In due course, this will show all of the inherent elegance of the vintage, but I would opt for the Chambolle or Morey “Clos Solon” for earlier drinking. 2020-2040+. **89+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Gevrey “Vieilles Vignes” bottling is more pure than the Aux Echézeaux bottling, but it too is more reserved in style than the Chambolle or Morey AC. The youthful and quite red fruity nose delivers a fine constellation of cherries, blood orange, complex soil tones, coffee and lovely fresh herb tones redolent of thyme and mustard seed. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a fine core, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and lovely grip and focus on the long and very promising finish. 2020-2040+. **90+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Fourrier Gruenchers is in the process of putting on weight, and today is a very pure and nascently complex middleweight, but I would be very surprised if it is not a properly full-bodied example of the vintage once it has had some time in the cellar. The refined bouquet is pure, red fruity and quite floral, as it wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, blood orange, chalky soil tones, mustard seed and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and primary, with lovely intensity of flavor, fine focus and grip, nascent complexity and a very long, tangy and moderately tannic finish. My score is probably going to look ridiculously conservative for this wine a decade down the road! 2022-2050+. **91+**.

2013 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Petits Vougeots from Domaine Fourrier is absolutely beautiful wine in this vintage, with its Chambolle-like character front and center on both the nose and palate. The lovely bouquet delivers a very pure and expressive mélange of red plums, cherries, cocoa powder, chalky soil tones, violets, blood orange and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very elegant in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, superb soil signature, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and very classy finish. One of the great bargains to be found in the vintage! 2020-2050+. **92**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cherbaudes”- Domaine Fourrier

The inherent elegance of the 2013 vintage is very much in evidence in the beautiful young Cherbaudes resting in Jean-Marie’s cellars. The lovely nose offers up a very red fruity blend of wild strawberries, cherries, mustard seed, gorgeous soil tones, a touch of nutskin and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and sappy at the core, with great purity and soil drive, seamless tannins and a very long, pure and utterly sophisticated finish. Cherbaudes does not normally show this kind of elegance right out of the blocks, and I take the 2013’s refined youthful personality to be a harbinger of great things to come with bottle age. 2022-2060. **93**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Goulots”- Domaine Fourrier

To my palate, les Goulots (probably along with Petits Chapelle) is the most elegant premier cru in all of Gevrey, and Jean-Marie Fourrier makes the gold standard Goulots. His 2013 is stellar, soaring from the glass in a sappy blend of cherries, pomegranate, violets, chalky soil tones, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, a touch of nutskin and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and sappy at the core, with great transparency, tangy acids, a lovely sense of reserve, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, pure and utterly suave

finish. This is so beautifully balanced that it will be accessible early, but I would not think of touching a bottle until it is at least eight or nine years of age, as there is so much more complexity that will come with bottle age that it would be infanticide to open this beautiful wine too early! 2021-2055. **93+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Fourrier Champeaux is another outstanding example of the vintage, delivering a pure and again, very elegant bouquet of red and black cherries, cocoa, black minerality, woodsmoke, gamebirds, vanillin oak and a gentle topnote of violet. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and very sappy at the core, with excellent soil signature, suave tannins and a long, tangy and still quite primary finish. Champeaux is another very underrated, great *terroir* in Gevrey-Chambertin, and the 2013 version from Jean-Marie Fourrier is stellar juice. 2022-2055+. **94**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combes aux Moines”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Combes aux Moines from Domaine Fourrier is another ringing success in this vintage. The wine offers up a deep, pure and tangy nose of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, grilled meats, woodsmoke, roses, mustard seed, French roast and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with a fine core, ripe tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very long, nascently complex and soil-driven finish. Fine, fine juice. 2023-2055+. **93+**.



Vicky and Jean-Marie Fourrier in their cuverie in Gevrey-Chambertin.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Fourrier Clos St. Jacques is outstanding, offering up a very pure and refined nose that is properly reserved out of the blocks, with notes of blood orange, cherries, red plums, incipient meaty tones, cocoa, woodsmoke, mustard seed, a very complex base of soil and a touch of vanillin oak informing the nose. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a rock solid core of pure fruit, great soil signature, laser-like focus and outstanding grip on the ripely tannic and very, very long finish. A very, very elegant vintage for this iconic bottling. 2023-2055+. **94+**.

2013 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Fourrier

The 2013 Griotte-Chambertin from Jean-Marie Fourrier is another gorgeous wine in the making. The stunning nose offers up a sappy and pure constellation of red and black cherries, cocoa, grilled meats, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and still very much a puppy, with a sappy core of fruit, brilliant transparency, seamless tannins and a very, very long, tangy and utterly refined finish. 2025-2075. **96+**.

Négociant Bottlings

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Jean-Marie Fourrier

The parcel of Vosne “Chaumes” that Jean-Marie Fourrier buys the production from is planted to seventy year-old vines and the wine has turned out very well indeed in the 2013 vintage. The bouquet wafts from the glass in an excellent blend of black cherries, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, espresso and a touch of the venison to come. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and youthfully chewy, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection and a long, ripely tannic and still fairly primary finish. This wine is beautifully balanced, but the texture of the tannins out of the blocks is not quite as refined as in the top premier crus from the domaine’s own vines. That said, this is a lovely example of Chaumes. 2019-2045+. **91+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Jean-Marie Fourrier

Not surprisingly, given the stylistic predilections of Jean-Marie Fourrier, his 2013 Amoureuses is absolutely brilliant! The stunning bouquet soars from the glass in a blaze of cherries, red plums, cocoa, gamebirds, a magically complex base of chalky soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and an utterly complete rendition of this magical *terroir*, with a sappy core of fruit, great transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, refined and utterly suave finish. This will be very velvety in the fullness of time. 2023-2065. **96**.

2013 Echézeaux- Jean-Marie Fourrier

The plot of vines that Jean-Marie Fourrier purchases grapes for his Echézeaux hail from the *lieu à dit* of les Champs Traversins, which lies up on the slope alongside of les Rouges du Bas. The 2013 is a beautiful bottle in the making, offering up a nascently complex and black fruity mélange of cassis, black cherries, bonfire, dark soil tones, venison and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very soil-driven in personality, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, primary and tangy finish. An outstanding example. 2023-2070. **94+**.

2013 Clos Vougeot- Jean-Marie Fourrier

Jean-Marie Fourrier’s fruit for his fine Clos Vougeot bottling hail from the *lieu à dit* of Maupertuis. His 2013 rendition is absolutely superb, soaring from the glass in a youthfully complex mélange of sappy black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, a complex base of soil, incipient

gamebirds and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a proper sense of youthful reserve, fine-grained tannins and laser-like focus on the very, very long, vibrant and perfectly balanced finish. A great young Clos Vougeot. 2025-2075. **95.**

2013 Latricières-Chambertin- Jean-Marie Fourier

The 2013 Latricières-Chambertin from Jean-Marie Fourier is a brilliant example of this great *terroir*. The pure and classic bouquet delivers scents of dark berries, black cherries, raw cocoa, grilled meats, espresso, black soil tones, vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and shows off outstanding mid-palate depth, with great soil signature, exemplary focus and grip, ripe tannins and a very, very long, soil-driven and complex finish. A great bottle of Latricières. 2025-2075. **95+.**

2013 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Jean-Marie Fourier

Jean-Marie Fourier’s 2013 Clos de Bèze is again a stellar wine in the making. The quintessential nose wafts from the glass in a complex mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meats, espresso, complex minerality, woodsmoke, mustard seed, fresh thyme and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a great core, excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and a very long, tangy and properly youthful finish. This will be a great wine in the fullness of time, but give it plenty of time in the cellar to blossom. 2025-2075. **95.**

2013 Chambertin- Jean-Marie Fourier

The 2013 Chambertin from Monsieur Fourier is also a spectacular wine in the making. The utterly classic nose delivers an aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, red plums, gamebirds, raw cocoa, a very complex base of soil tones, coffee bean, woodsmoke, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nascently complex, with bottomless depth at the core, suave tannins, excellent focus and a very, very long, focused and tangy finish. Great juice. 2025-2075. **96+.**

Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The Harmands’ yields in 2013 were not a whole lot better in this vintage than they had been in 2012, but the father and son team of Gérard and Philippe Harmand were quite content with the quality of the wines in the cellar and have made another fine range of wines in this most recent vintage. When I arrived in mid-December to taste the 2013s at Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy, all of the wines (with one exception) had been assembled into tank in preparation for bottling in the spring and had their SO2 adjusted only ten days previous, so a few were still in a bit agitated of a state and not overly happy to be tasted. However, as most of the others were nicely recovered and showed excellent potential and it is quite clear that the entire lineup of wines here will be very successful in 2013. The Mazis-Chambertin was the only wine from the vintage still in cask at the time of my visit. The Harmand family and their team of pickers began harvesting on October 5th, like so many others in the Côte de Nuits in this vintage, having waited a few days for the vines to work the rain of September 30th through their systems.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2013 Bourgogne rouge from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy will be a very pretty example, as it offers up a fine nose of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, a touch of cocoa and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite juicy on the attack, with a good core, an impressive signature of soil and good length and grip on the wide open finish. A very good example that will drink well from the outset. 2015-2025+. **87+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The Harmand family's straight Gevrey AC is also very stylish in 2013, offering up a vibrant and impressively complex nose of plums, black cherries, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebird, cocoa and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and already quite silky on the attack, with a good, plump core, fine tannins and good length and grip on the tangy finish. Good juice here. 2018-2035+. **89+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "en Jouise"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "en Jouise" from Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy was also nicely bounced back from its recent racking and showing quite well, as it wafts from the glass in a mélange of dark berries, plums, raw cocoa, a touch of meatiness, a fine base of soil, a touch of new wood and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a good core, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. This will be a lovely *villages* in a few years. 2019-2035+. **90**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2013 old vine bottling of Gevrey AC was a bit more grumpy from its recent racking and was quite shut down, but it is long, transparent and should prove to be a complex and very classy example. The quite black fruity bouquet shows signs of cassis, dark berries, espresso, black minerality, woodsmoke, incipient notes of ground meat and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, nicely reserved in profile and quite solid at the core, with good balance and grip and a long, ripely tannic finish. This is a bit out of sorts and not particularly focused today, but I am sure this is simply a reflection of its recent *assemblage*. 2020-2045+. **90-91+?**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

In contrast to the grumpy Vieilles Vignes bottling, the 2013 Clos Prieur from the Harmands was very much on form and showing lovely potential at the time of my visit. As reader will recall, this is a blend of a parcel in the premier cru section of the vineyard with a couple of very old vine parcels in the *villages* section, so the wine is officially a Gevrey AC bottling, but in 2013 is clearly of premier cru quality. The bouquet is a sappy and complex blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, grilled meats, coffee bean, a lovely base of dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with lovely focus and grip, fine soil inflection and a long, suavely-tannic and complex finish. A beautiful bottle. 2020-2045+. **91+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "la Bousière"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The 2013 la Bousière was one of the shortest cuvées in the cellar in this vintage, as the domaine was very, very strict with selection (due to a fair bit of rot in this parcel) and the Harmands only have four casks out of a normal nine barrels in this vintage. The wine was raised in twenty-five percent new wood and offers up an absolutely superb bouquet of cassis, black cherries, espresso, grilled meats, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite tangy in personality, with an excellent core of fruit, fine mineral drive on the backend, ripe tannins and a long, classy and nascently complex finish. Fine juice. 2022-2055. **92**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "la Perrière"- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

The domaine's fine version of la Perrière was showing very well on the nose at the time of my visit, but was still a bit unsettled from the racking on the palate. The excellent bouquet jumps from the glass in a mix of black cherries, dark berries, French roast, grilled meat, black minerality, a bit of campfire and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy



solid at the core, with a fine soil signature, excellent purity and a long, ripely tannic and vibrant finish. This wine was raised in fifty percent new wood in 2013 and I have no doubt it will ultimately prove to be a top flight bottle of Gevrey in the fullness of time. 2023-2055. **92-94.**

2013 Mazis-Chambertin- Domaine Harmand-Geoffroy

After the top premier crus in the Harmand cellars being a bit cranky from their racking, it was nice to taste the Mazis-Chambertin while it was still undisturbed and resting comfortably in cask. This will be a great bottle in time, as it offers up a magically pure and vibrant bouquet of cassis, dark berries, grilled meat, espresso, a complex base of black minerality, a lovely element of spiciness and a stylish framing of cedary wood. This wine was raised in ninety percent new wood in 2013, but has absolutely eaten up most of this and seems like it was raised in a far lower percentage. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and extremely pure on the attack, with a lovely core, a very minerally personality from the mid-palate back, ripe, perfectly-integrated tannins and outstanding length and grip on the bouncy and properly reserved finish. An utterly classic young bottle of Mazis. 2025-2065+. **95+.**

Domaine Rossignol-Trapet (Gevrey-Chambertin)

The Rossignol brothers began harvesting on October 6th in 2013. Most of the malos here were quite late, so at the time of my mid-December visit, only three wines (the Bourgogne, Beaune “Teurons” and Gevrey Vieilles Vignes) had been racked, with everything else scheduled for a racking over the course of the month of January. I have scored the wines that had been recently racked within a range. The Rossignols lost seventy-five percent of their crop in their holdings in Teurons in Beaune, as this was right in the heart of the path of the hailstorm in July, but the estate’s holdings in the Côte de Nuits had better yields in 2013 than 2012, though still a far cry from a “normal” crop level. The wines seemed just a touch behind in their evolutions than was the case in most cellars that I visited during my trip, and harkened back very much to the style of the vintage in late October, as described by Jeremy Seysses at one of my first stops on the tour, where he described the wines as a bit lean at that time, but having opened up dramatically and seemingly putting on weight in the mid-palate as the fruit in the wines emerged from behind their acidities. The Rossignol-Trapet 2013s seemed to me to still be in that emerging stage between the perception of leanness and the more generous depth of fruit of wines a bit further along their arc of elevation, and I have no doubt that these wines will flesh out a bit more over the course of their remaining times in the cellar than they showed at the time of my visit.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge is a very pretty example, offering up a bright bouquet of red and black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke and soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and nicely structured, with just a bit of tannin, sound depth and good length and grip for its level. This was just a touch agitated from its racking three weeks previous, but clearly will be quite good. 2015-2025. **87-88.**

2013 Beaune “Teurons”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Beaune “Teurons” from Domaine Rossignol-Trapet is really quite good, given the vagaries of the hail, and shows quite respectable energy levels. The wine was one hundred percent destemmed in this vintage. The bouquet is quite black fruity, offering up notes of dark berries, cassis, smoke, game, dark soil tones and coffee. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and shows quite good depth at the core, with fine-grained tannins and good length and grip on the finish. 2019-2040. **89-90.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Gevrey V.V. was showing the best recovery of the three recently-racked wines and clearly will be a fine example of the vintage. The bouquet is deep and nicely black fruity, with a 1993-like personality in its aromatic constellation of black cherries, cassis, bitter chocolate, a bit of grilled meat, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and very nicely transparent, with good focus and balance, a good core and fine length and grip on the suavely tannic finish. Good juice. 2019-2045. **89-90+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cherbaudes”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Cherbaudes from Rossignol-Trapet shares the lovely youthful elegance that I have found in several examples from this vineyard in this vintage. The bouquet is pure and quite vibrant, wafting from the glass in a blend of cassis, black cherries, coffee, fresh herb tones, dark soil and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very soil-driven, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and very good focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This will put on weight with bottle age and will be lovely. 2020-2050. **91+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combottes”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Combottes from the Rossignol brothers is going to be a lovely wine. The nose is pure, complex and nicely perfumed, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, plums, cocoa, a lovely base of soil, gamebirds, a touch of vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a lovely core, a fine, soil-driven personality, impressive nascent complexity and fine length and grip on the bright and beautifully balanced finish. 2021-2050. **92**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Corbeaux”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Corbeaux is also an excellent example of this fine *terroir* from the Rossignols, delivering a deep, pure and very vibrant nose of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, black soil tones, gamebirds and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and a touch broader-shouldered than the Combottes (though still in the process of filling out its frame), with lovely intensity of flavor, fine-grained tannins and excellent grip and focus on the long, ripely tannic finish. This will be very fine indeed. 2020-2050. **92+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Prieur”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Rossignol-Trapet Clos Prieur will be an absolutely classic example of this black fruity and meaty Gevrey premier cru. The youthful nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cassis, dark berries, black minerality, French roast, grilled meats, herb tones, bonfires and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with lovely minerality, a fine core, excellent balance and focus, tangy acids and a long, ripely tannic finish. A fine result. 2021-2050+. **93**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Petite Chapelle”- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Petite Chapelle was just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but with a bit of coaxing, offers up a very good nose of red and black cherries, cocoa, gamebirds, lovely soil tones, smoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with lovely transparency, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and impressive finish. This is more reserved today than any of the other premier crus in the Rossignol cellars, which I take to be a very good sign for its ultimate longevity and quality. Lovely juice. 2022-2050+. **92-93+**.

2013 Latricières-Chambertin- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Latricières-Chambertin from the Rossignols has turned out splendidly in this vintage, as seemed to be the case with so many of the cooler *climat* wines in this long and cool

growing season. The bouquet is a pure and classic mélange of black cherries, dark berries, grilled meats, a beautifully complex base of dark soil tones, coffee bean, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and ripely tannic, with an excellent core of fruit, impressive soil signature, superb, nascent complexity and a very long, bright and youthful finish. A classic Latricières in the making. 2023-2075. **94+**.

2013 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Chapelle-Chambertin from Domaine Rossignol-Trapet is another stellar wine in the making. The excellent nose delivers a youthful blend of black cherries, black plums, dark berries, cocoa, beautifully complex soil tones, gamebirds and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and very transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, perfectly balanced and still youthfully reserved finish. This too is very reminiscent of top Gevrey grand crus in the 1993 vintage. 2023-2075. **95**.

2013 Chambertin- Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

The 2013 Chambertin from the Rossignol brothers is another absolutely stellar young grand cru in the making, offering up a pure and youthful aromatic constellation of cassis, dark berries, grilled meat, cocoa, a superbly complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure, with a rock solid core of fruit, great soil inflection, ripe tannins and great focus and grip on the very long, tangy and very youthful finish. All this brilliant wine needs is time. 2025-2075. **95+**.

Domaine Armand Rousseau (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Éric Rousseau is on quite a roll over the last half dozen vintages, and it seems pretty clear to me that he has taken an outstanding domaine with an enviable track record for brilliance and improved the quality incrementally across the board here since he assumed complete control of the winemaking in the last decade. I was very happy to see his father, Charles Rousseau, still in good form at the time of my visit, and as he is now closing in on ninety years of age, it seems pretty clear that drinking great Gevrey-Chambertin over the course of one's life may well add to one's life expectancy! The domaine began harvesting on October 1st in 2013, getting into the Gevrey AC vineyards first, while waiting for the premier and grand crus to dry out a bit from the rain the previous day. The malos were not particularly late chez Rousseau in 2013, so the entire cellar was able to be racked in June of 2014 and the wines were absolutely singing at the time of my visit (with one or two exceptions, which were a touch reductive). The purity, elegance and intensity of flavor of the entire lineup of 2013s from Domaine Rousseau is a wonder to behold, and it is very clear that this will end up being one of the finest recent vintages here- and there have been an amazingly high quality range of wines emerging from these cellars since the 2005 vintage! But, the 2013s look to be every bit as strong as a set of wines as all of the other great recent vintages, which is testimony to just how precise the talented team chez Rousseau has become in the last decade. I noted that the Chambertin, Clos de Bèze and Clos St. Jacques were raised in eighty percent new wood this year, rather than their customary hundred, which perhaps has added to their stunning transparency and refinement in 2013. Additionally, the estate has made an experiment in Clos St. Jacques, singling out a small amount of grapes from the very top and middle section of the vineyard to ferment and raise on its own, just to see what the difference is if the lower half of the rows are not include in the blend. This upper section was historically known as "En St. Jacques" and in the past ranked higher than the lower section- what would have been a grand cru by today's standards- and Éric Rousseau was curious to see what the differences would be between a bottling of only this section and the entire

length of the vineyard. There is only a single barrel of En St. Jacques, but the wine will be bottled and retained at the domaine, just to follow over the ensuing years and see how it evolves in comparison to the “regular” Clos St. Jacques in 2013.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Gevrey *villages* was one of the more reduced wines in the cellar, but it was quite easy to see that the wine has turned out very well and simply is getting ready for its *assemblage* and bottling in the spring. The bouquet (with a bit of coaxing) offers up a fine blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, dark soil tones and a gentle topnote of grilled meat. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish, long and tangy, with a lovely core, modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the suave finish. This will be a lovely village wine, but I would give it a handful of years in the cellar to start to blossom. 2020-2050. **90.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

So often when I am in the Rousseau cellars in November or December, the two premier crus of Lavaux and Cazetiers are the reduced wines, but this year both were on form and very happy to be tasted. The 2013 Lavaux St. Jacques is excellent, offering up a fine, black fruity nose of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, black minerality, woodsmoke and incipient notes of venison. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and tangy, with a fine core of fruit, impressive soil drive, ripe tannins and a long, nascently complex and very classy finish. A fine bottle in the making. 2021-2055. **91+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Cazetiers *chez* Rousseau was also showing very well, wafting from the glass in a blend of cassis, currant leaf, game, dark soil tones, a bit of bonfire and espresso. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and very elegant out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, lovely transparency and a fine sense of reserve on the long, ripely tannic and beautifully balanced finish. 2022-2055. **91+.**

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Rousseau has a lovely, cooler vintage profile that gives a decidedly more black fruity profile to the wine on both the nose and palate and which augurs extremely well for its evolution. The bouquet is pure and vibrant, delivering a fine constellation of black cherries, cassis, grilled meats, dark chocolate, woodsmoke, black minerality and a deft framing of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with excellent soil signature, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and a very long, vibrant and nascently complex finish. Stylistically, this reminds me quite a bit of the 1993 Charmes, but it is even more elegant and complex out of the blocks and will ultimately eclipse that lovely vintage of the wine. 2023-2060+. **93+.**

2013 Mazy-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Mazy-Chambertin *chez* Rousseau is also very elegant and transparent this year. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a black fruity mélange of cassis, dark berries, espresso, game, Mazy’s medicinal tones, black soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and extremely suave on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil inflection, refined tannins, tangy acids and a very long, vibrant and youthful finish. This is so seamless in its balance that it will offer up early accessibility, but it really should be given at least a full decade’s worth of bottle age to start to unleash its secondary layers of complexity and really show its true quality. 2023-2055+. **93.**

2013 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Clos de la Roche from Domaine Rousseau saw ten percent new wood in this vintage, with the remainder of the barrels used for the *elevage* primarily one wine casks. The wine was a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but opened up with some swirling to reveal a promising bouquet of red and black cherries, meaty tones, dark soil, woodsmoke, a touch of mustard seed and a discreet base of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, youthfully reticent and tangy finish. This will be a lovely vintage for this wine, but like the Mazy, it deserves a decade in the cellar to really come into its own. 2023-2055+. **92-93+**.

2013 Ruchottes-Chambertin “Clos des Ruchottes”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Clos des Ruchottes was raised in twenty percent new wood this year and was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The very pure and sappy nose soars from the glass in a blaze of plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, incipient notes of grilled meat, a beautifully complex base of soil tones and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite tightly-knit out of the blocks, with a very sappy core of fruit, stunning backend energy, lovely soil signature and a very long, ripely tannic finish. Great juice! 2023-2065. **94+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

Like the Chambertin and Clos de Bèze, the Clos St. Jacques was raised in eighty percent new wood in 2013. The wine is stunning and nicely reserved on both the nose and palate, as it offers up a quite primary bouquet of red and black cherries, grilled meat, a touch of currant leaf, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, a stunningly complex base of soil and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and like the Clos des Ruchottes, quite tightly-knit out of the blocks. The wine has a great sappy core of fruit, outstanding complexity of soil, fine-grained tannins and stellar length and grip on the tangy and very soil-driven finish. This will be brilliant wine, but at least a decade in the cellar is going to be mandatory. 2023-2065. **95**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “En St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

I felt quite honored to be allowed to taste the En St. Jacques barrel, which is quite a bit different from the regular Clos St. Jacques in aromatic and flavor profile. The wine is decidedly red fruitier in personality in 2013, and very floral as well, as it jumps from the glass in a stunning bouquet of red plums, cherries, cocoa, pungent violets, kaleidoscopic soil nuances, smoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and loaded with very pure fruit, with a far more transparent personality than the regular bottling, a great core, a very refined attack and enormous backend energy on the ripely tannic and utterly suave finish. The comparison between the two cuvées is fascinating today and I would love to have the opportunity ten or fifteen years down the road to compare them side by side. I would be very surprised if Éric Rousseau does not bottle a significant percentage of this barrel in magnum, as this wine seems to be destined for timeless brilliance over the course of its life. 2023-2065. **97**.

2013 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Clos de Bèze is a magical young wine in the making. The stunning bouquet is a brilliant blend of red and black cherries, black raspberries, exotic spice tones, raw cocoa, lovely meatiness, black minerality, a touch of fresh nutmeg and a very discreet base of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and almost racy in its tanginess, with a sappy core of black fruit, magnificent complexity, extremely refined tannins, laser-like focus and a very, very long, svelte and intensely flavored finish. Today, this wine is a profound

middleweight in profile, but I suspect it is in the process of putting on weight and will be plenty full-bodied when it reaches its summit of brilliance. 2025-2075+. **98.**

2013 Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau

The 2013 Chambertin is every bit as magical as the Clos de Bèze, soaring from the glass in an absolutely classic aromatic constellation of plums, red and black cherries, grilled meat, stunning complex soil tones, cocoa, woodsmoke, vanillin oak and a beautiful topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly seamless, with a very refined attack, a sappy core, stunning soil signature, fine-grained tannins and brilliant length and grip on the tangy and spectacular finish. Like the 2013 Clos de Bèze, the Rousseau Chambertin will continue to put on weight with bottle age. 2025-2075+. **98+.**



Pruning time in December in Gevrey-Chambertin.

Domaine Trapet Père et Fils (Gevrey-Chambertin)

Jean-Louis Trapet has made magical 2013s and his range must indeed be one of the very finest to be found anywhere in the Côte de Nuits in this vintage. The Trapet cellars were a bit colder than several I visited this December, as winter has been slow to unfold this year in Burgundy and November was still autumnal in temp, but the Trapet cellars were quite a bit cooler than most and the wines were starting to show lovely structural elements as a result. The yields at Domaine Trapet were not better in 2013 than in 2012, as Jean-Louis commented that “the poor flowering cut the crop back from the spring, and then we had to be very strict with

sorting to make sure that only the best grapes went into the cuves this year, and in the end, we have the same yields as last year.” As a result, there is only a single bottling of blended Gevrey premier cru this year (as was the case last year as well), rather than various crus, as there was simply not enough to make rationally-sized cuvées of each premier cru. Jean-Louis has dubbed the blended premier cru bottling “Cuvée Alea” in 2013 (perhaps that was its name in 2012 as well, but I have not seen that wine bottled, only out of barrel last year). As an old vine blend of Corbeaux, Clos Prieur and Petite Chapelle, it has a great foundation and the wine may well be even better in 2013 than it was in 2012, where it was outstanding! A few of the wines were a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but Jean-Louis was planning to rack them quite soon and is likely to bottle a bit earlier this year, as he was very content with the balance the wines were showing in mid-December and felt there was not really a whole lot of reason to prolong the élevage of most of the wines a lot longer, as they were really at a superb point in their evolutions.

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The Trapet 2013 Bourgogne Blanc was bottled right before harvest. The wine hails from vines primarily in Marsannay, though a percentage of the chardonnay vines used for this bottling also lie next door in Couchey. The wine offers up a pretty nose of pear, peach, a nice base of soil tones, citrus oil and just a bit of leanness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and vibrant, with a good core and sneaky length and grip on the focused finish. This is a good, solid example. 2015-2020+. **87.**

2013 Bourgogne Rouge “Minima”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge “Minima”, which is raised without the addition of sulfur and sees just a touch of SO₂ at its *mise*, was bottled just before the harvest of 2014. The wine is very pretty and red fruity, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, quince, lovely spice tones and a fine base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, bright and tangy, with very good transparency, very modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the bouncy finish. I would give this a year in the cellar to allow it to blossom fully. 2016-2025+. **87+.**

2013 Marsannay- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

I really like Jean-Louis Trapet’s example of Marsannay and the 2013 will be excellent. The nose delivers a bright and very pure constellation of black cherries, plums, grilled meat, cocoa, dark soil tones and a lovely topnote of fresh nutmeg. On the palate the wine is medium-full and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a good core, fine soil inflection, quite gentle tannins and a long, tangy and nicely focused finish. This will age quite well, based primarily on its excellent acidity, and really deserves a couple of years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. Good juice and an excellent value. 2018-2035. **89+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 Gevrey AC from Domaine Trapet is extremely lovely for a village wine. The purity and transparency of the vintage are very much in evidence in this fine bottle, as the wine delivers a bouquet of black cherries, plums, dark soil tones, gamebirds, cocoa and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and youthfully complex finish. This is a very, very elegant Gevrey *villages* this year! 2019-2045. **90+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Ostrea”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The old vine cuvée of Ostrea is outstanding in 2013, with a more reserved profile than the straight Gevrey AC, but also more depth, structure and aging potential. The outstanding nose

offers up a primary blend of black cherries, dark berries, grilled meat, coffee bean, a lovely base of soil, woodsmoke and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really shows off a fine core of fruit, with lovely transparency, ripe tannins, excellent length and grip and a very long, tangy and beautifully balanced young finish. High class juice. 2020-2050. **91+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cuvée Alea” Premier Cru- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 version of Cuvée Alea was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but it did not take too much swirling in the glass to get the wine to blossom and it is very clear that this is a brilliant wine in this vintage. The outstanding nose eventually emerges to offer up scents of black cherries, dark plums, cocoa, grilled meat, black minerality, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with marvelous purity to its black fruit, stunning soil signature, ripe, suave tannins and excellent grip and backend energy on the very, very long, focused and utterly classy finish. A great premier cru in the making. 2021-2055. **94.**

2013 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 Chapelle-Chambertin from Jean-Louis Trapet is stellar. The young, pure and properly reserved nose offers up a mélange of sweet dark berries, black cherries, espresso, a very complex base of dark soil tones, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a stylish base of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very deep at the core, with great transparency, ripe, chewy tannins and stunning grip and intensity of flavor on the very long, very pure and youthful finish. A classic bottling of Chapelle. 2025-2075. **95+**.

2013 Latricières-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 Latricières-Chambertin from Domaine Trapet Père et Fils was also just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but as was the case with the Cuvée Alea, a bit of coaxing in the glass got this great wine to show its potential. The outstanding young nose offers up scents of dark berries, black plums, bitter chocolate, gamebirds, espresso, dark, cool soil tones, nutty oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely cool vintage in character, with a rock solid core, stunning soil inflection, ripe tannins and a very, very long, young and tangy finish. Another brilliant wine in the making from Jean-Louis Trapet in 2013. 2025-2075. **95+**.

2013 Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils

The 2013 Trapet Chambertin was showing beautifully at the time of my visit, with a properly reserved personality, bottomless depth and stunning purity on both the nose and palate. The stunning bouquet soars from the glass in a blend of dark plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, grilled meat, a very, very complex base of soil, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with stunning mid-palate depth, ripe, perfectly integrated tannins, lovely acids and laser-like focus on the extremely long, transparent and magical young finish. One of the wines of the vintage in 2013! 2025-2085. **97+**.

Morey St. Denis

Domaine Dujac (Morey St. Denis)

Jeremy Seysses was very, very content with how the 2013s were blossoming in the cellars as they passed their first anniversary in cask, with the inherent depth of fruit that was a bit masked by structural elements in the first year in the cellars starting to emerge nicely and the wines really starting to round into form by the time of my early December visit. As Jeremy commented, “when Jancis Robinson was here earlier in the fall, the wines were still a bit tight

and she wondered if there was enough stuffing, but the wines have just continued to blossom over the last few months and are really starting to show their true characters.” As was the case in so many cellars with the 2013s, the vintage here finished up its malos on the later side, with these secondary fermentations completing their tasks in July and August of 2014. It was once again a short crop at Domaine Dujac in 2013, with yields ranging from twenty-two to thirty hectoliters per hectare in this vintage, which means, once again, there is not going to be enough Dujac wine to go around for a thirsty world. As Jeremy noted, “though the yields were once again short in 2013, it was nothing like what they have experienced in the Côte de Beaune has experienced in the last three years.” He went on to explain that fruit ripeness ended up being quite good in 2013, despite the late flowering, long hours on the tractor mid-summer and the October harvest, but that selection was very important, as not all bunches were created equal in this year. Consequently, he did not use as many whole clusters as normal for some of his cuvées, as stem maturity was far from uniform. The Dujac Fils et Père wines had been racked only two weeks before my visit here and were resting in tank, settling in for the winter prior to bottling, and the domaine wines were still in cask awaiting racking in the next few weeks. The wines were showing beautifully across the board, though as Jeremy noted, “some wines show well each day and others are more reserved, and ironically, it is not the same wines that are more expressive each time we taste them, as they seem to open and close rather briskly at this time of year.” The 2013s at Domaine Dujac really show of their terroir to great success, and each bottling seems to be an archetypical expression of its appellation, with the typically more red fruity climats just bursting this year with red fruit, and the more black fruity inclined vineyards showing that character in spades. As Jeremy noted, “2013 is a vintage where each wine really shows its origins and the transparency in the wines is really quite impressive and classic.” The tangy acids of the vintage seem a bit more buffered out of the blocks than the 2008s did at a similar time in their evolutions, though, with the later start to the harvest in 2013, it may just be that the 2013s today are a bit more behind in their evolutions than were earlier vintages were when I tasted them during my winter trips to Burgundy. Jeremy observes that “though the 2013s have really good tangy acids, which tend to translate their underlying terroirs very nicely, they seem to have better depth of fruit than a vintage like 1996, which has remained a bit shrill, and it seems very likely that this vintage will evolve beautifully in bottle.” As the Fils et Père bottlings had just been racked, I have scored them within a range, despite the fact that they were showing pretty well for so soon after the racking, as it seems the more respectful thing to do with wines that have only recently been moved, but I would expect them to eventually place at the higher limit of the range.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Dujac Fils et Père

Jeremy Seysses noted that it is getting harder and harder to contract for fruit for the Fils et Père villages bottlings, as the succession of very short crops in the last few years in Burgundy has left *négociants* a bit desperate for supply and willing to pay a serious premium for fruit in the last couple of years. The 2013 Gevrey AC is quite lovely and very red fruity this year, offering up a pretty nose of strawberries, cherries, a touch of *sous bois*, woodsmoke and a stylish base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and nicely soil-driven in personality, with suave tannins, fine focus and grip and lovely balance on the long finish. This will certainly be a very tasty bottle of Gevrey AC with a few years bottle age. 2017-2035. **89-90.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2013 version of Chambolle AC from Dujac Fils et Père is classically red fruity and elegant in personality, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, red plums, mustard seed, coffee, woodsmoke and a nice base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, round and gently sappy at the core, with modest tannins, already a nice sense of silkiness and sneaky length and grip on the suave and stylish finish. Lovely juice. 2016-2035. **89-90.**



Jeremy Seysses in the cellars at Domaine Dujac in Morey St. Denis.

2013 Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2013 version of Morey St. Denis from Dujac Fils et Père seems likely to be really fine this year, as it offers up a bright and juicy nose of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of venison, fresh herbs, a fine base of soil and a bit of coffee in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and nicely balanced, with good stuffing at the core, modest tannins and a long, tangy and bouncy finish. Good juice. 2017-2035. **89-90+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Damodes”- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2013 les Damodes was the most grumpy wine after its recent racking of the four Fils et Père cuvées, but it was showing its displeasure at being disturbed by being more reserved than the village wines, rather than showing any true surliness. The wine will clearly be excellent, as it offers up scents of cherries, red plums, nutskin, woodsmoke and a nice base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and a bit monolithic from its recent racking,

with a fine core, lovely transparency, excellent focus and a long, suavely tannic finish. This should prove to be an excellent example of Nuits with about seven or eight years of bottle age. 2021-2045+. **90-92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Dujac

The domaine version of Chambolle *villages* in 2013 is going to be excellent, as the wine offers up a lovely purity and red fruity personality that will make this a quintessential Chambolle middleweight with a bit of bottle age. The lovely bouquet offers up a blend of cherries, strawberries, mustard seed, coffee, chalky soil tones and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and very pure on the attack, with good mid-palate depth, modest tannins and lovely grip on the long and tangy finish. Fine juice. 2018-2040. **90.**

2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The transparency and fidelity of *terroir* that characterizes the 2013 vintage is very much evident in the Domaine Dujac Morey AC this year, which may well be the finest example of this bottling I have tasted in a couple of decades of visiting here. The beautiful bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, coffee, fresh herb tones, gamebirds and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and intensely flavored, with fine focus and grip, moderate tannins, incipient sappiness at the core and a long, vibrant and classy finish. This is really lovely juice in 2013. 2018-2040. **91.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine Dujac

In the embarrassment of riches that is the Dujac lineup these days, the fine Morey premier cru bottling often gets a bit overshadowed, but the 2013 vintage is very, very strong for this wine! The very refined and elegant nose delivers a constellation of red plums, cherries, incipient *sous bois*, coffee, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure focused and full-bodied, with a superb core, lovely transparency, very suave tannins and excellent balance on the long, tangy and nascently complex finish. This is a very special vintage for this lovely wine. 2020-2055. **92.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Combottes *chez* Seysses is very red fruity this year and really shows what I think of as the quintessential character of this lovely premier cru. The bouquet is a fine mélange of strawberries, cherries, woodsmoke, complex soil tones, mustard seed, coffee and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and intensely flavored, with a very good core, lovely focus, fine-grained tannins and a long, youthful and very classy finish. 2020-2055+. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Dujac

The flowering was not particularly successful in Gruenchers in 2013, and as a result, there are only two, three hundred liter casks in the cellars this year, whereas usually there are fully four *pièces* produced from the Dujac parcel in a proper vintage. It is too bad that there is not more of the Gruenchers in 2013, as it has turned out gorgeously, and I would love to have a few magnums in the cellar as a palliative for the onset of old age down the road. The brilliant bouquet soars from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, red plums, a touch of nutskin, raw cocoa, beautiful soil tones, violets and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with great transparency and inner tension, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the tangy and utterly classic finish. *Chapeau!* 2020-2050+. **94.**

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Charmes-Chambertin was one of those wines that was pretty hunkered down at the time of my visit, but it was pretty clear that this will be a fine wine with sufficient bottle age.

The rather reserved nose offers up good depth and nascent complexity in its mix of cherries, plums, cocoa, herb tones, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure on the attack and quite soil-driven in personality, with a fine core, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the finish. A lovely example in the making. 2022-2060+. **93+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Beaumonts is the finest example of this *climat* that I have had the pleasure to taste at Domaine Dujac. The stunning nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of plums, red and black cherries, gamebirds, cocoa, fresh herbs, lovely soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with great soil signature, ripe tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and very classy finish. Beaumonts can often be a bit of a block out of the blocks, but this is so refined and elegant at such a young age that its future seems very, very bright! 2020-2055. **94**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Dujac Malconsorts is another beautiful wine in the making, offering up a very red fruity and elegant nose of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spices, duck, coffee, a beautifully complex base of soil and a lovely framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and refined, with a lovely core, stunning transparency, supple tannins and a very long, tangy and laser-like finish. Though the 2013s are putting on weight with further cask aging, it seems likely that the Dujac Malconsorts is destined to be a stellar middleweight at its apogee that seduces with its great aromatic and flavor complexity, coupled to marvelous intensity of flavor, rather than being an opulent wine at its apogee. But, for those willing to look a little deeper, this is going to be a very, very special bottle in a decade or two. 2022-2060. **94+**.

2013 Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Domaine Dujac Echézeaux is very, very red fruity in personality this year, and really revels in the inherent elegance of the vintage. The beautiful bouquet is a mix of cherries, red plums, a touch of nutskin, venison, woodsmoke, a marvelous signature of soil and a well-measured base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite soil-driven in personality out of the blocks (never a bad thing with a young grand cru!), with excellent focus and grip, suave tannins and a long, tangy and very classy finish. Great juice. 2023-2060+. **94**.

2013 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Clos de la Roche was wide open and singing at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a complex and very classy mélange of cherries, plums, venison, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, a great base of soil and a fine framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with fine-grained tannins, tangy acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and beautifully balanced finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2023-2070. **95**.

2013 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

When we started to taste the quite reserved 2013 Clos St. Denis, Jeremy Seysses chuckled, as he observed that “this wine was wide open yesterday and it was the Clos de la Roche that was shut down, and now today, it is the inverse.” In any case, this closed and grumpy wine is clearly going to be just fine in the fullness of time, as with some coaxing it reluctantly reveals an aromatic constellation of cherries, red plums, cloves, herb tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds, superb soil nuances and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and

tightly-knit, with a great soil signature, ripe tannins, bright acids and fine length and grip on the closed, but intensely flavored finish. All this needs is time. 2023-2060+. **94+**.

2013 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Domaine Dujac Bonnes-Mares is excellent, as it offers up a superb bouquet of plums, cherries, gamebirds, a marvelously complex base of soil, woodsmoke, roses, a dollop of fresh thyme and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent in personality, with fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and a very long, poised and youthful finish. Classic Bonnes-Mares in the making. 2025-2075+. **95+**.

2013 Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

The 2013 Dujac Chambertin (I love writing those two words side by side!) was quite closed at the time of my visit, but despite its more reserved personality, its ultimate quality was very easy to discern. The nose offers up a youthful blend of red plums, cherries, gamebirds, fresh herb tones, another very complex base of soil tones, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tight and very, very intensely flavored, with a sappy core, great soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and still quite primary finish. Greatness in the making here. 2025-2075. **96+**.

2013 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Dujac

The magical spice-box that is the 2013 Dujac Romanée-St-Vivant is a quintessential expression of this great vineyard. The bouquet soars from the glass in a refined prism of sappy raspberries, cherries and red plums, along with notes of exotic spices, coffee, nutty new oak and a magical base of soil nuances. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with laser-like focus, refined tannins and excellent length and grip on the bright and transparent finish. This will be a very flamboyant and elegant wine at its apogee- not an easy pair of characteristics to deliver at the same time! 2023-2060+. **97**.

2013 Morey St. Denis “Monts Luisants” Blanc- Domaine Dujac

I did not have a chance to taste the 2013 Morey AC Blanc during my visit, but the Monts Luisants Blanc was showing very well. The wine was resting in cement eggs, after having been racked out of the barrels it was fermented in a few months prior to my visit. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, quince, white flowers, chalky soil tones, a hint of the honey to come and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and succulent, with a fine core and lovely length and grip on the complex finish. Jeremy Seysses commented that “this wine was really tight and green behind its acids for most of its first year, but has been coming out nicely in the last few months.” 2015-2030+. **92**.

Domaine du Clos des Lambrays (Morey St. Denis)

I did not taste the Pulignys here in 2013, as they had just been assembled and were not in a good moment for tasting, but the three red wines here are absolutely lovely in this vintage. Thierry Brouin has agreed to stay on for a couple more vintages as Technical Director at Clos des Lambrays after its purchase by LVMH this year, and after the next two vintages, he will remain with the domaine on a consulting basis to ensure that the transition here is as seamless as possible. He is currently searching for his own replacement, which will take a special person to fill his shoes, as they will have to both direct the commercial side of the domaine and also oversee the winemaking and viticulture. The estate may well expand in the next few years, if the right parcels in Morey St. Denis can be found, as Monsieur Brouin has been on the lookout for a few years for the right opportunity in the village (wishing to keep the Domaine du Clos des Lambrays firmly a Morey St. Denis-centric estate for its red wines), and I am sure that this will

continue under the new ownership of LVMH. Monsieur Brouin and his team began picking on October the 3rd in 2013, bringing in everything in a brisk fashion, and unlike several of his colleagues, he did not report later than customary malolactic fermentations in this vintage. The reds are one hundred percent whole clusters as well in 2013, as the stems were ripe and there was less problems with millerandage here than at other domaines- particularly after the strict selection process. The yields are not a whole lot better here than in 2012 for the red wines, but at least there will be individual bottlings of Folatières and Caillerets in 2013, which I have to imagine are excellent, given Monsieur Brouin's track record with these Pulignys and the overall very high quality of the white wines of 2013. Perhaps I will find time to stop by and taste them during my spring trip. The red wines had not yet been racked at the time of my December 18th visit (the last of sixteen days of tasting in the Côte d'Or) and the Morey AC bottling was just a touch reduced, but all three reds showed marvelous potential and it is quite clear that Monsieur Brouin has not missed the opportunity that nature provided in 2013.



2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine du Clos des Lambrays

Despite being a bit reduced at the time of my visit, it is quite clear that this will be a lovely village wine in 2013. The bouquet eventually, after a bit of swirling, offers up a fine blend of red and black cherries, a lovely base of soil, a bit of bonfire and lovely notes of dark chocolate that recall the 1993 vintage here. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very

precise, with a good core, tangy acids, modest tannins and impressive length and grip on the well-balanced finish. A fine AC. 2019-2045. **90.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine du Clos des Lambrays

The Premier Cru bottling of Morey St. Denis from the domaine hails from parcels in the two vineyards of La Riotte and La Village (an odd name for a premier cru!) and the wine is superb in 2013. The very classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, gamebirds, espresso, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a discreet base of vanillin oak and a lovely topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with fine focus, tangy acids and lovely complexity on the long, suavely tannic finish. High class juice here and probably a terrific value (in the context of premier cru pricing these days). 2021-2050+. **92+.**

2013 Clos des Lambrays- Domaine du Clos des Lambrays

The 2013 Clos des Lambrays will be another legendary vintage for this great cuvée. The stunningly refined nose delivers a brilliant constellation of red and black cherries, dark plums, cassis, woodsmoke a beautiful base of minerality, espresso, gamebirds, cocoa and a deft framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent in personality out of the blocks, with a rock solid core of sappy black fruit, fine-grained tannins and stellar length and grip on the laser-like and dancing finish. This will end up being one of the greatest vintages of Clos des Lambrays from the Brouin era, and there have been an awful lot of great wines made during his tenure here! 2023-2075. **96.**

Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils (Morey St. Denis)

As I have observed on a number of occasions over the last several years, Laurent Lignier is truly making beautiful wines at his family's domaine, and he has once again fashioned an absolutely stellar range of wines in 2013. Given how brilliant the lineup of Lignier wines was here in 2012, I was wondering what Laurent would do for an encore, but the 2013s are another very strong and site specific group of wines that perfectly capture all of the potential inherent in this vintage. Monsieur Lignier and his team began picking on October 6th in 2013 and completed the collection of the crop within a single week this year, working briskly through the cold temperatures to bring in the grapes as fast as humanly possible. The malolactic fermentations here were generally quite late in 2013, but as was the case in several other cellars, they varied from cuvée to cuvée, so for example, the Gevrey AC cuvées generally finished up in March of 2014, but the Morey villages not until the end of August! Monsieur Lignier only has one wine from the Côte de Beaune these days, which is his superb village level bottling of Pommard “Chanlins”, so he felt very fortunate not to have been too affected by the brunt of the hail in July. As I noted in the vintage summary, he did lose two-thirds of his crop in Chanlins in 2013, as the remaining bunches after the hail produced all of ten hectoliters per hectare, but his yields were not too bad in his Côte de Nuits vineyards and were a bit above the levels here in 2012. However, it will not be until 2014 that the domaine again has a reasonable crop, and 2013 is still a fairly short yield chez Lignier. I did not taste the 2013 Bourgogne this year, and I did not write down why this was the case in my tasting book and cannot recall why, but I imagine it may well have been bottled fairly recently. I also did not taste the Morey “Trés Girard” bottling here that I enjoyed so much in 2012, and again, I am not certain. A this wine is made from purchased grapes, it may be that the proprietor did not have enough production in 2013 to sell any grapes. The remainder of the 2013 lineup had not yet been racked after the completion of their malos and were still resting comfortably on their fine lees in cask when I dropped by the domaine on

December 11th to taste the new vintage here. As has been the case for several years, the lineup of village level bottlings is particularly strong here again in 2013 and if I were a Burgundy lover dismayed about the constant march up in prices of the top premier and grand crus from the region, I would not hesitate to focus on the great range of village wines that Laurent Lignier has produced in 2013, as they will age beautifully and deliver enormous pleasure at their apogees.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 Chambolle AC from Domaine Lignier is a lovely village wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a very pure blend of strawberries, red and black cherries, fresh thyme, cocoa, a lovely base of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and quite suave on the attack, with a lovely core, bouncy acids and just a touch of tannin perking up the long and nicely transparent finish. A lovely example. 2019-2040+. **89+**.

2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

Despite being one of the latter wines in the cellar to complete its malo, the Morey *villages* was showing beautifully at the time of my visit with Laurent Lignier. The pure and vibrant nose delivers an excellent mélange of black cherries, plums, cocoa, dark soil tones, gamebirds and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite mineral in personality out of the blocks, with tangy acids, a fine core, lovely soil drive on the backend and a long, vibrant and ripe tannic finish. Fine juice. 2019-2045. **90+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 La Justice from Laurent Lignier is really a lovely, pure and red fruity example of the vintage, offering up a fine constellation of cherries, *fraises du bois*, mustard seed, coffee, a complex base of soil tones and again, a nice smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, excellent soil signature and a long, vibrant and classy finish that closes with a nice touch of almost silky tannins. A supremely elegant Gevrey *villages*. 2018-2040. **90**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 Gevrey AC from the domaine’s own vines is also outstanding, showing a bit more reserve in its personality than the La Justice bottling. The complex bouquet offers up scents of red and black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, black minerality and both mustard seed and fresh thyme in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a rock solid core of fruit, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and lovely purity already in evidence on the long and classic finish. Another very high-quality village wine. 2021-2045. **90+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Poisets”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

Les Poisets is a beautifully-situated *lieu à dit*, resting below les Cailles and Les St. Georges on the slope. Laurent is quite enamored of this *terroir*, and the 2013, which is his fourth vintage working with this parcel is excellent. The superb nose is quite red fruity this year, offering up scents of cherries, strawberries, a touch of quince, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with ripe, suave tannins, good acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and quite soil-driven finish. This will be a very elegant rendition of Nuits St. Georges when it is fully mature. 2021-2045+. **90+**.

2013 Pommard “Chanlins”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

I have been extremely impressed with Laurent Lignier’s bottling of Chanlins, which lies in the *villages* section of this vineyard, right on the Volnay border between Rugiens Hauts and the stony *lieu à dit* of Sur Roches across the boundary in Volnay. It is too bad that there is such a

short crop here in 2013, as Monsieur Lignier has crafted a beautiful bottle of young Pommard here, with the wine delivering a fine bouquet of cherries, quince, raw cocoa, an excellent signature of soil, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and potentially very elegant, with a fine core of fruit, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the youthful finish. 2021-2050. **91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Chabiots”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

To my recollection, this is the first vintage that Laurent Lignier has purchased grapes from the premier cru of Chabiots. This particular parcel with which he works lies right on the border of the vineyard, with les Amoureuses running alongside these Chabiots vines on the slope and les Hauts Doix just below. This is an outstanding new addition to the Domaine Lignier lineup, offering up a pure and very classy bouquet of red and black cherries, roses, cocoa, gamebirds, mustard seed and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very elegant on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, excellent transparency, bright acids and velvety tannins on the long, complex and refined finish. A beautiful bottle of Chambolle. 2021-2055+. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

As is typical of les Baudes, the 2013 *chez* Lignier is quite a bit more black fruity in personality than the lovely Chabiots, wafting from the glass in a cool and classic constellation of cassis, black cherries, a touch of currant leaf, smoke, dark soil tones, mustard seed, dark chocolate and just a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent this year, with a superb core of black fruit, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the balanced and beautifully focused finish. Excellent wine. 2022-2060+. **92+.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “la Riotte”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 vintage of la Riotte is an excellent follow-up to the fine result Monsieur Lignier realized in this vineyard in 2012. The pure and simply beautiful nose delivers a mélange of red and black cherries, coffee, beautiful, chalky soil tones, fresh thyme, cocoa and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent out of the blocks, with a sappy core of fruit, tangy acids and outstanding backend energy on the long and ripely tannic finish. A beautiful wine from one of Morey’s most elegant premier crus. 2020-2045. **92.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “les Chaffots”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 les Chaffots was just a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but with some swirling, the wine blossomed very nicely in the glass. The bouquet is a nascently complex blend of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, venison, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice touch of fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and nicely reserved, with a fine core of potentially sappy black fruit, lovely soil signature, fine-grained tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long finish. Excellent juice. 2023-2065. **92+.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

Given how spectacularly these old nearly eighty year-old vines did in 2012, I was not sure how the 2013 was going to be able to keep pace, but the follow-up vintage is every bit as beautiful as the 2012! The stunning nose offers up a very precise and classic bouquet of red and black cherries, gamebirds, superb minerality, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, rose petals and a deft framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with lovely transparency, a rock solid core, ripe tannins and a very long, very refined and tangy finish. A great bottle of premier cru in the making. 2023-2065+. **94.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “la Perrière”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The parcel of vines that Laurent Lignier works with in la Perrière are also, for the most part, quite old, as a section was planted in 1936, another section in 1947, and a small subplot replanted after the frosts of 1985. I was unaware until this visit that Laurent also tends these vines during the growing season, rather than just purchasing the grapes. The wine is utterly fantastic in 2013, soaring from the glass in a refined aromatic constellation of black cherries, cassis, black minerality, espresso, woodsmoke, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a fine core of black fruit, outstanding soil inflection, ripe tannins and a very, very long, structured and extremely mineral finish that almost closes with a sense of saltiness from the soil! A beautiful wine. 2023-2065. **93+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 Domaine Lignier Combottes is another outstanding wine in the making. The pure and quintessential bouquet delivers a mélange of red and black cherries, red plums, coffee, a fine base of soil, gamebirds, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined, with lovely mid-palate depth, very suave tannins, excellent focus and balance and a very long, transparent and nascently complex finish. Just lovely juice. 2023-2060+. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Cuvée Didiers”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The Hospices de Nuits bottling of Cuvée Didiers from 2013 is going to be lovely in the Lignier cellars, and as Laurent reported buying eight barrels in this vintage, this will be one of the easier wines to find from the domaine in this short crop. While this is more marked by its smoky oak component than any of the other wines in the cellar, it is still outstanding juice, as it soars from the glass in a fine blend of cassis, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, *pigeon* and a well-integrated base of smoky new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nascently complex, with a fine core of fruit, ripe, suave tannins, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced and dynamic finish. This will be a lovely wine in the fullness of time. 2021-2055+. **93+**.

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The domaine’s Charmes-Chambertin (actually all these vines are in Mazoyères) is outstanding in 2013, offering up a deep and youthfully complex nose of red and black cherries, grilled meats, woodsmoke, a complex base of soil tones, coffee, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality this year, with a fine sense of reserve, a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the well-balanced and utterly classic finish. 2023-2075+. **94+**.

2013 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils

The 2013 Domaine Lignier Clos de la Roche is a brilliant wine. The bouquet delivers a superb aromatic constellation of black cherries, sweet dark berries, espresso, a touch of *Pain Épice*, a complex base of dark soil tones, venison, woodsmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with a fine sense of reserve, outstanding soil signature, ripe, firm tannins and great backend energy and grip on the very, very long, youthful finish. A brilliant young Clos de la Roche. 2025-2075+. **96+**.



The lower section of the Les Corbeaux, as one leaves the village of Gevrey on the Route des Grands Crus.

Domaine Taupenot-Merme (Morey St. Denis)

Romain Taupenot has made another absolutely superb range of wines in 2013, having begun harvesting on October 3rd in this vintage and bringing in all of his fruit within a week. The malolactic fermentations in 2013 were fairly late, having all finished up sometimes between June and August of 2014, but not quite as late here as at some addresses up and down the Côte. I was very pleased to see that Romain has purchased a few cuvées from the Hospices de Nuits in 2013, and has again done so in 2014, as he is yet another vigneron who is very content with the quality of the wines being produced here in recent times. Romain Taupenot was school mates with Laurent Lignier of Domaine Hubert Lignier and it would be interesting to compare their respective bottlings from the Hospices de Nuits sometime down the road, as they split a few of the lots between themselves and the 2013s were showing excellent potential at both addresses. Monsieur Taupenot commented that the Hospices de Nuits certainly uses more new wood than he would for his own domaine wines, and he finds the wines fairly marked by the new wood early on in their evolutions, but is convinced that this falls away with bottle age and that he will have no issues with the style of the wines when they are ready to drink. Please note that the Hospices de Nuits wines will be labeled “Romain Taupenot” rather than “Domaine Taupenot-Merme”. I always enjoy tasting with Romain Taupenot, as he is very intellectually curious and our conversations over the course of a visit range far and wide (occasionally getting back to the wine in the glass in front of us!) and it is great fun visiting here each year. And, of course, it does not

hurt that the wines are absolutely excellent in 2013! At least I had the good sense this year not to schedule another appointment after my visit here, so that we could chat along happily in whatever direction our conversation took, without having to make another vigneron await my late arrival.

2013 Auxey-Duresses- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Auxey-Duresses AC from Romain Taupenot had only been racked five weeks before my visit, but had bounced back nicely and was showing very well in early December. The bright and red fruity bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, quince, fresh thyme, a lovely base of soil and coffee. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and has a lovely core of red fruit, with fine soil signature, moderate tannins and really lovely length and grip on the gently tannic and tangy finish. A beautiful bottle of village level Auxey that will be approachable early on, but which really deserves four or five years to really come into its own. This will be a terrific value. 2019-2040. **89.**

2013 Auxey-Duresses “Premier Cru”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The premier cru bottling of Auxey-Duresses was also showing very well at the time of my visit, but is cut from a more reserved cloth and will need a bit more bottle age to realize its true potential. The fine nose is deeper and more closed than the *villages* bottling, offering up scents of red and black cherries, vinesmoke, a touch of espresso, fresh herbs, dark soil tones and a bit of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and youthful, with a fine core, moderate tannins, good acids and lovely length and grip on the still quite primary finish. Good juice in the making here. 2021-2045. **90+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* was not showing quite as generously as the two wines from Auxey, as the nose is a bit moderate in its expression of ripeness at the present time, though the palate is quite lovely. The bouquet is a blend of cherries, red plums, fresh herb tones, a bit of white pepper, coffee and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and tangy, with moderate tannins, good focus and grip and nice length on the youthful finish. I am not sure if this wine is just a bit late emerging from its malo, or if it will always be a bit on the lean side. 2022-2045+. **87-89+?**

2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

Whereas the Chambolle AC was cranky, the 2013 Morey *villages* was absolutely singing and showed lovely potential in its aromatic constellation of cherries, plums, a classic touch of beetroot, cola, fine soil tones and a nice whiff of mustard seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely concentrated at the core, with lovely focus and grip, suave tannins and a long, tangy finish that shows outstanding backend energy. A fine example. 2020-2040+. **90+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Gevrey AC from Romain Taupenot is also excellent. The bouquet is bright and quite red fruity and floral this year, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, strawberries, espresso, rose petals, black minerality, mustard seed and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with lovely intensity of flavor, fine nascent complexity, bright acids, moderate tannins and lovely length and grip on the transparent and classy finish. Great value! 2020-2040+. **91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “la Combe d’Orveau”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The domaine’s old vines in Combe d’Orveau have done a very nice job in 2013 in ripening completely and delivering superb soil signature in the finished wine. The excellent bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of red plums, cherries, coffee, fresh herb tones, lovely *terroir* and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and already quite silky in texture, with a plump core of fruit, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and beautifully balanced finish. Fine juice. 2022-2050+. **92.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “la Riotte”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 La Riotte from Taupenot-Merme is equally fine, delivering a superb bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, venison, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and soil-driven, with an excellent core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, excellent focus and grip and plenty of backend energy on the long and classy finish. This too is old vines and they have really produced a refined and complex wine in 2013! 2022-2055. **92+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Bel Air”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Bel Air from Romain Taupenot is one of his top premier crus in this vintage, as the wine beautifully synthesizes pure and vibrant fruit tones with strikingly transparent *terroir*. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a constellation of black cherries, dark berries, black minerality, espresso, mustard seed, incipient notes of the grilled meats to come and a deft touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and complex, with great mid-palate depth, wonderful soil inflection, suave tannins and a very long, tangy and seamless finish. Bel Air is a very interesting premier cru in Gevrey-Chambertin that often seems to be a bit overlooked, but I tasted some stellar examples from this vineyard in 2013 and it may be that this cooler *climat* really excelled in this vintage. 2021-2055. **93.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

As is typical with young Nuits, the 2013 Pruliers *chez* Taupenot is the most reserved of the domaine’s premier crus in this vintage, but its potential is readily apparent. The fine and youthful bouquet offers up scents of sweet dark berries, game, dark soil tones, a touch of currant leaf, woodsmoke and a lovely topnote of fresh thyme. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in profile, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and a long, vibrant and soil-driven finish. This will be excellent, but it will need a bit more time to blossom. 2023-2055. **92+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Terres Blanches”- Romain Taupenot (Hospices de Nuits)

This was the first time I had tasted the Terres Blanches bottling from the Hospices de Nuits, that hails from the *lieu à dit* of the same name that lies upslope from les Didiers and les Forêts in the village of Prémieux. The wine is going to be very nice indeed from Romain Taupenot, as it offers up a fine nose of black cherries, cassis, cola, gamebirds, dark soil and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and beautifully focused, with a fine core, excellent transparency and a long, energetic and ripely tannic finish. This is a bit more new oaky today than the domaine’s own wines, as Romain observed, but the wine is beautifully balanced and will have no trouble whatsoever in integrating its new wood seamlessly with bottle age. A fine, fine bottling. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Cuvée Cabet”- Romain Taupenot (Hospices de Nuits)

The Cuvée Cabet from the Hospices de Nuits is the young vine bottling from Didiers, and it too is going to be a lovely example of the vintage *chez* Taupenot. The bouquet is a superb mélange of black cherries, dark berries, coffee bean, dark soil tones, mustard seed, incipient notes of bonfire and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite vibrant

in personality, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, ripely tannic finish. The younger vines here have not produced quite the same caliber of soil signature as in the Terres Blanches, but this too is a fine bottle in the making. 2019-2045. **91+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Cuvée Didiers”- Romain Taupenot (Hospices de Nuits)

It is hard to argue with the placement of Les Didiers on the slope, as this is simply a continuation southwards into Prémieux of Les St. Georges! The 2013 from Romain Taupenot is outstanding, wafting from the glass in a blend of dark berries, cassis, espresso, gamebirds, dark soil tones, herbs, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very promising, with a lovely core of fruit, very suave tannins, excellent soil signature and a very long, focused and refined young finish. Excellent wine in the making! 2023-2060. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Romain Taupenot (Hospices de Nuits)

The Les St. Georges from the Hospices de Nuits is also outstanding in the Taupenot cellars in 2013. The bouquet shows more early complexity than the Cuvée Didiers, delivering a fine constellation of cassis, sweet dark berries, nutskin, coffee bean, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds, cola and smoky new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and extremely soil-driven, with outstanding mid-palate depth, impeccable focus and grip, ripe, refined tannins and superb balance on the very long and youthful finish. First class juice. 2023-2060. **94**.

2013 Corton “Rognet”- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Corton “Rognet” from Domaine Taupenot-Merme is also outstanding, offering up a deep and youthfully black fruity bouquet of dark berries, black cherries, coriander, French roast, stony dark soil tones, game and a bit of pepper in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and a very long, soil-driven and chewy finish. This will need time to blossom, but should be excellent. 2023-2060+. **93+**.

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The domaine’s Charmes-Chambertin has turned out beautifully in 2013, as it offers up a nicely reserved and very classy aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, venison, coffee mustard seed, woodsmoke, a touch of new wood and an absolutely superb base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with great balance, suave, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the nascently complex and very pure finish. A great bottle of Charmes in the making. 2023-2060. **94+**.

2013 Mazoyères-Chambertin- Domaine Taupenot-Merme

The 2013 Mazoyères-Chambertin from Domaine Taupenot-Merme is the top wine in the cellar this year, which is not surprising, as this has been the case in every vintage that I have had the pleasure to taste *sur place* here. The 2013 will be extra special, as it delivers an absolutely stellar bouquet of cassis, dark berries, espresso, black minerality, incipient notes of the meatiness to come, mustard seed, woodsmoke, a touch of cedar and a nice vein of Mazoyères vegetation (which I also find often in young Mazis-Chambertin as well). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and extremely transparent this year, with glorious depth in the mid-palate, outstanding focus and grip, ripe tannins and a very, very long, soil-driven and refined finish. A great wine. 2023-2060+. **95+**.

Domaine Cecile Trémbly (Morey St. Denis)

Cecile Trémbly has added a cute young son to her family since my last visit here a year ago, and given her penchant for having children only in top quality vintages (☺), I am sure that her 2014s will be every bit as magnificent as her 2012s have turned out in her daughter's birth year! However, my job this past December was to handicap Madame Trémbly's 2013's, which was certainly not hard work by any stretch of the imagination, as the wines have turned out beautifully. Cecile is very happy with the vintage, which she terms "a combination of 2008 and 2010", and the wines were showing beautiful potential at the time of my visit. As she noted, "2013 was a vintage of almost constant work in the vineyards all year long, but then, the fermentations were effortless and the wines almost made themselves this year once they got into the cellars." Madame Trémbly started harvesting on October 2nd in 2013 and she had not yet racked any of the wines at the time of my visit in early December, though she had adjusted the sulfurs at the end of September. Like Jeremy Seysses, she commented that the wines were changing day to day at the moment, so that a wine that would be wide open and showing beautifully one day would close down and seem quite reserved the next time she tasted it. She observed that she had been really a bit disappointed early on with her fine Morey AC bottling of "Trés Girard", and had not tasted the wine for many months, only to finally dip in the pipette to a barrel recently and find the wine had blossomed beautifully and was really turning out to be a lovely village wine. I did not taste the Nuits St. Georges "Murgers" here this year, and I am not sure why, but it may be that we were so busy chatting about the relative merits of various terroirs (and how ludicrously underrated Chappelle-Chambertin is in general!) that we simply missed the decanter of the Murgers, as Cecile had prepared the samples in decanters to allow them to open up a bit.

2013 Bourgogne "la Croix Blanche" Rouge- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

The 2013 Bourgogne rouge from Cecile Trémbly is one of the more closed down wines in the cellars right now, but it has excellent mid-palate stuffing and a really fine sense of balance and I am sure this will be a lovely example of the vintage. The bouquet reluctantly offers up scents of black cherries, plums, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and nicely balanced, with just a touch of tannin and impressive length and grip on the youthful finish. This should turned out to be quite a perfumed and elegant rendition of Bourgogne rouge with a bit of bottle age. 2016-2030. **88.**

2013 Morey St. Denis "Trés Girard"- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

The 2013 Morey St. Denis "Trés Girard"- Cecile's "ugly duckling" a year ago, was really singing at the time of my December visit. The wine is already impressively complex out of the blocks, wafting from the glass in a refined blend of black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, a bit of espresso and a delicate base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a lovely core of fruit, tangy acids, moderate tannins and excellent focus and balance on the long and classy finish. Not sure now this was showing early on, but today, this is a very high class bottle of *villages*! 2019-2040. **91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny "les Cabottes"- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

As I noted last year, Cecile Trémbly's les Cabottes bottling of Chambolle *villages* is made from three small parcels of vines in the *lieux à dits* of les Fremières, aux Exchanges and les Maladières. The first two lie up slope, just below the premier crus on the north side of the village (with half of aux Exchanges actually ranked as premier cru), but les Maladières lies at the base of the slope and abuts the *Route Nationale*. Cecile notes that she uses the vines on the lower part of

her parcel in les Maladières for her Bourgogne, and only the top half of that particular parcel go into the Chambolle AC. The 2013 was one of the more closed wines at the time of my visit, and the slightly reduced nose reluctantly offered up scents of plums, blood orange, cocoa, fresh herb tones, a nice touch of soil and a stylish framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and well-balanced, with a good core, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and focused finish. I suspect that this will be every bit as fine as the Morey “Trés Girard” in the fullness of time, but it is a bit grumpy today. 2019-2040. **90-91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

As I mentioned last year, Cecile Trémbly’s father split his plot of Feusselottes with Dr. Georges Mugneret back in 1985, so the two domaines’ parcels of vines lie right next to each other in the vineyard and we talked about how interesting it would be to do a vertical of the two bottlings side by side one day in the future. The two wines certainly start out life quite differently in personality, but I suspect that there would be convergence of the two with some extended bottle age. We will have to wait a few years for some of the more recent vintages to get a bit of bottle age before I write that report. In any event, the 2013 is excellent, offering up a deep and sappy bouquet of red plums, cherries, raw cocoa, nutskins, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, a bit of fresh thyme, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a superb core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, tangy and suavely tannic finish. A beautiful bottle of Feusselottes in the making. 2021-2050. **93.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Rouges Dessus”- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

As Les Rouges Dessus is a very cool vineyard, lying up above Beaumonts on the steep slope in this section of Flagey, Cecile will normally harvest this at least ten days later than any of her other parcels, but this was not an option in 2013, as rain was forecast for the second week in October, so this parcel was picked earlier than normal. The flowering here was difficult and there is only a single barrel this year, which is too bad, as the wine is outstanding. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a lovely blend of raspberries, red plums, duck, fresh nutmeg, coffee, Vosne spices and a nice base of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a sappy core, lovely soil inflection, ripe tannins and really excellent volume on the focused and long, tangy finish. Fine, fine juice. 2023-2050+. **93.**

2013 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

Cecile Trémbly’s 2013 Chapelle-Chambertin is a great wine in the making. The truly magical nose delivers an aromatic constellation of plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a beautifully complex base of soil and a very stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with a sappy core of fruit, striking transparency, ripe tannins and outstanding focus and complexity on the very long and tangy finish. A brilliant wine! 2025-2075. **96.**

2013 Echézeaux- Domaine Cecile Trémbly

Last year, I had a very slight preference for the Echézeaux in the cellar over the Chapelle, but this year it seems to be a photo finish, as both wines are utterly stunning! As readers will recall, Cecile Trémbly’s parcel of Echézeaux lies in the *lieu à dit* of Du Dessus (right above Grands Echézeaux), and her vines are approximately fifty years of age. The 2013 offers up a beautiful bouquet of red plums, black cherries, duck, cocoa, a marvelously complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh nutmeg and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again very, very pure on the attack, with an outstanding core, ripe, seamless tannins and outstanding length and grip on the very elegant and complex finish. Great juice. 2025-2075. **96.**

Chambolle-Musigny

Domaine Ghislaine Barthod (Chambolle-Musigny)

Ghislaine Barthod has made beautiful wines in 2013 from her superb selection of Chambolle premier cru holdings. Yields here in 2013 were pretty much on par with 2011, which is a significant improvement from the very small crop of 2012 chez Barthod, but there is no Chambolle “Combottes” in 2013, as after rigorous sorting, there was simply not enough grapes to produce a cuvée and the grapes went into the Chambolle AC bottling this year. Malos were late at the domaine, so most wines had not yet been racked at the time of my visit on the 11th of December, with one or two starting to show a bit of reduction, but most in absolutely fine form and showing superb potential. Madame Barthod began harvesting on October 1st in 2013, bringing in the fruit in less than a week. Though the malos were late here, Madame Barthod felt that the wines were really starting to reach a superb point of balance in mid-December and she was inclined to think of bottling them a bit on the earlier side, just to keep them at this beautiful point of equilibrium. They really are strikingly fine examples of pure fruit, singularly refined soil signatures and very suave structures, and it seems likely that 2013 will be one of the top recent vintages at this consistently excellent Chambolle estate. Each and every wine this year just sings of its underlying terroir! The consistent excellence of all the 2013s chez Barthod is quite remarkable, and this will be one vintage where each and every wine will be a fine addition to the cellar and it will make absolutely zero sense to pass on one premier cru because another one was on your shopping list, but unavailable from your wine merchant! One can buy with impunity in the Barthod cellars in 2013 and rest assured that there will be great bottles of Chambolle in your future!

2013 Bourgogne “Bons Batons”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

These lovely vines in Gilly consistently produce one of the most stylish Bourgogne bottlings in the Côte de Nuits and the 2013 will be no exception. The nose is very stylish this year, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, strawberries, a touch of cocoa, lovely soil tones and a dollop of fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, focused and nicely transparent, with sound depth and just a touch of backend tannin on the surprisingly long finish. Good juice. 2015-2025+. **87+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* from Ghislaine Barthod is a fine example, offering up a lovely and classic bouquet of cherries, a touch of quince, blood orange, violets, lovely minerality and coffee. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a fine core, excellent soil signature, bright acids and fine focus and grip on the modestly tannic finish. This will need a few years to blossom, but will be a delightful bottle of Chambolle. 2020-2050+. **89+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Chatelots”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The Chatelots was one of the few 2013s in the cellars that had already been racked, which occurred three weeks prior to my visit. The wine was still a bit upset from its racking, but showed good potential on both the nose and palate. The bouquet delivers scents of plums, cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a fine base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and quite soil-driven in personality, with fine-grained tannins, tangy acids and plenty of mid-palate depth that seems likely to get sappy with bottle age. The finish is long and there is plenty of grip here. Fine juice in the making. 2021-2055+. **90-92**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Beaux Bruns”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2013 Beaux Bruns from Domaine Barthod was the other premier cru that had already been racked, but this was done so two weeks earlier than the Chatelots and the wine was in a far better mood for tasting as a result. The excellent and very precise nose wafts from the glass in a blend of plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a touch of rose petal in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with lovely transparency and grip, fine focus and a very long, poised and ripely tannic finish. Beautiful juice. 2021-2055. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2013 les Baudes from Madame Barthod is another absolutely gorgeous young Chambolle, offering up a pure and floral nose of black cherries, plums, cocoa, fairly dark soil tones (for a Chambolle), incipient notes of gamebird, a lovely base of soil, vanillin oak and violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a lovely core, suave, perfectly integrated tannins, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the well-balanced and stylish finish. Superb young wine. 2020-2055. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The Gruenchers *chez* Barthod seems to get better with each passing vintage and the 2013 is very, very strong. The lovely bouquet jumps from the glass in a red fruity blaze of strawberries, cherries, roses, cocoa powder, complex, chalky minerality, a touch of nutskin and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very transparent in personality, with a sappy core of red fruit, suave tannins and a very, very long, very elegant finish. I love this wine this year (but, perhaps I have said that before?) for its absolutely quintessential personality. 2020-2055. **93+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2013 Charmes from Ghislaine is also excellent in this vintage, with a bit more of a sense of reserve out of the blocks than the Gruenchers. The fine nose delivers a constellation of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, a bit of nutskin, a lovely base of soil and just a whiff of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance, tangy acids and excellent grip on the nascently complex and ripely tannic finish. Fine, fine juice in the making. 2021-2055. **92+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” - Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The Domaine Barthod version of les Fuées is even a bit more reserved than the Charmes out of the blocks in 2013, but this will clearly be one of the best wines in the cellar this year. The youthful and very, very promising nose wafts from the glass in a blend of pomegranate, red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, nutskin, a superb signature of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine-grained tannins, lovely vibrancy and backend energy and a very long, focused and soil-driven finish. 2022-2060. **93+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Veroilles”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The les Veroilles can sometimes be a bit bound up in its structure in its youth, but the 2013 just exudes elegance and purity this year and it is quite clear that this is a special vintage for this wine. The lovely nose delivers a very red fruity mélange of cherries, red plums, nutskin, fresh thyme, violets, gamebirds and a deep base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and well-balanced, with fine mid-palate depth, lovely focus and fine grip on the ripely tannic and nicely structured finish. Fine juice. 2020-2055. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod

The 2013 les Cras from Ghislaine Barthod will be one of the finest premier crus produced in Chambolle in this vintage. The beautifully complex, pure and properly reserved nose delivers a superb blend of red and black cherries, pomegranate, a very complex base of soil tones, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and stunningly transparent, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, laser-like focus and outstanding length and grip on the vibrant and dancing finish. Given this beautiful bottle of Chambolle a good decade in the cellar to allow it to reach full maturity, and then revel in your good sense to have purchased it for the following three or four decades! Great wine. 2023-2060+. 94+.



One of Sydney's top sommeliers, Alex Kirkwood of Momofuku Seibo, with Ghislaine Barthod and Louis Boillot.

Domaine Louis Boillot (Chambolle-Musigny)

It is always great fun tasting in the cellars with Louis Boillot and Ghislaine Barthod, as of course, they share cellaring space and invariably, one will meet someone tasting with Madame Barthod while one is working through the Boillot side of the cellar, or vice versa, which makes for a very convivial atmosphere for tasting. This year, after starting with Ghislaine's wines, as a truck showed up to pick up wines from Monsieur Boillot almost immediately after my arrival at the domaine, I settled in to work through the fine range of Louis Boillot's 2013 wines and had the pleasure to make the acquaintance of one of Australia's top sommeliers, Alex

Kirkwood, who is based in Sydney at Momofuku Seibo, which will now be my first stop on any future visit to Sydney. Louis Boillot has made truly outstanding 2013s, though of course, with half of his vineyards in the Côte de Beaune, he has some pretty microscopic cuvées in the cellar from some of his vineyard holdings in 2013. He is toying with the idea of only bottling magnums of his very shortest cuvées in 2013 from the Côte de Beaune, as some of these wines are absolutely magical and have the potential for long and illustrious lives in bottle (or magnum), but he was not certain of this at the time of my visit. Monsieur Boillot was to assemble all of the Côte de Beaune wines into tank the week after my visit, as he was very satisfied with their evolution in barrel and felt it was a good time to get them ready for bottling. The Côte de Nuits wines here were to spend a bit longer in barrel prior to their assemblage. Most of the wines came in with natural alcohol levels around 11.5 percent this year and most were chapitalized about a full degree, but Monsieur Boillot was very content with the phenolic maturity in the grapes and is quite happy about how the wines have blossomed during the course of their élevage. He felt it was incumbent upon vignerons to treat the vintage gently during the fermentations, so he did no pushing down of the caps to be gentle with his extractions, feeling the inherent beauty of this vintage was going to be found in its purity and elegance. These qualities he has realized with great success across the board in 2013, as these are beautiful young wines that will age very well indeed, but many will offer up early pleasure, due to their absolutely seamless balances and very suave tannins.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Louis Boillot

Th3e 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from Louis Boillot is really a lovely and very stylish example of this appellation, wafting from the glass in a red fruity blend of cherries, raspberries, cocoa, a nice base of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite suave already on the attack, with a nice core and a long, expressive and wide open finish. A lovely middleweight. 2015-2025. **88.**

2013 Beaune “Epenottes”- Domaine Louis Boillot

Monsieur Boillot lost fifty percent of the crop in Epenottes to the hail in July, and the wine was showing a touch less energy than most of the other Côte de Beaune reds in the cellar at the time of my visit. The bouquet offers up scents of cherries, plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a fine base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite laid back in personality, with nice transparency, modest tannins and good length on the balanced finish. This is not bad at all and will drink well from an early age, but it does not possess its customary vibrancy in 2013. 2017-2030+. **88+.**

2013 Pommard- Domaine Louis Boillot

Louis Boillot’s holdings in Pommard AC vineyards were hit hard by the frosts in 2010, so that one-third of the vineyard had to be replanted after that winter. Add a fifty percent reduction due to the hail in 2013 and one can imagine just how few casks there are of this wine, which is too bad, as it is really quite a stylish village level Pommard in this vintage, delivering a fine nose of red and black cherries, plums, nutskins, a touch of venison, woodsmoke and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows more stuffing and energy than the Epenottes, with ripe tannins and good length and grip on the youthful finish. A strong result, especially given how little there is of it this year! 20182-2035. **89.**

2013 Volnay “les Grands Poisots”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 Volnay *villages* from Domaine Boillot was one of the hardest hit of the Côte de Beaune reds, as there are only six barrels out of a customary seventeen in this vintage. The

culprit was not only the July hail, but a very poor flowering. The wine has turned out very well despite the depredations, offering up a pure and youthful bouquet of cassis, black cherries, dark soil tones, a touch of currant leaf, gamebirds and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with lovely soil inflection, ripe tannins and a long, intensely flavored finish. This will need some bottle age to blossom, but it will be a terrific village level Volnay. 2020-2040. **90.**

2013 Volnay “les Angles”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 les Angles was the ripest of all of Monsieur Boillot’s cuvées in this vintage, coming in at an even twelve percent potential alcohol and was only chapitalized half a degree. There are only five barrels in 2013, out of a customary ten to eleven, so the crop was a bit under fifty percent. The wine is truly lovely, jumping from the glass in a vibrant and classic blend of cassis, dark berries, espresso, gamebirds, a fine base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a great signature of soil, excellent length and focus and a perfectly balanced and ripely tannic finish. An excellent young Volnay! 2020-2050+. **92+.**

2013 Volnay “les Brouillards”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 les Brouillards was one of the best of the Côte de Beaune reds in the Boillot cellars, as the flowering was very successful in comparison to most other parcels, and hence, there were still a fairly good number of bunches on the vines after the July hail rolled through. The wine has turned out lovely, offering up a fine aromatic constellation of black cherries, cassis, a lovely base of soil tones, a bit of *pigeon*, fresh herb tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suavely balanced, with a lovely core of fruit, again, outstanding soil inflection, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and classy finish. Fine juice. 2020-2050. **92+.**

2013 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 Boillot Caillerets got hit hard by both a poor flowering and the hail, so there is all of a half barrel of this wine in the cellars this year! It will probably all be bottled in magnums. The wine is very good, but not quite as energetic on the nose and palate as the first two Volnay premier crus, as it offers up a complex nose of red and black cherries, complex, stony soil tones, gamebirds, classic Caillerets spice tones and coffee. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very pure, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long finish that closes with fine soil signature and fine-grained tannins. While it is just a touch less vibrant than the les Angles or les Brouillards, it is still a fine success for the vintage. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2013 Pommard “les Fremiers”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 les Fremiers from Louis Boillot is outstanding, with all of the energy one could ask for on both the nose and palate. The pure and vibrant nose jumps from the glass in a fine blend of cherries, plums, beautiful minerality, *pigeon*, coffee, fresh thyme and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with superb transparency, a lovely, rock solid core, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and tangy finish. Great juice. 2023-2065. **93.**

2013 Pommard “la Croix Noire”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The beautiful 2013 la Croix Noire was the last of the Côte de Beaune wines to finish its malo in this vintage, as it did not complete malo until August 15th of 2014, and at the time of my visit, it was still resting on its fine lees in barrel. The wine is going to be stunning, as it offers up glorious purity and exceptional depth. The bouquet delivers a lovely constellation of cherries, quince, gamebirds, a beautiful base of complex minerality, woodsmoke, coffee and again, a

lovely topnote of fresh thyme. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with great purity at the core, suave tannins and a very long, tangy and perfectly balanced finish. All this beautiful wine needs is some bottle age! 2023-2060. **93+**.

2013 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 Côte de Nuits Villages from Domaine Louis Boillot is excellent and will be a superb value. The bright and nicely red fruity nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, strawberries, a fine base of soil and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and succulent, with a good core, fine transparency and a long, poised and wide open finish. A lovely example. 2015-2025. **89**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Louis Boillot

Monsieur Boillot has two parcels that make up his Chambolle *villages* bottling, with one planted to forty-three year-old vines and the other to vines which are seventy years of age! Not surprisingly, the wine has turned out very well indeed in 2013, offering up a classy nose of cherries, red plums, coffee, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke and raw cocoa. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and quite velvety already on the attack, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy finish. A lovely bottle of Chambolle. 2019-2040. **90**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Louis Boillot

In contrast to the Chambolle AC, the Gevrey *villages* bottling from Louis Boillot is made from seven different parcels scattered around the commune (including plots in Clos Prieur and Lavaux St. Jacques), with all of the vines between fifty and sixty years of age, so this really gives a beautiful representation of the entire village. The 2013 version is excellent, wafting from the glass in a mélange of cherries, red plums, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds and again, a lovely topnote of cocoa. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very suave, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection, silky tannins and excellent length and grip on the tangy and beautifully focused finish. Another outstanding *villages*. 2015-2035. **90**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Evocelles”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The les Evocelles was a bit reduced at the time of my visit and tough to get a read on aromatically, but it was more on form on the palate and I have no doubt it will be a lovely wine. The nose reluctantly yields up scents of red and black cherries, dark soil, espresso, hints of the meatiness to come, woodsmoke and a touch of vanillin oak- once one has swirled the wine for a bit. On the palate the wine is deep, medium-full and will be very pure, with a sappy core, lovely soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a long, transparent finish. I would fully expect this to place at the high end of the range. 2019-2045+. **90-91+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Champonnets”- Domaine Louis Boillot

According to Monsieur Boillot, les Champonnets is the coolest *climat* in all of Gevrey, and it seems that the cooler sites have really done well in the 2013 vintage. The wine offers up a truly superb bouquet of cherries, red plums, black minerality, gamebirds, woodsmoke, mustard seed and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and intensely flavored, with great bounce and grip, fine-grained tannins, very good mid-palate depth and a very long, elegant finish. This is going to be lovely in the fullness of time. 2012-2055. **92+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Cherbaudes”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 Cherbaudes from Louis Boillot is also outstanding, as these very old vines have really excelled in this vintage. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of cherries, plum, mustard seed, coffee, incipient notes of venison, vanillin oak, lovely soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully soil-driven, with a

rock solid core of fruit, suave tannins, tangy acids and great focus and grip on the very long and beautifully balanced finish. High class juice. 2023-2060. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Louis Boillot

The 2013 Pruliers from Domaine Boillot is equally fine, but more reserved in personality out of the blocks than the excellent Gevrey premier crus. The pure and primary bouquet delivers a mélange of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, gamebird, dark soil tones, a touch of nutskin, vanillin oak and mustard seed in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very elegant for young Pruliers (which is something I noticed as well with the examples from Domaines Chevillon and Gouges in 2013), with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. Just tuck this away for a decade and watch the magic unfold! 2023-2060. **94.**

Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier (Chambolle-Musigny)

Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier reported that in his Chambolle-Musigny vineyards, his yields in 2013 were even smaller than in 2012, as again, the difficulties at flowering really cut back the potential size of the crop. As I noted in the introduction to the vintage, Monsieur Mugnier felt that there was an extremely small window for optimal picking in the Côte de Nuits in 2013, as his team started bringing in grapes on October 5th and completed everything in just four days this year. Like many vignerons, Monsieur Mugnier did not think the potential of the vintage was going to be all that exciting, after all of the struggles to keep the vines and bunches healthy during the difficult growing season, but he observed that “once the alcoholic fermentation was complete, I was very pleased with how much potential the wines were showing.” He then observed the wines really close up behind their acidities for the next six months, not showing a whole lot of flesh, “only to again blossom around harvest time of 2014 and they have just gotten better and better with each passing week since that time.” At the time of my visit on December 18th, the entire range was absolutely singing and it is quite clear that 2013 is another absolutely magical vintage for Monsieur Mugnier and his team at the Château de Chambolle-Musigny. I noted on my drive up from Beaune to Chambolle on the morning of my tasting that the domaine is repairing a stretch of wall in the Clos de la Maréchale and I commented on this during our tasting. Jacques-Frédéric replied that “working outside as much as we do, it is not always the most pleasant of conditions to work in- particularly in a year like 2013- and at least we can try to make the surroundings a bit more aesthetically appealing as a bit of compensation for those cold and rainy days when one has to be out in the elements.” In the last few years I have really noticed how strong the Bonnes-Mares has gotten in the Mugnier cellars, with the wine starting to really develop a very unique and utterly compelling personality of its own. When I mentioned this to Monsieur Mugnier, he agreed and commented that “our Bonnes-Mares is less and less masculine in style and more and more ‘Chambolle’ in character each year.” There is a musky floral element in the wine in 2013 that is absolutely stunning and every bit a match for the les Amoureuses in this vintage. This is a bit ironic, as in the marketplace in general these days, I note that les Amoureuses seems to be the more prized wine amongst collectors and merchants, and it is quite typical these days to see Amoureuses from a top flight domaine priced higher than their equally superb Bonnes-Mares. We chatted a bit about this phenomenon and Monsieur Mugnier thought that “though both are great wines, perhaps Amoureuses is a bit more suited to the impatience of the modern world, as the wine always will drink sooner than Bonnes-Mares, and perhaps its rise in prestige is a reflection of our not be as willing to wait for the greatness in a wine as long as previous generations.” The 2013s chez Mugnier are brilliant examples of the

vintage, but that is hardly a surprise, as this is the style of vintage that Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier seemingly likes the best, with transparency, purity and elegance front and center and intensity of flavor the mantra of the vintage. There is a musky perfume to several of the Mugnier wines in this vintage that is extremely exciting and augurs very well for their aromatic complexity down the road.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

The 2013 Chambolle AC from Domaine Mugnier is a lovely village wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a very pretty and red fruity mélange of cherries, strawberries, coffee, mustard seed and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and tangy, with lovely focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and a long, transparent and nascently complex finish. Just lovely juice. 2021-2045+. **90.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Clos de la Maréchale”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

The inherent elegance of the vintage is very much in evidence in the 2013 Clos de la Maréchale, which offers up a pure and classy bouquet of red and black cherries, pomegranate, nutskin, mustard seed, a touch of pepper and a complex signature of soil. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very soil-driven this year, with a sappy core of red fruit, tangy acids, ripe and quite suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the youthful and very promising finish. A lovely wine in the making, the 2013 Clos de la Maréchale should drink very well at a fairly early age for this cuvée in this year. 2022-2055. **91+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

The domaine’s 2013 les Fuées is a quintessential example of this great premier cru, which along with les Cras, is my favorite in the village after les Amoureuses. The wine is stellar in 2013, soaring from the glass in a perfumed blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, chalky soil tones, gamebird, woodsmoke and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and again, potentially quite sappy at the core in the fullness of time, with great soil inflection, suave tannins and a very long, complex and tangy finish that simply dances across the finish line. A gorgeous example of the vintage. 2023-2065. **92+.**

2013 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

The 2013 Bonnes-Mares from Domaine Mugnier is gorgeous this year and I am really not sure that I do not prefer it by the slightest of margins to the equally stunning Amoureuses in this vintage! But, that is a question that only time will be able to answer satisfactorily. The bouquet on the 2013 Bonnes-Mares is simply stunning, offering up a very musky constellation of red and black cherries, pomegranate, violets, gamebird, dusty rose, cocoa, woodsmoke, fresh herb tones and a magical base of *terroir*. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and extremely transparent out of the blocks, with ripe, velvety tannins, tangy acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long, thoroughbred of a finish. It is extremely rare in my experience for a young example of Bonnes-Mares to show such transparency in its youth. Today, this wine is really built like an example of Amoureuses, with great intensity and no excess weight, but I imagine this will continue to put on flesh with bottle age and is destined to be an absolutely beautiful and supremely elegant wine at its apogee. 2023-2075. **95.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

As beautiful as the 2013 Bonnes-Mares is this year *chez* Mugnier, the les Amoureuses is going to do everything in its power over the coming thirty years to keep pace with it in the cellar! The gorgeous nose offers up another muskily perfumed blend of black cherries, red plums, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, roses, beautiful chalky soil tones and a discreet framing of vanillin

oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a beautiful signature of soil, a lovely core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully complex finish. Another absolutely stellar young wine. 20123-2065. **95.**

2013 Musigny- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

Monsieur Mugnier's 2013 Musigny was one of the finest wines I tasted during my December trip. The beautiful bouquet is a superb mix of black cherries, red and black plums, cocoa, nutskin, a touch of coffee bean, woodsmoke, vanillin oak and a kaleidoscope of Musigny soil nuances. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and seamless, with a glorious core of fruit, magical transparency, suave tannins and a very, very long and utterly complete finish. It will border on a crime to drink this timeless beauty too young, which may be a danger, as today it shows such flawless balance that it seems likely to offer up accessibility long before it is truly mature, but perhaps it will close down a bit structurally once it is bottled. Simply brilliant. 2027-2075+. **97+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges "Clos de la Maréchale" Blanc- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier

The Clos de la Maréchale Blanc in 2013 is an excellent wine that will drink very well from the outset, but which will really deserve at least a couple of years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to start to emerge. The excellent bouquet offers up scents of apple, quince, beeswax, chalky soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully balanced, with the transparency of the vintage front and center, a fine core of fruit and lovely length and grip on the elegant and nicely racy finish. Fine juice. 2016-2030+. **92.**

Domaine Georges Roumier (Chambolle-Musigny)

Christophe Roumier has made beautiful 2013s, which of course is no surprise. It was a cold and dreary December afternoon when I stopped by to taste the new vintage at Domaine Roumier, with frigid rain making forays into the cellars far more enjoyable than when the sun is out in the Côte d'Or and the winter vineyards are sparkling. The malolactic fermentations here were quite late in 2013, with nothing in the cellar finished before August of 2014 and the last wines just finishing up in mid-September. Consequently, the entire cellar had been racked three weeks prior to my visit on the 10th of the month, but the wines were still showing lovely potential and it was quite easy to see their future personalities. I very much like the "cool vintage" profile of several of the 2013s from Christophe this year, which remind me of more elegant renditions of some of his black fruity 1993s, which are aging brilliantly. As with his next door neighbor, Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, Christophe Roumier started harvesting as well on October the 5th in 2013 and completed picking as quickly as the chilled fingers and toes of the harvesting team would allow. Yields again were quite short chez Roumier in 2013, as the flowering was very difficult, and it has affected the 2013 Bonnes-Mares in particular this year. The Roumier holdings are a fifty-fifty mix of "terres rouges" and "terres blanches" parcels in Bonnes-Mares, but because the flowering was worse in the vines in the "terres rouges" section of the vineyard in 2013 and yields were particularly short in these vines, the overall blend will be slightly different than normal for this vintage, as the final blend will be fifty-five percent "terres blanches" juice. I also had a chance to revisit a nice range of 2012s from Christophe Roumier at the end of our tasting of the 2013s, and for those who are lucky enough to have secured a few bottles of this vintage from the domaine, you are now sitting on buried treasure, as it is clearly one of the finest young vintages I have had the pleasure to taste at the domaine.

2013 Bourgogne- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from Domaine Roumier is a fine example, offering up a black fruity nose of black cherries, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, herbs and a touch of pepper in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and nicely structured, with a bit of backend tannins, fine focus and a long, tangy and fairly youthful finish that will want a few years in the cellar to allow it to blossom fully. 2018-2030. **87+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* from Christophe Roumier is another very lovely bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in a youthful blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, lovely soil tones, woodsmoke and again, just a bit of pepper. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tight and very long and transparent, with a fine core of fruit, suave tannins and excellent bounce and nascent complexity on the long and serious finish. Fine juice. 2020-2050. **90.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “Clos de la Bussière”- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2013 Clos de la Bussière is very promising, with the combination of the sturdiness of the *terroir* and the inherent elegance of the vintage promising excellent things down the road. The complex nose is quite black fruity in its youthful mélange of dark berries, cassis, woodsmoke, espresso, dark soil tones, herbs and a hint of the game to come with further bottle age already evident in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, bright and nascently complex finish. The slightly less extracted style that Christophe has adopted here since the 2003 vintage has probably benefited the Clos de la Bussière more than any other cuvée in the cellars, and the 2013 is another outstanding wine in the making. 2023-2055. **91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2013 Combottes is also very strong this year, as this wine seems to gain a bit with each passing vintage. The lovely nose is again quite black fruity in profile in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a lovely blend of black cherries, plums, chalky soil tones, a touch of nutskin, woodsmoke and raw cocoa. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite complete, with a beautiful synthesis of pure black fruit and excellent soil notes. The finish is long, suavely tannic and beautifully balanced, with vibrant acids and fine grip. A classy bottle of Combottes in the making. 2019-2045+. **91.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Georges Roumier

I often try to taste at Domaines Roumier and Mugnier on the same afternoon each winter, as it is a short commute, and it is great fun to compare and contrast the les Cras here with Monsieur Mugnier’s les Fuées (by the way, if someone is looking for a good theme for a Burgundy tasting, this would be a great side by side vertical). This year, my visits at the two estates were more than a week apart, so I had to try to imagine how they would stack up. The 2013 Domaine Roumier les Cras is a beautiful wine in the making, offering up a nascently complex bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, bitter chocolate, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a gloriously complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and deep at the core, with excellent focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, soil-driven and youthful finish. This is quite similar in aromatic and flavor profile to the 1993 les Cras out of the blocks, though cut in a more elegant personality in this more recent vintage. A superb wine. 2023-2075. **93.**



Christophe Roumier in the domaine's offices in Chambolle-Musigny.

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier

There are only two and a half barrels of Charmes-Chambertin in the Roumier cellars this year, as the flowering was very difficult here. As readers probably already know, Christophe's vines are actually in Mazoyères, rather than Charmes proper, and I noticed recently that he is starting to put the Mazoyères-Chambertin origin in fine print on the front label, which is perhaps a sign that the reputation of this lovely grand cru is starting to rise a bit in the firmament of Burgundy? The wine was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, having been racked sooner than some of the other wines in the cellar and getting ready for another racking in the not too distant future. Underneath is a lovely wine in the making, offering up notes of dark berries, black plums, cocoa, venison, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice topnote of currant leaf. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven this year, with a fine core, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This will be a lovely version. 2023-2075. **93.**

2013 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier

I really love this bottling *chez* Roumier and every time I open a bottle I thank Michel Bonnefond for having the good sense to ask Christophe to tend his vines and make this wine ever since he split the old Thomas-Bassot Ruchottes holdings with Dr. Georges Mugneret and Charles Rousseau back in the late 1970s. The 2013 Roumier Ruchottes is a beautiful wine in the making, offering up a superb bouquet of black cherries, violets, cocoa, blood orange, a superb base of

dark soil tones, fresh herbs and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, lovely backend energy and a very long, ripe tannic and soil-driven finish. A stellar result in 2013. 2025-2075. **94.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Georges Roumier

The 2013 Roumier Amoureuses is a gorgeous young wine, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, strikingly beautiful minerality, mustard seed, gamebirds, roses, cocoa and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite tightly-knit at the present time, with stunning transparency, a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and a long, pure and dancing finish. This will be great in the fullness of time. 2025-2065. **95.**

2013 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Georges Roumier

In the last few vintages, Christophe has served the Bonnes-Mares ahead of the les Amoureuses in the cellars, but this year the Bonnes-Mares followed that fine premier cru. As I noted in the introduction, there is a bit more *terres blanches* fruit in the blend this year, due to the variations in yields between the two parcels, and perhaps the wine will end up a bit more floral as a result when it is fully mature- many years from now. The bouquet is a youthfully stellar constellation of red and black cherries, sweet dark berries, coffee bean, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a brilliantly complex base of soil and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and still very primary, with a rock solid core, stunning soil drive on the backend, ripe tannins and a very, very long, tangy and utterly classic finish. This will be magical at its apogee. 2025-2075. **95.**

2013 Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier

There is a barrel and a quarter this year of Musigny in the Roumier cellars, with the full barrel having been new prior to racking, and the quarter barrel several years old. The wine is utterly spectacular in 2013, offering up a brilliant bouquet of red plums, red and black cherries, raw cocoa, magical soil tones, woodsmoke, violets and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a potentially sappy core of fruit, brilliant transparency, suave tannins and glorious length and grip on the utterly seamless finish. 2025-2100. **98.**

2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Georges Roumier

Christophe is not really sure what he will do with the half barrel of 2013 Corton-Charlemagne, as it is not enough to commercialize, but he kindly let me taste it during my visit. The wine has turned out quite well, considering his parcel is way over on the far side of the Pernand end of the hill of Corton and was absolutely pummeled by hail in July. The nose offers up a complex and wide open blend of pear, a touch of peach, fresh almond, lanolin, chalky soil tones and a touch of pastry cream in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and built for early consumption, with fine framing acids, fine grip, very good balance and a long, complex finish. Good juice. 2015-2025. **91.**

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

François Millet and his team at Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé have produced a lovely range of wines in 2013. Monsieur Millet notes that the style of cooler vintages such as 2013 are always very strong on their underlying soil signatures and offer up a freshness and vitality that is very, very appealing. Of course, he phrased it far more eloquently and philosophically than that, but I did not write down the exact quotation at the time of my visit and cannot do justice to his sentiments now writing four weeks later! He finds that several of the wines are very floral in 2013, “with the scent of wild roses of the fields, rather than the rose of

the garden”, and it seems to me that these are the types of wines that will continue to put on weight with bottle age and will be even more impressive at full maturity than they will be in the bloom of youth. Monsieur Millet felt that they shared some similarities with 2008 here (which is a great Comte de Vogüé vintage!), but “that the 2013s are more elegant and have far more sophisticated structures than the 2008s and must be ranked higher.” The team here started harvesting on October 5th and with a combination of the difficulties at floraison and a strict selection of the bunches, yields are actually down another ten percent from the very short crop of 2012 at the domaine! The Chambolle villages had already been racked at the time of my visit, with the other wines just in the process of being racked, but everything was showing very well indeed and this is yet another outstanding vintage for Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé. The range in 2013 are not big wines, but they are very deep, pure and very intensely flavored, with outstanding soil signatures, great energy and suave structures that promise a long and very fine evolution in bottle. Monsieur Millet and his team have been on an absolute roll since 2007 or 2008 and we have probably witnessed the greatest five year run at this venerable domaine since the magical stretch of vintages from 1961 to 1966 (and without the clunker vintages of '63 and '65 included in the streak)! These are absolutely beautiful 2013s.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé

The 2013 Chambolle AC had been racked prior to my visit, but was still showing quite well and was not particularly grumpy for having just been racked. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, a lovely base of chalky soil tones, cocoa and a floral topnote redolent of violets and wild roses. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and vibrant, with a lovely core, crunchy acids, fine-grained tannins and fine length and grip on the beautifully balanced finish. A lovely example. 2020-2050. **89-90.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Domaine de Georges de Comte de Vogüé

The 2013 Comte de Vogüé Premier Cru bottling was performing very much like the young vine Musigny that it is at the time of my visit, offering up a beautifully vibrant and red fruity nose of cherries, blood orange, pomegranate, cocoa, a beautiful vein of minerality, woodsmoke and just a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and strikingly transparent out of the blocks, with a lovely core, fien focus and grip and a long, ripely tannic and very energetic finish. Fine, fine juice. 2021-2055. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Comte de Georges de Vogüé

The 2013 les Amoureuses from Comte de Vogüé is stunning juice in the making, soaring from the glass in an extremely elegant mélange of red and black cherries, pomegranate, wild rose, cocoa, violets, stunning soil tones, spices and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and almost crunchy from its cool fruit tones, with a lovely core, superb length and grip, refined tannins and a long, tangy and nascently complex finish. A beautiful example of this great *terroir*. 2023-2060+. **94+.**

2013 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé

Not surprisingly, the 2013 Bonnes-Mares was the most reserved wine in the cellar at the time of my visit, but its ultimate quality was still quite easy to appreciate. The bouquet is a youthful blend of red and black cherries, pomegranate, a beautifully complex base of soil, a touch of nutskin, woodsmoke, lovely spice elements, gamebirds and a suave base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent for this cru out of the blocks, with a rock solid core of fruit, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and a very long, youthful and soil-driven finish. An excellent Bonnes-Mares. 2025-2075. **94.**

2013 Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé

The 2013 Musigny “Vieilles Vignes” from Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé is a great wine in the making. The pure, primary and still beautifully complex nose wafts from the glass in a constellation of red and black cherries, sweet plums, violets, peonies, cocoa powder, a very complex base of soil, hints of the iron to come, woodsmoke, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very transparent this year, with a superb core, ripe, beautifully integrated tannins, vibrant acids and a very, very long, focused and classic finish. All this beauty needs is time in the cellar! 2025-2075. **96.**

Vougeot

Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat (Vougeot)

Charles Van Canneyt, the grandson of Alain Hudelot, was in a very good mood at the time of my November visit, as his 2013 have come out marvelously well and were really showing quite well at the time of my visit. He had racked about half the cellar earlier in the week prior to my visit, with the remainder of the wines scheduled for their racking the weeks prior to Christmas. He observed that “for some reason, 2013 really seems to be a strong vintage for village wines” and this was certainly borne out by the beautiful examples he presented in the cellars. The harvest here began on October 5th, and Charles used between twenty and twenty-five percent whole clusters for all of the wines in 2013, with the exception of the Bourgogne Rouge. The malos were quite late here, with a few wines not finishing up until mid-September, and a couple of these still had just a bit of CO₂ in them from their malolactic fermentations. Charles thinks that the 2013s could end up quite similar to the domaine’s excellent 2001s- a vintage he ranks far higher than 2002 I noted with quiet satisfaction- though he commented that “the tannins in 2013 may be even a bit more refined than those in 2001.” In any event, this is a beautiful terroir-driven vintage in the Hudelot cellars, which coupled with the absolutely beautiful fruit tones in all of the wines and the great purity here augurs extremely well for their future evolutions. This domaine has been making great wines for several decades, but Charles Van Canneyt seems to have taken them to a new level in the last several years, which observation seems to be shared by his grandfather, Jean Hudelot, who warmly patted him on the back after he asked me what I had thought of the range of 2013s in the cellars and I responded so positively. After all of the injustices that were weighted upon this domaine in its early years, with withheld vineyards, never-ending lawsuits and then the onerous task of paying both inheritance taxes and legal costs when the Dickensian legal battle was finally won, it seems proper to see this domaine now at the top of its game and making some of the most brilliant wines to be found anywhere in Burgundy.

2013 Bourgogne- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Bourgogne rouge, as is customary, had been bottled before the harvest of 2014, and was showing quite well at the time of my December visit. The wine offers up a pretty and red fruity bouquet of cherries, blood orange, smoke, fresh herbs and a nice base of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with just a touch of tannin, good depth and a long, tangy finish. Like all serious Bourgogne bottlings, it needs a couple of years in the cellar to really come into its own, but it will be quite tasty when it is ready. 2017-2030+. **88.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat is a lovely wine, wafting from the glass in a classic aromatic blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, chalky soil tones, violets

and a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with suave tannins and lovely grip and backend energy on the long and classy finish. This is really a superb bottle of Chambolle AC in the making! 2019-2040. **90.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Vosne AC was showing every bit as fine as the excellent Chambolle, offering up a beautifully red fruity bouquet of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spices, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a touch of nutskin and just a hint of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with plenty of sappiness to come at the core, fine tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. Lovely juice. 2019-2040. **90+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Au Bas de Combe”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Bas de Combe from Monsieur Van Canneyt is also outstanding and is really transparent out of the blocks this year. The superb aromatic constellation delivers notes of red and black cherries, a touch of blood orange, nutskin, gamebird, woodsmoke, a superb base of soil and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully reflective of its underlying soil tones, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids and a long, ripely tannic and perfectly balanced finish. A beautiful wine. 2020-2045. **91.**

2013 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

When younger Burgundy lovers ask me what wines they should be looking at in the region, now that so many crus are out of the financial reach of so many, I often point to Petits Vougeots as one of the great values to be found in the Côte de Nuits. The underlying soil in this vineyard is absolutely the same as a great many of the top premier crus in neighboring Chambolle-Musigny, but the wines here typically sell for far less, and the 2013 from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat will be one of the steals of the vintage. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a red fruity blaze of cherries, blood orange, chalky soil tones, coffee, woodsmoke, mustard seed and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with a lovely core, fine soil signature, suave tannins and a long, tangy and complex finish. A lovely wine in the making. 2020-2050+. **92.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The domaine’s 2013 Chambolle “Charmes” is excellent. The bouquet offers up a fine aromatic constellation of red plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, violets, chalky soil tones and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent transparency, bright acids and impressive length and grip on the focused and very well-balanced finish. This will need some time to fully blossom, but it shows superb backend persistence and precision and will be a lovely bottle in the fullness of time. 2021-2055. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Murgers”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Murgers was the first wine in the line that had not yet been racked, and it was a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but its ultimate quality was self-evident. With a bit of coaxing, the nose offers up scents of cherries, pomegranate, nutskin, gamebirds, fresh herb tones, lovely soil nuances and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite soil-driven in personality, with ripe tannins, excellent focus and balance and a long, tangy and still quite primary finish. 2023-2060. **91-92+.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Beaumonts at Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat was showing beautiful purity and precision right out of the blocks this year, which is not always the calling card for this premier cru. This too had not yet been racked (as was the case with all of the following wines), but was

certainly on form at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a superb blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of lavender, marvelous minerality, espresso, incipient notes of gamebird and a fine framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very precise, with a lovely core, great mineral drive, fine-grained tannins and bright acids on the long and bouncy finish. A superb wine in the making. 2021-2060. **92+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Suchots *chez* Hudelot is utterly classic and another ringing success for the vintage. The black fruity bouquet jumps from the glass in a blend of dark berries, black cherries, gamebirds, espresso, dark soil tones, fresh herbs and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven in personality, with an excellent core, suave tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully balanced finish. High class juice. 2021-2060. **92+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The Malconsorts was the last wine to finish up its malo in the cellars this year, and this wine still had a fair bit of CO₂ on the backend of the palate. The bouquet is also still a bit unsettled from its recent malo, but eventually offers up notes of red plums, cherries, woodsmoke, cocoa, lovely soil tones and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very well-balanced, with fine mid-palate depth, superb transparency, vibrant acidity and a long, ripely tannic finish. This will be just fine in the fullness of time. 2021-2060. **92-94**.



2013 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

I have always loved the domaine's Clos Vougeot, and I had a chance on this visit to see where their parcels are located, and it is quite clear that they have a couple of beautifully-situated plots of vines to work with in this vineyard. Both parcels are up at the top of the slope by the château, with the plot that originated from the Noëllat family running from the upper wall right down along the side of the château on its southern side, and the same-size parcel that originally came from the Hudelot family contiguous and right below it, with the Méo-Camuzet parcel lying alongside it on the slope. Prime real estate! The 2013 finished up its malo quite late as well and still had a bit of CO₂ on the backend, but this is clearly a star of the vintage, as it wafts from the glass in a superb blend of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a touch of nutskin, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, roses and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very transparent and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, bright acids and superb length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. A great Clos Vougeot in the making. 2025-2075. **94+**.

2013 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

The 2013 Romanée-St.-Vivant from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat was another late malo finisher and the wine was still on the grumpy side at the time of my visit, with a fairly expressive nose currently coupled to an out of sorts palate impression, but this will clearly be outstanding. The bouquet offers up a fabulous constellation of raspberries, cherries, blood orange, beautiful spice tones, lavender, complex soil nuances, fresh nutmeg and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite poised (despite its grumpy nature at the time of my visit), with fine mid-palate depth, nascently complexity, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the tangy finish. This is going to be very, very special when it reaches its zenith. 2025-2075. **95-97**.

2013 Richebourg- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat

Whereas the RSV was hunkered down on the palate and waiting for its racking, the 2013 Hudelot Richebourg was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. This is going to be a great, great vintage for this wine, as it soars from the glass in an extremely pure mix of red plums, cherries, raspberries, cocoa, gamebirds, a marvelously complex base of soil, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly refined, with a rock solid core, great focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, elegant and tangy finish. A beautiful Richebourg in the making. 2025-2075. **97+**.

Vosne-Romanée

Domaine Méo-Camuzet (Vosne-Romanée)

Jean-Nicolas Méo and his talented team have made absolutely stunning 2013s, and my visit to the Méo-Camuzet cellars this year was one of the absolute highlights of my December trip to the region. The wines were still in varying degrees of evolution, as the malolactic fermentations here were very late (a few wines had not yet fully completed their malos when I was there on December 18th!), and most wines had not yet been racked. Consequently, some were in varying degrees of reduction, as is typical of wines at this point in their élevage and others, which might have already been racked, were still a bit agitated from their recent movement. Where a wine here was a bit out of sorts, I have scored it within a range, but based on how beautifully the wines that were on form showed during my visit, I would fully expect every Méo-Camuzet wine from 2013 scored within a range to place at the upper limit once they have settled back down. As Jean-Nicolas Méo observed, "everything has been very slow to evolve in this vintage, with the harvest late, the maturity arriving in a very measured manner throughout September, and the malos have been as leisurely as everything else about the vintage

and we just need to be patient.” The wines here, according to Jean-Nicolas, have been blossoming very nicely since the time of the 2014 harvest (echoing the comments of several other vigneron), and they have simply gotten better and better with each passing month since that time. As he noted, “I was not really in love with the wines from 2013 in their first six months in barrel, as they were a bit hard and severe behind their quite high acidities, but as they got to the end of their malos, they began to open nicely and blossom and we are really now starting to see some very nice results from all of the hard work in the vineyards during the growing season of 2013.” Jean-Nicolas Méo has assembled at the domaine an outstanding team in the cellars and vineyards over the years, and it is quite clear from tasting this absolutely stellar range of 2013s that the entire team worked overtime in this difficult growing season to produce such high quality wines. Since Jean-Nicolas Méo took over the reins of the family estate all the way back in the 1989 vintage, there have been some monumental vintages at Domaine Méo-Camuzet, and I have no doubt that this extremely refined and intense range of 2013s will one day rank up with the very finest wines to have ever been produced at the domaine, as these are a truly spectacular group of wines in 2013!

2013 Bourgogne Blanc “Clos St. Philibert”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Clos St. Philibert had just been fined right before my visit, and I am sure it will be even better once it has had a bit more recovery time, but it was showing lovely potential. The bouquet is a beautifully pure blend of white peach, apple, a touch of pastry cream, spring flowers, chalk and a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is bright, pure and fullish, with a fine core, vibrant acids and a long, classy finish. I cannot recall a young vintage of this fine Bourgogne Blanc ever showing such complexity out of the blocks. 2015-2025+. **89.**

2013 Meursault- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Meursault *villages* bottling *chez* Méo had been racked four weeks prior to my visit, but had not yet been fined. The wine is really quite lovely, wafting from the glass in a fine blend of apple, tangerine, hazelnuts, lovely soil tones, a touch of iodine and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and shows off lovely raciness on the backend, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection and fine length and grip on the open and utterly classic finish. Fine juice. 2015-2030+. **91.**

2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

There are two *pièces* of Corton-Charlemagne in the cellars this year, one of which was new. Jean-Nicolas buys grapes from a vineyard on the Pernand side of the hill, so these were hit pretty hard by hail in July, but the wine was showing very well at the time of my visit. The bouquet is a lovely mix of apple, pear, chalky soil tones, gentle notes of acacia blossoms, vanillin oak and an esthery topnote of bee pollen. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a fine core, crisp acids, a very elegant profile and a long, nascently complex and stylish finish. A strong result. 2019-2040. **92+.**

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge had been racked four weeks prior to my visit, with its sulfur also adjust at that time, so the wine was still a bit agitated when I tasted it. The bright and red fruity nose offers up scents of cherries, raspberries, woodsmoke and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full and shows good stuffing at the core, with fine shape and bounce on the fairly long finish. I am sure this will be quite good. 2016-2030. **86-88.**

2013 Marsannay- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Marsannay had also been racked four weeks previously, but was back in a good mood for tasting and showed very well indeed. The complex and pure nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, grilled meats, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and a nice topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and nicely transparent, with a good core, a touch of backend tannin and fine length and grip on the tangy finish. Lovely AC. 2019-2040+. **89+**.

2013 Fixin- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Méo Fixin had also been racked four weeks earlier, but it too was showing very well at the time of my visit. The bouquet is again quite bright and pure in its mélange of red and black cherries, venison, coffee, lovely soil tones, mustard seed and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and shows classic Fixin elements of “noble rusticity”, with a fine signature of soil, a good core and a long, vibrant and gently tannic finish. Another fine result. 2019-2040+. **89**.

2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Morey *villages* had not yet been racked and was certainly ready for it, as the wine was fairly reductive at the time of my visit. The wine is very red fruity and minerally in personality this year, with a good core and a long, bouncy finish, but it was too reductive to take a proper note. I am sure this will be a very strong example.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Gevrey AC was also a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but much less so than the Morey AC and it was easy to get a read on this lovely wine. The bouquet, with a bit of coaxing, offers up scents of red and black cherries, lovely minerality, coffee, mustard seed and woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and beautifully transparent, with moderate tannins and good length and focus on the tangy and soil-driven finish. This will be a lovely *villages*. 2020-2040. **88-90**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* from Domaine Méo-Camuzet was one of the later wines to finish up its malo, which finally finished after the harvest of 2014, so there was still just a touch of gas on the backend, but otherwise, the wine was showing very well. The nose is bright and classy in its mix of red and black cherries, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a lovely base of chalky soil tones and just a dollop of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and very transparent, with a fine core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the vibrant and elegant finish. Fine juice in the making. 2020-2040. **89-90+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Vosne AC from the domaine’s own vines is really strong in this vintage. The wine was also one of the later to finish up its malo and was just getting a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but was due for a racking within the coming few weeks. The wine really has lovely stuffing this year, as it offers up a very pure bouquet of plums, black cherries, cocoa, a touch of fresh nutmeg, excellent, dark soil tones and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a fine core, lovely soil signature and a long, suavely tannic and bouncy finish. A fine bottle in the making. 2021-2040+. **90-91**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 les Cras was showing very well indeed at the time of my visit, jumping from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, red plums, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, woodsmoke, vanillin oak and a complex and very classy base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied

and shows off outstanding mid-palate depth, with a nice sense of reserve, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and tangy finish. A classic example of this outstanding *terroir*. 2023-2055+. **92+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

In most vintage *chez Méo*, I have a preference for the Cras over the Feusselottes in the cellars here, but not in 2013, as this wine has really turned out beautifully. The excellent aromatic constellation delivers a superb blend of red and black cherries, very complex soil tones, a touch of pomegranate, gamebirds, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very soil-driven, with a lovely core of pure fruit, excellent focus and bounce and a very long, suavely-tannic finish. I love the shape and transparency to this wine in 2013, which can often start off life a bit broad-shouldered in the Méo cellars, but this year it just exudes elegance and purity right out of the blocks. 2021-2055+. **92+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Argillières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The Méo-Camuzet les Argillières is outstanding this year and probably the finest young vintage of this bottling I have yet had the pleasure to taste at the domaine. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blend of pomegranate, red and black cherries, dark soil tones, nutskin, gamebird, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and supremely elegant this year, with a sappy core of fruit, lovely focus and grip and a very long, poised finish that closes with excellent soil drive and fine-grained tannins. High class juice. 2023-2060. **93**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Perrières is a bit more reserved out of the blocks than the fine Argillières this year, but it too is going to be an outstanding bottle of Nuits in the fullness of time. The youthfully superb nose offers up scents of black cherries, stony soil tones, cocoa, a bit of nutskin, incipient notes of gamebird, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very sappy at the core, with excellent balance and grip, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and transparent finish. Fine, fine potential. 2023-2060+. **92+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “aux Murgers”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Murgers was a bit reductive at the time of my visit, but not so much that it was hard to understand its excellent potential. With a bit of swirling, the nose delivers a fine mélange of red and black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, *pigeon*, nutskin, fresh herb tones, a deft framing of vanillin oak and a stunning base of refined soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a gorgeous core of fruit, striking soil inflection, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, tangy and potentially elegant finish. Gorgeous wine. 2-23-2060. **93**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “aux Boudots”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The Boudots is quite black fruity this year, and Jean-Nicolas Méo decided to use ten percent whole clusters for the wine in 2013. The result is a stellar young example of Boudots, wafting from the glass in a mix of cassis, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, gamebird and a nice framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and nicely reserved, with a rock solid core, superb transparency, ripe tannins and a long, perfectly focused and nascently complex finish. Another outstanding Nuits in the making. 2022-2060. **93**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Chaumes from Domaine Méo-Camuzet reminds me very strongly of the superb 1993 out of the blocks, as it is quite a black fruity example this year. The lovely nose offers up a

youthful blend of dark berries, black raspberries, a touch of fresh nutmeg, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, cocoa and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with fine-grained tannins, tangy acids and lovely length and grip on the bright and quite minerally finish. After four absolutely stellar Nuits premier crus, I was very impressed with how well the Chaumes showed! 2021-2050. **91+**.

2013 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is also quite black fruity in personality this year, but this may well be the finest young example of this grand cru that I have ever had the pleasure to taste in the cellars here, with the style of the wine again harkening back to the very strong 1993 version, but at even a higher quality level in 2013. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a serious blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, a touch of black raspberry, gamebird, a very complex base of soil tones, spicy oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and strikingly transparent, with a rock solid core, great focus and balance, ripe, perfectly-integrated acids and stunning length and grip on the tangy finish. This is stellar Clos Vougeot. 2025-2075. **94+**.

2013 Corton “Perrières”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

Jean-Nicolas Méo is very passionate about the fine *terroirs* to be found on the hill of Corton, and sometimes I wish that the Prince de Merode estate had turned to him to farm and produce wines from their excellent holdings in Bressandes, Renardes and Clos du Roi. In any case, the 2013 Corton “Perrières” was raised in sixty-five percent new wood this year and offers up a superb, youthful and utterly classic bouquet of cherries, blood orange, mustard seed, stony minerality, venison, coffee and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with a rock solid core, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, perfectly balanced and tangy finish. Classic Corton in the making! 2023-2075. **93+**.

2013 Corton “Rognet”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The Corton “Rognet” can often be quite black fruity in the Méo cellars, but in 2013 this wine is very red fruity in personality. The superb bouquet offers up a mélange of cherries, blood orange, stony soil tones, venison, woodsmoke, fresh herbs, coffee and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very transparent, with excellent mid-palate concentration, ripe and beautifully integrated tannins, tangy acids and outstanding focus on the very long and classy finish. Another superb wine. 2023-2075. **94**.

2013 Echézeaux- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Méo-Camuzet Echézeaux is another absolutely gorgeous wine in the making, with a lovely synthesis of purity, transparency and proper sense of reserve combining to make this vintage one of the finest young examples of this cuvée I have ever tasted here. The beautiful bouquet delivers scents of raspberries, cherries, woodsmoke, venison, fresh herb tones, Vosne spices, lovely soil nuances and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very minerally in personality, with a fine core of fruit, great soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and stunning young finish. Great juice in the making. 2023-2070. **94+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Brulées”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The 2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Brulées” from Domaine Méo-Camuzet is another brilliant wine in the making. The superb and utterly classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, black raspberries, gamebirds, dark soil tones, fresh nutmeg, woodsmoke, cocoa and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with great mid-palate depth of sappy black fruit, superb soil inflection, fine-grained tannins, ripe acids and outstanding focus on the very, very long and classic finish. 2023-2065. **95**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Cros Parantoux”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

2013 has produced a great, great Cros Parantoux *chez* Méo. The stunningly refined nose delivers an aromatic constellation of raspberries, cherries, red plums, cocoa, duck, Vons spices, magically complex minerality, woodsmoke and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very intensely flavored, with a great core of sappy red fruit, brilliant transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, tangy and nascently complex finish. Brilliant wine. 2025-2075. **96+**.

2013 Richebourg- Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The symphony of quality that is the 2013 vintage at Domaine Méo-Camuzet reaches quite a crescendo with the Richebourg, which is simply brilliant and perhaps the greatest Richebourg Jean-Nicolas has yet fashioned here. The brilliant bouquet offers up scents of red plums, red and black cherries, cocoa, nutmeg, duck, musky floral tones, a superbly complex base of soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and stunningly elegant out of the blocks, with a sappy core, great soil signature and nascent complexity, laser-like focus, ripe, suave tannins and a very, very long, elegant and tangy finish. Richebourg is not my favorite *terroir* amongst the most rarefied grand crus in the Côte de Nuits, but if they were all as good as the 2013 Méo version, I might have to rethink my position! This is spectacular young wine. 2025-2075. **98**.

Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg (Vosne-Romanée)

I was sorry not to have the opportunity to taste with Marie-Andrée or Marie-Christine Mugneret on my visit in December, as their uncle had tragically passed away just a couple of days before my appointment and the family was absent from the domaine, but I was very cordially greeted by their long-time assistant, Florence Pichon. Madame Pichon has been a very talented member of the domaine's team for many years and really seems like one of the family when one visits and we had a lovely tasting of the 2013s, with the exception that we could not locate the Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes bottling anywhere in the cellars, so I have no note on this wine in this vintage. I also missed tasting the Bourgogne rouge here, which is typically one of the finest examples produced in the Côte d'Or, and I cannot remember now why we did not taste it back in December. Given the low yields once again here, due principally to the bad flowering conditions, which very much affected the oldest parcels of vines adversely, there is not much more wine in the Mugneret-Gibourg cellars in 2013 than there was in 2012, but at least the crop looks to be far more “correct” in 2014 and there may be a bit more wine here to go around to a thirsty world in the coming vintage. The Mugnerets began harvesting in 2013 on October 4th and brought in their crop in quite brisk fashion, capitalizing on the prime window for picking in this year. Malolactic fermentations were on the late side at the domaine, with a few of the wines, such as the Vosne villages bottling, only finishing up their malos right before the harvest of 2014. Depending on the time that the malo was completed for a given cuvée, the wine was either still in cask or had been racked into tank in preparation for bottling in the spring, but whether a wine was in barrel or tank was really simply a reflection of when its malo have finished up. The wines overall are absolutely beautiful, with all of the purity and soil signature one would expect in this great vintage from one of Burgundies brightest lights, with unrestrained elegance and perfumed complexity tied to absolutely beautiful structural elements which will make 2013 one of the great recent vintages at Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg. Several of the wines here are quite black fruity in tone in 2013, and harken back twenty years ago to the 1993 vintage chez Mugneret, as they seem very reminiscent of that outstanding year here. Having not been able to

schedule December appointments at a few of my favorite domaines in Vosne-Romanée on this trip, I was more than compensated by the sheer beauty of the 2013s from the Mugneret sisters, as if I were limited to buying wine from only a single estate in Vosne, this is the one that I would choose!



Florence Pichon, the long-time and invaluable member of Domaine Mugneret-Gibourg's team.

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

As the Vosne *villages* was one of the last wines to finish its malo, it had only been racked for the first time just before the harvest of 2014. However, by early December, it was in lovely form and showing superb promise in its refined bouquet of black cherries, plums, espresso, dark soil tones and a gentle base of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and potentially quite velvety, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and transparent finish. Fine juice. 2019-2040. **90.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Vignes Rondes”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2013 Vignes Rondes from Domaine Mugneret-Gibourg is nicely reserved at the present time, but with lovely purity and plenty of depth at the core and this will be an excellent bottle in the fullness of time. The nascently complex nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, a touch of nutskin, venison and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very shapely out of the blocks, as the inherent elegance of the vintage can certainly be felt here. The finish is long, ripely tannic and

shows lovely, tangy acids, which give the wine superb vibrancy and purity of soil expression. This is a really fine bottle of Nuits in the making. 2021-2050+. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

I really like the cool fruit tones of the 2013 Chaignots from the Mugnerets this year, as the wine really harkens back stylistically to the young 1993s. The bouquet is a refined and properly reserved mix of dark berries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, gamebirds, fresh herbs, soil and a deft base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still very primary in personality, with great purity and focus, a lovely core of fruit, excellent soil signature and a very long, tangy and moderately tannic finish. Nuits St. Georges does not get a lot more elegant than this lovely wine, but it will need time in the cellar to blossom. 2022-2050+. **92+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The Feusselottes was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, and I have to suspect that this too was one of the later wines to finish up its malolactic fermentation in the 2013 vintage. With a bit of coaxing, the underlying quality here was very easy to appreciate, with notes of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, French roast, vanillin oak and violets eventually emerging on the nose. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely tangy, with a fine core, superb soil inflection, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the youthful finish. Having just drunk a still youthful magnum of the 1993 Feusselottes last year, I am very happy to see the 2013 look very much like the second coming of that superb wine! 2002-2055+. **92-93.**

2013 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The Mugnerets usually get six to seven casks of Echézeaux in a normal vintage, but in 2013, the old vines in their holding in the *climat* of Rouge de Bas were really badly affected by the poor flowering in this year and there are only four casks of this lovely wine as a result- the same as in 2012. It is too bad that there is not more quantity, as the quality here is exceptional, with the wine soaring from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, cassis, gamebirds, violets, a gloriously complex base of soil, dark chocolate and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and supremely elegant in personality, with great mid-palate depth, impeccable balance, ripe tannins and outstanding transparency on the very long, tangy and perfectly focused finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2025-2075. **94+.**

2013 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2013 Ruchottes-Chambertin from Domaine Mugneret-Gibourg is another great example of the vintage. The bouquet delivers an outstanding aromatic constellation of sweet dark berries, cassis, grilled meats, complex soil tones, espresso, woodsmoke, mustard seed and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave and refined on the palate, with a rock solid core, fine-grained tannins and superb backend energy on the very long and utterly classic finish. Great juice. 2023-2075. **95+.**

2013 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg

The 2013 Mugneret Clos Vougeot is a bit more powerful in personality than either of the other two grand crus in the cellars this year, with stunning nascent complexity and magical potential. The superb nose offers up scents of dark berries, black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds, dark chocolate, marvelous soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a great core of fruit, outstanding transparency, ripe tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very, very long and seamless finish. All this beautiful wine will need is time in the cellar! 2025-2075. **96.**

Domaine Georges Noëllat (Vosne-Romanée)

Maxime Cheurlin has made absolutely stellar wines again in 2013, and fans of this excellent domaine in Vosne-Romanée are going to have great fun over the coming decades debating the relative merits of the two excellent vintages. At the present time, Monsieur Cheurlin has a preference for his utterly seductive and beautifully complex 2012s, but my gut feeling is that these excellent 2013s will continue to put on weight over their years in the bottle and may well close the gap between the two vintages in the fullness of time. There is a new addition to the Domaine Georges Noëllat lineup in 2013, as Monsieur Cheurlin has started to produce another premier cru bottling from Nuits St. Georges, this time from the outstanding, but not particularly well-known premier cru of aux Cras. This is one of Nuits' smallest premier crus, sandwiched between Boudots and Murgers on the slope, and Monsieur Cheurlin is now working with a parcel of eighty-plus year-old vines that were planted way back in the day by Jean Tardy. The only other bottling of aux Cras that I taste with regularity is from Lois-Michel Liger-Belair, and Maxime Cheurlin's version certainly looks poised to compete with the Liger-Belair bottlings as the finest from this beautifully-situated vineyard. It is an outstanding new addition to the excellent lineup at Domaine Georges Noëllat, and if the 2013 is any indication of its ultimate quality in the years to come, it is soon going to become a fan favorite of clients of the domaine. Four of the 2013 wines had been racked only the day before my visit, but Monsieur Cheurlin had very kindly poured off sample bottles of each prior to doing the racking, so the four wines were in fine form and showed beautifully. The entire range of 2013s from the domaine are absolutely classic expressions of the vintage, with great purity of fruit, stunning transparency, tangy acids, fine tannins and great potential for the cellar. Yields here at Domaine Georges Noëllat were the same as 2012, which means very short, as the old vines struggled again in the poor flowering weather of 2013. So the bad news here in this vintage is another shortage of bottles, but the good news is that the quality is exceptional once again! In a very short span of time (2013 is only Monsieur Cheurlin's fourth vintage in charge of the family estate) Maxime Cheurlin of Domaine Georges Noëllat has become one of the undisputed stars of the village of Vosne-Romanée, and I find his exceptional wines superior to several of his longer-established neighbors in the commune whose reputations may be a bit loftier today, but whose wines seem to indicate vignerons who are resting on their laurels.

2013 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The inherent elegance of the 2013 vintage and Monsieur Cheurlin's aesthetic sensibilities have combined to produce a supremely elegant young rendition of Nuits AC this year. The beautiful bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, plums, nutskins, raw cocoa, a beautiful base of soil and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and beautifully balanced, with a fine core, suave tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and very classy finish. This will only need four or five years to blossom and should drink with great style for at least a couple of decades. A very classy *villages*. 2019-2045+. **90.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2013 Vosne-Romanée from Domaine Georges Noëllat is another very strong *villages*, with a more black fruity personality than the fine Nuits AC in this vintage. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a precise blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, Vosne spices, dark soil tones, game and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tangy and a bit more reserved in personality out of the blocks than the Nuits, with a

lovely core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, fine soil inflection and a long, tangy and very promising finish. A lovely example. 2020-2045+. **90+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

In 2013, the Chaumes was raised in forty percent new wood by Monsieur Cheurlin, as opposed to the all one wine barrels he used for the 2012. The wine is a beautifully balanced and very soil-driven young example of Chaumes, wafting from the glass in a complex nose of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebirds, espresso, woodsmoke and a nice touch of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine focus and grip and a long, ripely tannic and beautifully balanced finish. This is a lovely example of Chaumes, with its cooler vintage profile really maximizing the expression of minerality in the wine out of the blocks. 2021-2050. **92+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2013 Petits Monts from Domaine Georges Noëllat is a very, very strong follow-up to the beautiful example of this *terroir* produced here in 2012, and it will be many years before I will be able to decide which vintage I like better. The vines here are over fifty years of age and in 2013 they have produced an utterly classic example, offering up a very pure and nascently complex nose of black raspberry, dark berries, espresso, duck, Vosne spices, dark soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very minerally in profile, with a fine core of black fruit, suave tannins and lovely grip on the tangy and very long, refined finish. A beautiful example of young Petits Monts. 2021-2055+. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The Domaine Georges Noëllat parcel in Boudots are the oldest vines at the estate, with vineyard ranging from eight to one hundred years of age and these old vines have produced a beautiful wine in 2013. The wine is pure and very vibrant on both the nose and palate, with the bouquet jumping from the glass in an excellent mélange of black cherries, black plums, cocoa, gamebirds, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil and a stylish base of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly refined on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, lovely transparency and a very long, pure, ripely tannic and utterly seamless finish. An outstanding example of Boudots. 2021-2055+. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The new addition in Monsieur Cheurlin’s lineup is absolutely superb in 2013. The wine was raised in fifty percent new wood this year, just like the Petits Monts and Boudot and offers up a superb and black fruity bouquet of dark berries, cassis, espresso, dark soil tones, incipient notes of venison, woodsmoke, fresh thyme and a fine framing of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and balance, ripe tannins and a very, very long and soil-driven finish. Outstanding juice! 2021-2055+. **93+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Beaux Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2013 Beaux Monts from Maxime Cheurlin is another outstanding premier cru, wafting from the glass in a very classic and impressively complex bouquet of dark berries, black cherries, dark soil tones, venison, woodsmoke, fresh herb tones, espresso, Vosne spices and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and beautifully defined by its soil signature, with a fine core of black fruit, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the balanced and ripely tannic finish. This will need a full decade in the cellar to come into its own, but it will be a long-lived and outstanding example of Beaux Monts. 2023-2060. **93+**.

2013 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat

As I have mentioned in the past, the domaine's family's old vines lies in the *lieu à dit* of Les Cruots, at the upper section of this part of Echézeaux and right below the lower limit of Beaux Monts. This was always one of Henri Mayer's favorite sectors of Echézeaux. The 2013 here is going to be an outstanding wine, as it offers up a nicely reserved and very serious nose of cassis, sweet dark berries, woodsmoke, bitter chocolate, Vosne spice tones, incipient notes of game and a fine base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven, with a lovely core of black fruit, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus on the very, very long and classy finish. All this lovely bottle of Echézeaux needs is time in the cellar to unfold. 2023-2065+. **94+**.

2013 Grands Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat

The 2013 Grands Echézeaux from Domaine Georges Noëllat is an outstanding follow-up to the absolutely brilliant wine that Monsieur Cheurlin made here in the 2012 vintage. The deep, complex and very, very promising nose delivers scents of black cherries, dark berries, coffee bean, gamebirds, a superb base of soil, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in profile, with a rock solid core, lovely soil inflection, ripe, seamless tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and impeccably balanced finish. This was raised in one hundred percent new wood in 2013, but it has absolutely devoured its wood component in this vintage. Another absolutely superb example of Grands Echézeaux in the making. 2023-2070. **95+**.

Nuits St. Georges

Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils (Nuits St. Georges)

Bertrand Chevillon has produced absolutely stellar example of the vintage, which surprised him as much as anyone, as he did not expect anywhere near the level of quality in the finished wines of 2013 after all of the struggles in the vineyards during the growing season. As Monsieur Chevillon noted, the vintage has turned out to be far better than anyone expected at harvest time, with the memory of all the rain and attendant tractor work in the vineyards- seemingly for the entire growing season- and then cold temperatures at harvest time and a very late start date for the picking and not particularly high sugars. But, he notes that "after the malolactics, the wines really started to show some character and have just gotten better and better as time has gone on." Several of the cuvées in the cellar this year are quite black fruity in personality, reflecting the cool vintage character, and reminded me very strongly of the beautiful 1993s at this address, which was the first vintage I had the pleasure to taste "sur place" at Domaine Chevillon. The wines across the board are supremely elegant renditions of Nuits St. Georges, but with all of the depth and structural integrity one would expect, coupled to great purity of fruit, excellent transparency and a suave, silky characteristic to the tannins that augurs extremely well for their future development. Bertrand Chevillon notes that the 2013s "share some similarities with the 2008s, but the 2013s are deeper wines from the smaller yields, and they should ultimately be even better wines than the 2008s." Another vintage that he felt showed some similarities to the 2013s was 2001, though he observed that "2013 is far more elegant than 2001 was at the same age" and again, he feels 2013 will end up superior to this vintage as well. Given that two of the recent vintages that I have the most Chevillon wines in my own cellar from today are 2008 and 2001, needless to say, I was very excited with these favorable comparisons. The 2013s are beautifully structured wines chez Chevillon, with very suave textures to the tannins, great purity to their often quite black fruity personalities, and superb transparency.

While they may not quite scale the heights of the two greatest recent vintages here, 2010 and 2012, they are not far behind and are an absolutely superb set of wines. I had the pleasure to taste this year in a part of the new guest house facility that the family is in the midst of constructing at the domaine, which includes a big, spacious kitchen that can be used for cooking for the team at harvest, several guest rooms, a tasting room, a fireplace and what will be a very, very commodious living room area. It promises to be a very comfortable and stylish place to stay when the time comes, and as my tasting here was on the first very cold day of winter, replete with a bit of freezing rain and threat of snow, it was nice not to be down in the much colder cellars working through this stellar lineup of 2013s. The family was expecting a small group of clients for lunch on the day of my visit, and had prepared a few other wines for their visit, so I also had an opportunity once we had finished our tasting of the 2013s to revisit the great 2012 Vaucrains, as well as the 2003 Roncières (which was really starting to drink well) and the brilliant 1991 les Cailles (which I had finished up in my own cellar more than a decade ago). All in all, it was a very, very pleasurable morning visit to Domaine Cheillon, but this is always the case, as there is probably no estate in the Côte d'Or as consistently excellent as Domaine Robert Cheillon et Fils!

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Robert Cheillon et Fils

The 2013 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes” from the Cheillon family is really lovely, with a very promising sense of reserve out of the blocks that will carry it far into the future. The pure and very classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully focused, with a lovely core, fine soil signature, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the classy finish. 2019-2045+. **90.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Robert Cheillon et Fils

I love the precision and purity of the 2013 Chaignots from Domaine Cheillon this year. This bottling is always the most forward of the premier crus in the cellar, and this year is no exception, but the wine's tangy acids give it a transparency and precision right out of the blocks that is truly exciting. The very refined nose delivers a blend of cherries, plums, cocoa, gamebirds, a bit of charred wood, lovely soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with lovely, vibrant acidity, lovely soil inflection, a fine core of fruit and a long, ripely tannic and impeccably balanced finish. A beautiful vintage of Chaignots. 2019-2050. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Bousselots”- Domaine Robert Cheillon et Fils

The 2013 Bousselots *chez* Cheillon is another beautiful bottle of Nuits in the making. The superb bouquet delivers a mélange of red and black cherries, fresh herb tones, gamebird, woodsmoke, lovely soil tones and a deft framing of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows lovely inner tension between the soil and fruit elements, with excellent focus, lovely transparency and a very long, tangy and suavely tannic finish. This will need a year or two more in the cellar than the Chaignots to blossom, but it is another absolutely beautiful young bottle of Burgundy. 2020-2050. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Roncières”- Domaine Robert Cheillon et Fils

Over the last few years, I have really come to fully appreciate just how fine a wine the Cheillon Roncières is and I wish I had cellared more of it in my early days of collecting, as I would love to have a cellar full of vintages of this wine approaching maturity! The 2013 is a dynamite wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of plums, black cherries, incipient

notes of meatiness, beautifully pure soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off great mid-palate depth, with lovely soil signature, excellent focus and balance, ripe tannins and a very long, poised and vibrant finish. A stellar bottle in the making. 2021-2050+. **93.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2013 Chevillon Perrières is quite black fruity in personality this year and recalls very strongly the beautiful 1993 at this address when that wine was young. The bouquet is pure, elegant and very intense, delivering a complex mix of black cherries, sweet dark berries, *pigeon*, beautiful minerality, raw cocoa, smoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and as reserved as it customarily is out of the blocks, with a rock solid core of sappy black fruit, fine-grained tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very, very long, soil-driven finish that turns quite stony on the backend. An outstanding vintage for this excellent wine. 2022-2060. **93+.**



Bertrand Chevillon in the new dining room of the gîte the family is building at the domaine.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Pruliers”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

I do not think I have ever tasted so many elegant examples of young Pruliers as I did on this trip to taste the 2013s. This is a *terroir* that can often produce rather *sauvage* wines out of the blocks, with the inherent elegance of this vineyard only arriving after many years of bottle age, but this is emphatically not the case with this very elegant rendition of Pruliers in the

Chevillon cellars in 2013. The bouquet offers up a lovely constellation of black cherries, black plums, cocoa, a touch of coffee bean, woodsmoke, dark soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly structured, with an outstanding core of fruit, tangy acids, excellent soil signature, ripe tannins and a very long, chewy and focused finish. An excellent Pruliers that perfectly synthesizes the elegance of the vintage and the depth of this cru. 2023-2060+. **93+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

One of the reasons I never got my act together and bought more Roncières back in the day is I always bought a lot of les Cailles- not a bad thing- and the 2013 is definitely a wine I want in my cellar! This is an utterly beautiful wine, with a fine sense of reserve today that augurs extremely well for its evolution in bottle. The stunning bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, red plums, bitter chocolate, a gorgeously complex base of soil, woodsmoke, gamebirds and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very soil-driven, with a rock solid core of sappy fruit, tangy acids, laser-like focus and great length and grip on the ripely tannic finish. This is another 2013 that harkens back very strongly to the 1993 version! 2023-2060. **94**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Robert Chevillon et Fils

Like the Pruliers, the 2013 Vaucrains *chez* Chevillon is very, very elegant out of the blocks this year, without sacrificing any of the depth and intensity that makes this one of Nuits St. George’s greatest premier crus. The outstanding nose offers up a blend of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, nutskins, fresh herbs, a very complex base of soil tones, *pigeon* and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent transparency, ripe, firm tannins and a very long, vibrant and perfectly balanced finish. All this great, great wine needs is time. 2025-2075. **94+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils

The 2013 Les St. Georges is outstanding, and as is so often the case here, clearly of grand cru quality in this vintage. The pure, nascently complex and beautifully focused nose wafts from the glass in a mix of sweet dark berries, black cherries, espresso, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, a touch of graphite, gamebirds, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great mineral drive, laser-like focus, fine-grained tannins and a very long, tangy and utterly seamless finish. This is a brilliant wine in the making! 2025-2075. **95+**.

Domaine Henri Gouges (Nuits St. Georges)

Grégory Gouges was very happy with the quality of the family’s 2013s, though he noted that the yields here in 2013 were every bit as tiny as in 2012. Not only was the flowering difficult in 2013, but the domaine was also quite draconian during the sorting process and rejected between fifteen and twenty-five percent of the grapes from each cru, so that only pristine fruit was used for each wine. As Grégory Gouges commented, “in Burgundy today, where prices are so high, we have a responsibility to ensure that we produce the finest wines possible each year, with no exceptions.” He continued, “in the old days, if one had less than perfect grapes from Les St. Georges or Vaucrains, they would go into the Nuits village cuvée or the Bourgogne rouge, but in reality, bad grapes are bad grapes, no matter in what terroir they were grown, and they are not going to make the Bourgogne better just because the originated in a Vaucrains!” The team at Domaine Gouges began harvesting on October 5th in 2013, like so many others, and completed their picking within a week. The malos were on the late side here, but not quite as

slow as at some other addresses, with everything finishing up between April and June of 2014, with the Les St. Georges being the last wine to complete its malo this year. The entire cellar had been racked following the completions of their malos during the summer, and a couple of the wines were ready for a second racking, which was to be done right after Christmas.

2013 Bourgogne- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from the Gouges family is really a lovely example this year, wafting from the glass in a pure blend of black cherries, cassis, a touch of bitter chocolate and a fine base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, round and nicely focused, with a good core, a nice signature of soil and just a touch of backend tannin on the vibrant finish. This will be very nice right from the outset, but will probably be at its best with a couple of years' worth of bottle age. 2015-2025+. **88.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Nuits *villages* was one of the wines in the cellar that was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but with a bit of swirling in the glass it offers up a fine nose of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality this year, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance and a long, suavely tannic finish. This should prove to be a really lovely bottle of AC, but it will need some cellaring time to blossom. 2020-2050+. **89-90+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Chaignots”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Chaignots from Domaine Gouges is outstanding, offering up a pure and vibrant bouquet of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, a touch of violet, dark soil tones and plenty of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a rock solid core, outstanding balance, ripe tannins and a very long, classy finish that closes with impressive nascent complexity and lovely grip. High class juice. 2021-2060. **92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Chaînes de Carteaux”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Chaînes de Carteaux was also just a touch reduced at the time of my visit and was destined to be the first wine racked after the holidays. The bouquet emerges nicely with some coaxing to show a blend of red and black cherries, venison, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very soil-driven this year, with fine mid-palate concentration, ripe, well-integrated tannins and very good length and grip on the youthful finish. This is not quite as complete and refined as the 2013 Chaignots, but it too is another strong effort. 2021-2055. **91+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Porrets”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Clos de Porrets from the Gouges family is an outstanding young bottle of Nuits, wafting from the glass in a very refined constellation of black cherries, cassis, espresso, game, woodsmoke and a complex signature of soil. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off outstanding depth at the core, with great refinement on the attack, bright acids and ripe tannins adding excellent structural integrity on the very long, soil-driven and classy finish. An excellent wine in the making. 2023-2065. **93.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Pruliers at Domaine Gouges was also just a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but it was very clear that this is a very elegant vintage for this cru. With coaxing, the wine delivers a lovely and very promising nose of cassis, dark berries, woodsmoke, dark and quite stony soil tones, bitter chocolate and a nice touch of the meatiness to come. On the palate the

wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a rock solid core, ripe, chewy tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and surprisingly elegant (particularly for a young Pruliers) finish. Another outstanding wine in the making. 0223-2065+. **93.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The 2013 Vaucrains is one of the smallest cuvées in the cellar this year, as after all the sorting was completed, the yields here were only eighteen hectoliters per hectare in this vintage! The wine has turned out absolutely stunning in potential, offering up a pure and bottomless nose of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, a beautifully complex base of soil, gamebirds, woodsmoke and just a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent, with a fine core of fruit, great focus and grip and a very long, perfectly balanced and ripely tannic finish. A magical bottle of young Vaucrains. 2025-2075. **95.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Henri Gouges

The Domaine Gouges Les St. Georges in 2013 is another beautiful wine, wafting from the glass in a pure and nascently complex constellation of dark berries, cassis, graphite, gamebirds, coffee bean, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure full-bodied and already quite complex, with superb mid-palate depth, impeccable balance, tangy acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long, transparent and suavely-tannic finish. A classic. 2025-2075. **95.**

Domaine Alain Michelot (Nuits St. Georges)

Elodie Michelot was very content with the quality of the 2013s happily resting in her cellars in the center of Nuits St. Georges. Like so many of her colleagues in the Côte de Nuits in 2013, she got her harvesting team out in the vines on October the 5th and brought the fruit in as quickly as the cold weather would allow. Elodie observed that the harvest start in 2013 was the latest at the domaine since the 1978 vintage. The Michelot cellars are quite cold, and it is not atypical for the malolactic fermentations to take a bit longer here as a result, and in a vintage such as 2013, where the malos were prone to be tardy anyway, it was not surprising that the Michelot wines were quite late and a few were still wrapping up at the time of my visit. The remainder of the cellar that had finished malo had only done so over the previous three weeks, so the cellar was generally a bit difficult to taste, but enough wines were on form to see that this is yet another strong vintage from one of the very top domaines in Nuits St. Georges. None of the wines had been racked as of the 12th of December, but plans were underway to start racking a few of the wines before Christmas and the remainder after the holidays. As some wines were still a big gassy from their just recently finished malos, while others were a touch reduced, I have scored the wines that were a bit out of sorts with a range, and where the wine in question was more sanguine about being tasted, I have given it a single digit score. There is great purity to the Michelot range in 2013 that is very, very promising, with a great many of the wines very red fruity this year, and the transparency here is a consistent feature. I did not taste the Nuits St. Georges Blanc on this visit, as it had just been bottled a bit before my tasting and was not yet ready to be shown. But, the remainder of the lineup chez Michelot is very, very strong, which should come as no surprise, as Elodie Michelot has been making beautiful wines here for many vintages now and has taken the family domaine to the very top level of quality in the village.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Michelot Bourgogne is always a very good example and the 2013 is quite fine. The wine offers up a bright and classy nose of red and black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke and a

fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite pure on the attack, with just a hint of tannin, a good core and fine length and grip on the tangy and well-balanced finish. Good juice. 2015-2025. **87.**

2013 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2013 Morey *villages* was still in the midst of its malo and impossible to really take a proper note on. The wine is long and quite transparent on the palate, and I imagine it will be quite good.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Nuits Vieilles Vignes had finished up its malo only three weeks prior to my visit and still had just a touch of gas on the backend of the palate, but here one could get a very good sense of the ultimate wine. The nose is quite nice, offering up red fruity notes of cherry, pomegranate, a touch of nutskin, lovely minerality and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and quite vibrant, with a good core and a focused and ripely tannic finish. This will be lovely and will need some time to really start to blossom. 2021-2045. **90.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “les Charrières”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Morey premier cru bottling from les Charrières was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, having finished up its malo a bit earlier than most of the cuvées in the cellar and now ready for a racking. With a bit of swirling in the glass, most of the reduction blew off to show a wine of considerable promise, offering up a bouquet of red and black cherries, gamebirds, coffee, lovely soil tones and a touch of upper register bonfire. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very well-balanced, with a fine core, good transparency and a long, ripely tannic finish. I am sure this is going to be excellent and should ultimately rate at the high end of the range. 2022-2050. **90-92.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “la Richemone”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2013 La Richemone from Domaine Michelot was showing quite well at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a pure and nascently complex nose of cherries, pomegranate, cocoa, dark soil tones, nutskin, woodsmoke and a lovely topnote of violet. On the palate the wine is young and quite elegant, offering up a full-bodied and quite transparent profile, a good core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and promising finish. Good juice in the making. 2022-2050. **91+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2013 Chaignots is very strong from Domaine Michelot, offering up a pure and nicely reserved bouquet of red and black cherries, pomegranate, gamebirds, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil tones, violets and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very minerally in personality this year (as Chaignots can be more of a fruit-driven premier cru), with a sappy core of red fruit, bright acids, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the nascently complex finish. This will need a handful of years to blossom, but it will be a lovey example of Chaignots. 2021-2050. **92+.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Champs Perdrix”- Domaine Alain Michelot

The 2013 Champs Perdrix was absolutely singing at the time of my visit to the Michelot cellars, soaring from the glass in a very pure and vibrant constellation of black cherries, plums, nutskin, dark soil tones, *pigeon* and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great focus and grip, ripe tannins and a very long, soil-driven and perfectly balanced finish. A very fine wine in the making. 2023-2055. **93.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Alain Michelot

In contrast to the last couple of Nuits premier crus, the 2013 les Cailles was a bit reduced at the time of my visit and a bit grumpy about being tasted. With some coaxing the wine shows a promising nose of plums, red and black cherries, nutskin, woodsmoke, cocoa and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused, with a potentially sappy core of fruit, fine transparency and a long, balanced and youthful finish that closes with good acids and fine-grained tannins. No doubt this will be excellent. 2021-2050+. **91-92+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Alain Michelot

It is quite surprising to find a recalcitrant example of Cailles in the same cellars where the Vaucrains is absolutely singing, but that was the case at Domaine Michelot in December. This is one of the best young vintages of Vaucrains I have had the pleasure to taste *chez* Michelot, as the wine soars from the glass in a gorgeous and sappy blend of red and black cherries, plums, cocoa, nutskin, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, gamebirds and violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off outstanding mid-palate depth, with excellent focus and grip, ripe tannins and superb backend energy on the very long and transparent finish. Great juice in the making. 2023-2060. **94**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot

In contrast to the pure and happy Vaucrains, the 2013 Les St. Georges was also a bit reductive and cranky about being tasted at the time of my visit. With swirling, the wine reveals a lovely aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, blood orange, cocoa, superb minerality, gamebirds, woodsmoke and just a whisper of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with striking transparency, excellent complexity, ripe tannins and a very long, tangy and soil-driven finish. It is pretty rare in my experience for a young Les St. Georges to be so red fruity, and I think this augurs extremely well for the ultimate quality of this young wine. 2023-2055+. **93-94+**.

2013 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Alain Michelot

The Michelot family’s outstanding new addition of Clos Vougeot was still bubbling away in malo at the time of my visit, but I have little doubt that this will not end up being one of the reference point examples from the vineyard. The wine seems very pure and red fruity this year, with notes of cherries, pomegranate, blood orange jumping from the glass to go along with fine minerality, floral tones and smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with fine-grained tannins and a long, focused finish. This will be stellar juice. 2023-2065+. **93-95+**.

Savigny-lès-Beaune

Domaine Camus-Bruchon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

Guillaume Camus was in pretty good spirits at the time of my December visit, as he now had a more or less normal crop working down in the cellars from 2014, which was a welcome change from the brutally short crop of 2013, where the domaine was down fully seventy percent of a “normal” crop load. Guillaume reported that the hail in July was particularly brutal in Grand Liards and les Lavières, so that he was only able to produce enough for five hundred bottles of wine in les Lavières and only a bit more in Grands Liards! But, across the board, yields were infinitesimally short in 2013, so that in a vineyard like Gravains, Monsieur Camus felt fortunate to “only have lost fifty percent of the crop.” The domaine began harvesting in 2013 on September 27th and brought in the fruit quite briskly, and Guillaume decided to use far less whole clusters than is customary here in this vintage. The wines have turned out quite well, with

lovely textures and impressive aromatic and flavor complexity, and they have retained their energy levels far better than some of the other wines I tasted from heavily hail-damaged communes at other addresses. Monsieur Camus reported that happily, the vines had all bounced back quite well from the hail damage of 2013 in the following growing season of 2014, with the exception of their parcel of Narbantons, which was hailed on again, and yields were back to more correct levels in the following harvest.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2013 Savigny Blanc had only been filtered the week prior to my visit, as it was to be bottled right after Christmas, so the wine was a bit agitated, but its potential was quite apparent. The domaine only made six hundred bottles of their white wine in 2013, as this was not immune from the hail. The bouquet is quite expressive in its mix of apple, quince, chalky soil tones, white flowers and a dollop of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and zesty, with fine focus and grip, but a bit lean today, which I assume is simply a reflection of its recent filtering. The length here is good and the wine should drink very well from the outset. 2015-2022+. **88-89.**

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

I always like the Camus-Bruchon Bourgogne bottling and the 2013 is another very pretty example that will drink well right from the start. The bouquet is a bright and red fruity mélange of cherries, currants, dark soil tones and a nice topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bouncy and nicely transparent, with just a touch of backend tannins, fine balance and sneaky length and grip on the finish. A fine example. 2015-2022. **87.**

2013 Chorey-lès-Beaune- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2013 Chorey-lès-Beaune from Domaine Camus-Bruchon has also turned out quite well and is really a very elegant and transparent example this year. The fine bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, spices, a lovely signature of soil and a topnote of orange peel. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and very soil-driven in personality, with lovely shape and focus, modest tannins and a long, tangy and wide open finish. The Chorey AC here can sometimes be a bit tightly-knit out of the blocks and in need of a bit of bottle age to blossom, but the 2013 will offer up really lovely drinking upon release. Good juice here. 2015-2025+. **88.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Cuvée Reine Joly”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The Savigny AC bottling at Camus-Bruchon has a new name starting in 2013, Cuvée Reine Joly, which is in honor of Guillaume’s grandmother, who first began assembling the vineyard holdings that served as the genesis of the domaine. The wine has turned out very well indeed in 2013, with an excellent nose of cherries, red currants, bonfire, gamebird, Savigny spice tones and coffee jumping from the glass. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and intensely flavored, with great purity and soil inflection, tangy acids, gentle tannins and outstanding backend energy on the long and classy finish. This is really a superb success in this vintage! 2018-2040. **90.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Pimentiers” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

Pimentiers was not as hard hit as Grands Liards by the hail in July, and there is a bit more of this old vine bottling than of the Grands Liards as a result. The wine is deeper and more structured, as is its wont, than the Savigny AC, as it offers up a youthful constellation of red and black cherries, red currants, a lovely base of soil, coffee and a topnote of clove-like spice tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite stony in soil tone, with lovely focus and

balance, a fine core and a long, moderately tannic and still fairly primary finish. This will be a fine bottle, but it will need four or five years in the cellar to start to stir from behind its structural elements. 2019-2040. **91+**.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards” V. V.- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2013 Grands Liards has turned out beautifully and it really is a pity that there is so little of the wine this year. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a nascently complex blend of cherries, red currants, a touch of orange peel, cinnamon, venison and a superb base of minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and grip, firm, but suave structure and excellent length and grip on the still very young finish. This will need a bit longer in the cellar than the Pimentiers, but it will be equally fine once it has blossomed. 2022-2040+. **91+**.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

With only the equivalent of five hundred bottles of les Lavières produced in 2013, this is going to be a very wine to find this year. Les Lavières is usually the most elegant premier cru in Savigny out of the blocks- the les Amoureuses of Savigny, if you will- but, the extremely short crop has produced a spicier and stonier rendition of this great *terroir* this year. The superb bouquet delivers a fine mix of cherries, red currants, stony minerality, gamebirds, bonfire and a lovely base of coffee tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and grip and a long, ripely tannic and youthful finish. This has really turned out very well. 2022-2050. **92+**.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

The 2013 bottling of Gravains from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is excellent and quite elegant out of the blocks this year. With production down “only” fifty percent here, this is one of the larger cuvées in the cellar in 2013 and the wine will be worth every effort to find and latch onto a few bottles, as it will be excellent. The fine nose delivers an aromatic constellation of cherries, pomegranate, dark soil tones, gamebird, cocoa, just a touch of youthful Savigny spice and a bit of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with excellent soil signature again, ripe, beautifully-integrated tannins and superb length and grip on the well-balanced finish. A very refined and intensely flavored example of young Gravains. 2022-2050+. **92+**.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Narbantons” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

As Narbantons lies on the western side of the valley, it was far less hailed than the premier crus on the eastern side in Savigny, and with nineteen hundred bottles, this is the best production premier cru at the domaine in 2013. The wine is absolutely superb on both the nose and palate, jumping from the glass in a mélange of red and black cherries, plums, great minerality, cocoa, spices, and blossoming notes of the ubiquitous gamebird of Savigny. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very classic in personality, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance and a long, ripely tannic and quite soil-driven finish. High class juice! 2023-2055+. **93+**.

2013 Beaune “Clos du Roi”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

I tasted so many “low energy” Beaune premier crus on this trip that I was really very surprised by how beautifully the Camus-Bruchon Clos du Roi was showing at the time of my visit. The superb bouquet delivers a blend of red and black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, a dollop of vanillin oak and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep and full, with a lovely core of pure fruit, suave tannins and excellent balance on the long, velvety and utterly classic

finish. The acids here are tangy and really give vibrancy to the wine on the backend. A superb result. 2019-2040+. **92.**

2013 Pommard “Clos des Arvelets”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon

As Guillaume Camus explained to me, the rows of vines in the Clos des Arvelets are planted north-south, which allowed the foliage to offer a bit more protection to the nascent bunches of grapes in the vineyard when the hail struck on the July 23rd, so that the crop was not as decimated here as in several other premier crus in Pommard in 2013. Consequently, the domaine was able to retain fifty-five percent of a “normal” crop load in their parcel this year, which seemed absolutely generous in comparison to so many of their other cuvées. I love the vineyard of les Arvelets, as this is probably the stoniest of the Pommard premier crus, with much more hard, limestone in the soil base than clay, and the wine is always one of the most elegant in the commune. The 2013 from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is a stunning wine in the making, jumping from the glass in a blaze of cherries, quince, a touch of blood orange, nascent notes of *pigeon*, stony soil tones and a lovely topnote of Asian spices. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tangy, with great mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the very refined and soil-driven finish. Outstanding wine. 2023-2060. **94+.**

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

François de Nicolay is quite content with the quality of his 2013 wines, which were made from insanely low yields, due to the combination of difficult flowering conditions and the hail of July 23rd. Yields were down fully seventy-five percent from a “normal crop” in 2013, with the domaine getting started picking quite late for the Côte de Beaune in this vintage, with the team getting out into the vines on October 6th and completing the harvest by the 15th of the month. Malolactic fermentations here were very late, with a few wines still not completed by December, whereas others had only been finished for a month or so and still showed a touch of gas on the backend of the palate. As François de Nicolay commented, “we have actually been pretty lucky with the very warm October and November temperatures we have had this year, as it has allowed the wines which have not finished their malos to continue working along, without having to be moved in the cellars.” With yields of eight to ten hectoliters per hectare in 2013, the wines have turned out quite uniquely, with plenty of promise and quality in evidence, but rather atypical personalities in this totally unprecedented vintage. All the red wines across the board that I tasted were quite dark in color, due to the late harvest and the minuscule yields, with very black fruity personalities, relatively low alcohol levels of between twelve and twelve and a half percent, and plenty of fruit concentration to go with lovely transparency and velvety textures. The Chandon de Briailles wines are quite often very red fruity in personality out of the blocks, but this is not the case with the 2013s. As is also the case at Domaine Pavelot, the crop was so hard hit by the hail in les Lavières, that François has not produced a bottling in 2013. I did not taste the 2013 Île de Vergelesses Blanc or Corton-Charlemagne, as they had just been bottled a short time before my visit, and given how short the yields are here, I did not want to waste precious bottles so soon after the mise. I have never tasted wines in this style at Domaine Chandon de Briailles, nor had François de Nicolay for that matter, but despite their very unique personalities this year, they are very good wines and I suspect that they will age very well indeed, as they are poised, balanced and nascently complex. It was just a bit disorientating to see so much black fruit on display in these concentrated and velvety wines, when this is such a red fruity domaine in most vintages! While the concentration of the red wines here is enormous in 2013, the wines are far more suave structurally than similarly concentrated reds found in the

Côte de Beaune in 2012, with suppler tannins and more refinement out of the blocks. It will be fascinating to follow these 2013s over the course of their lives in bottle, as their eventual quality is often quite evident, but their ultimate shapes and styles will be unprecedented and very unique! If the wines were close to the end of malo or had finished up, I have scored the wines in a range, if it was still in plain malo, like the Fournaux, I have not given the wine a score.

Vins Blancs

2013 Corton Blanc- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Corton Blanc had been bottled a bit earlier than the other two Chandon de Briailles whites in the cellar, with the *mise* taking place just before the harvest of 2014. The wine has turned out ripe and juicy in this vintage, offering up a wide open nose of passion fruit, pineapple, honeysuckle, beeswax, orange peel and a fine base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a generous attack, a good core and fine length and grip on the tangy and focused finish. This is a bit deeper-pitched in 2013 than customary, but it has good cut and energy and is a very tasty wine for drinking over the next decade. 2015-2025. **91.**

Vins Rouges

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Saucours”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Savigny AC from Chandon de Briailles was pretty closed to finishing up its malo (“at least seventy-five percent of the way” chipped in Monsieur de Nicolay) and looked to be a very promising wine in the making. The nose offers up plenty of black fruit, lovely transparency, tangy acids, very suave tannins and good length and grip on the focused finish. I am sure this will be quite good. 2020-2045+. **88-90+?**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fournaux”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Fournaux was only about halfway through its malo, according to François de Nicolay, and it was still too young for me to get a good read on. It is very long and very pure on the palate, with plenty of black fruit, to go along with notes of espresso and minerals. I suspect this will be very good as well, but I cannot tell at this point in its evolution.

2013 Pernand-Vergelesses “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 les Vergelesses was one of the first wines to complete its malo, having finished up over the course of the summer and was racked in early November. The wine was showing very well, wafting from the glass in a black fruity mélange of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, dark soil tones, a bit of stoniness as well, pungent notes of violets and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite concentrated at the core, with suave tannins, good acids and a long, youthful finish. 2020-2045+. **90+.**

2013 Pernand-Vergelesses “Île de Vergelesses”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Chandon de Briailles Île de Vergelesses was in about the same stage of finishing up its malo as the Savigny AC, but was less happy about being tasted and a bit harder to take a proper note on at the time of my visit. The wine is very minerally in personality, with the vintage’s voluptuous black fruity character, fine focus and grip and very suave tannins, and I am suspect that this will be a very, very high quality vintage for this excellent bottling.

2013 Aloxe-Corton “les Valozières”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 les Valozières had finished up its malo prior to my visit and was showing good potential. The nose offers up the expected black fruity blend of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke a touch of Christmas spices and a lovely base of dark soil tones. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and still a bit coarse on the backend from the remaining gas after the malo. The tannins seem quite suave in texture below the gas and the wine is very long on the finish. 2021-2050+. **90-92.**



2013 Corton “Maréchaudes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Corton “Maréchaudes” was the first wine to finish its malo, having completed it back in July, but the wine still had just a touch of gas remaining on the backend, as it had not yet been racked. The bouquet is a deep and again quite dark fruit-toned blend of black cherries, black plums, chocolate, rosemary, dark soil tones, lavender and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, plush and chocolaty, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, nascently complex and black fruity finish. Again, I have never tasted a young vintage of Maréchaudes with these aromatics and flavor profile, but the wine is very well-made and should age very well indeed. I cannot wait to see its ultimate personality! 2023-2060+. **91-93+.**

2013 Corton “Bressandes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Corton “Bressandes” from Domaine Chandon de Briailles had also finished up its malo in mid-summer and was showing pretty well at the time of my visit. The deep, pure and black fruity bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, black plums, venison, chocolate, lovely soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and primary, with a fine core, ripe, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the tangy finish. 2023-2060+. **91-94.**

2013 Corton “Clos du Roi”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles

The 2013 Clos du Roi had also finished its malo and was showing fairly well in mid-December. The nose wafts from the glass in a black fruity, but also quite minerally constellation of black cherries, dark plums, cocoa, gamebirds, woodsmoke, violets and fresh rosemary. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a fine spine of minerality running from the attack all the way to the close on the long and nascently complex finish. 2023-2060+. **91-94+**.

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

I did not arrive at Domaine Pavelot at an ideal time, as the entire cellar, with the exception of the superb Corton Blanc bottling, had been racked and assembled in tank only the week prior to my arrival, and several of the wines had just had their sulfurs adjusted or had just been filtered as well. The bottling was scheduled to begin the very next day. The domaine lost fully sixty percent of its crop in 2013, due to the combination of a difficult floraison and the severe hailstorm of July 23rd. Due to the recent racking, nothing in the cellars was really on form for tasting, but I suspect that the overall quality of the wines chez Pavelot in 2013 is very high, with only the tiny quantities a disappointment for long-time fans of the domaine, as there is not going to be a lot of wine to go around from this vintage. Given the unsettled nature of most of the wines in the cellar at the time of my visit, I have scored wines in a range for the most part, unless a particular cuvée was really on form and showing its full potential. There is no les Lavières in 2013, as the hail damage here was so severe that the crop level was too low to make a cuvée on its own and the remaining grapes were included in the Savigny villages bottling. What was very impressive about the bottlings from vineyards that were hit head on with the hail was that none of them showed the “low energy” profiles I found in a few other cellars from wines produced from vines that had felt the wrath of the July 23rd hailstorm. Here, everything was bright and vibrant on the palate and the hail seemed to mostly have affected the size of the crop, rather than the style of finished wines.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune AC from Domaine Pavelot was assembled in tank, but had not yet been filtered and was showing quite well. The nose is a fine blend of cherries, red currants, bonfires, a bit of game, stony soil tones and coffee. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and quite soil-driven in personality, with modest tannins, fine focus and very good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This will be a very good *villages*. 2019-2040. **88+**.

2013 Aloxe-Corton- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 Pavelot family’s Aloxe AC bottling had just been filtered and was a bit more grumpy than the Savigny *villages* at the time of my visit, but this is clearly going to be another strong example. The bouquet offers up a very transparent blend of cherries, orange peel, iron, woodsmoke, a touch of venison and a lovely base of stony soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core, ripe tannins and good length and grip on the tangy finish. The focus is a bit agitated from its recent preparation for bottling, but I have confidence in this wine’s ultimate quality. 2019-2040. **88-90**.

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Peuillets”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 les Peuillets had not yet been filtered, but was still a bit out of sorts from its recent *assemblage*. The bouquet is quite pure in its mélange of red and black cherries, coffee bean, bonfire, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a bit of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep,

full-bodied and nicely structured, with a fine core, ripe tannins and impressive length and grip on the well-balanced finish. Again, the focus is not here from its recent movements, but the constituent components here are very strong. 2022-2050. **90-91.**

2013 Beaune “Bressandes”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The Beaune “Bressandes” had been recently filtered, but here the wine was recovered quite nicely and showed quite well. The bouquet is quite black fruity this year, wafting from the glass in a blend of black cherries, dark berries, gamebirds, a fine base of soil and a topnote of espresso. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a good core, lovely soil signature and very good backend energy on the long and moderately tannic finish. This has really turned out very well. 2020-2050. **90+.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 Serpentières from Domaine Pavelot had also just been filtered and was a bit more out of sorts than the Beaune “Bressandes” at the time of my visit. The nose enjoys some lovely components in its mélange of red and black cherries, a bit of fruitcake, venison, stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite long, with a fine core of fruit, excellent soil signature, good acids and fine length and grip on the ripely tannic finish. Again, the focus is impossible to evaluate today, due to its recent prep for bottling, but everything else here is quite impressive. 2021-2050+. **91-92+.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Guettes” - Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 aux Guettes had also just been filtered and it too was quite cranky about being tasted. The nose was still quite unsettled, but the palate showed lovely promise in its full-bodied and energetic personality, with fine mineral drive, pure fruit and ripe and well-integrated tannins. While the wine was in no shape for taking a precise note, I am sure this will be very strong. 2021-2050+. **90-92+.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 Pavelot aux Gravains had been *assembled* in tank, but not yet filtered, and it was showing very well at the time of my visit. The bouquet jumps from the glass in a black fruity and nicely reserved blend of dark berries, black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, dark soil tones, coffee bean and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully transparent, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and very well-balanced finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2021-2050. **92+.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “la Dominode”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 la Dominode from Hugues Pavelot had also not yet been filtered, but it was not quite as happy about being sampled as the superb Gravains. The bouquet is pure and youthfully complex, delivering a fine constellation of black cherries, sweet dark berries, bitter chocolate, violets, gamebird, dark soil nuances, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and chewy, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip, tangy acids and fine-grained tannins perking up the long and soil-driven finish. This will be excellent. 2022-2050+. **91-93.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot

The 2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc has already been bottled and was showing very well, wafting from the glass in a stylish blend of pear, peach, orange zest, musky floral tones, chalky soil and a bit of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and juicy on the attack, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, zesty and refined finish. This will drink beautifully from the moment it is released. 2015-2025. **89.**

2013 Corton Blanc- Jean-Marc et Hugues Domaine Pavelot

The 2013 Corton Blanc, as I mentioned at the outset, was still in cask and was showing outstanding potential. The pure and utterly refined nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of pear, pastry cream citrus oil, complex, chalky soil tones and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy in personality, with a rock solid core of fruit, excellent focus and grip, vibrant acids and superb grip on the long and complex finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2018-2040. **94.**

Beaune

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

Due to the late harvest in 2013, many of the Joseph Drouhin 2013 reds were not yet bottled at the time of my early December visit, so that only about twenty percent of the samples I tasted of the 2013 reds were already in bottle- a lower percentage than customary for this time of year and which made the wines that much easier to appreciate. Due to the very short yields of the last couple of vintages, the Drouhin family has taken to organizing a couple of more comprehensive tastings for visiting journalists in November during the week leading up to the Hospices de Beaune auction, but as I was traveling a bit later this year, I did not have the opportunity to attend one of these tastings and did not taste quite as complete a range of the 2013s chez Drouhin as I have in past years. However, Véronique Drouhin Boss prepared a fine range for my visit in early December, so I had a chance to get a good read on the excellent quality of the 2013s from this outstanding domaine. The hailstorm that ravaged the Côte de Beaune in July of 2013 was particularly hard on Beaune, and for the third year in a row, the Clos des Mouches, the flagship vineyard of the Drouhin family, was pummeled by hail. It would be hit once again in 2014, making it four years in a row and there is some question if the section of young vines that had been planted only a year or two previous to the four year run of hail damage will be able to survive, or if they will have to be grubbed up and replanted next year. It was interesting, as the hail came early enough in the growing season in 2013 that there is no hail taint in the finished examples of Clos des Mouches, but the chardonnay and the pinot noir vines have seemingly reacted quite differently to the violence of the hail, with the small quantity of Clos des Mouches Blanc produced absolutely spectacular in quality and one of the top recent vintages of this iconic wine. The pinot noir vines seem to have had a much harder time recovering from the devastation brought on by the hail, and though the wine is clean and complex, one can sense the lack of energy in the bottling this year, as if the vines had to expend much of their reserves in trying to recuperate the damaged wood and leaves, and did not have as much left for the grapes as in typical years. The wine has turned out clean and complex, but its lack of energy comes across as a “sad wine”, if this makes any sense. The same can be said for the superb Beaune “Grèves” bottling from the Drouhin family, which too lacks its customary sense of energy on the palate.

However, happily, Maison Joseph Drouhin does not have to rely entirely on its fine holdings in Beaune and Savigny, and overall quality of the 2013s here is absolutely stellar, with all of the calling cards of the vintage- great purity of fruit, superb “typicité”, suave tannins and bright, tangy acids all very much in evidence in the vast, vast majority of the range. As I noted last year, there are a couple of new bottlings of Gevrey premier crus now in the Drouhin stables, and both the Lavaux St. Jacques and Cazetiers were once again ringing successes in 2013. The vintage also saw the addition of a couple more new bottlings to the lineup, as the family is now

producing a bottling of Mâcon-Bussière and a Chassagne-Montrachet premier cru bottling from the vineyard of Embazées, and both wines were outstanding examples of their respective appellations in 2013. As lovers of Burgundy are most certainly aware these days, Maison Joseph Drouhin is at the absolute top of its game these days, with great teams in both the cellars and vineyards, and their wines today are as magnificent as any made in Burgundy, and this is true from the lower level appellations such as Mâcon-Bussière or St.-Véran all the way up to Montrachet and Musigny, with their red and white wines at the “villages” level really having jumped up in quality in the last decade and offering some of the finest values to be found in the region today.

Vins Blancs de Maison Drouhin

2013 Mâcon-Bussière “Les Clos”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The new addition of the Mâcon-Bussière “Les Clos” bottling from the Drouhins is outstanding. The wine is half fermented in stainless steel tanks and half in new, large *foudres*, which once they are seasoned with the Bussière, will be reserved for use in Chablis. The wine was bottled at the end of June and was showing lovely purity and depth in December, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, lemon, gently toasty soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak from the large *foudres*. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and quite long, with sound acids, fine focus and good length and grip on the zesty finish. This has lovely depth for its pedigree. 2015-2020+. **89.**

2013 St. Véran- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 St. Véran had also been bottled at the time of my visit, and I tasted this wine under natural cork, where it was absolutely singing. Folks in the US still get this wine under screwcap, which will be a completely different experience I have no doubt- at least after another six months. In any case, under cork, this is really lovely in 2013, as the very low yields in the Mâconnais have translated into a wine of great purity and depth for its appellation, delivering a bouquet of peach, apple, spring flowers, lemon zest and a nice base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and intensely flavored, with fine focus and grip, nice complexity and impressive length and grip on the vibrant and shapely finish. This is really good this year! 2015-2022+. **89+.**

2013 Rully- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Rully from the Drouhins is really lovely this year, as the Côte Chalonnaise seems to have really excelled in this vintage. The bright and vibrant bouquet jumps from the glass in a mix of apple, tangerine, stony soil tones, a touch of fresh pineapple and a very discreet whisper of vanillin oak in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with a fine core, lovely nascent complexity, fine grip and a long, zesty finish. I did not taste the two Montagny bottlings from the estate this year (which I imagine would also be excellent examples), but the Rully is a wine to search out for those looking for good value in white Burgundy and a wine that will drink at its apogee early on. 2015-2022+. **90.**

2013 Chablis “Réserve de Vaudon”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The Réserve de Vaudon bottling from Joseph Drouhin is one of my favorite *villages* bottlings in the region, and the 2013 is a good wine, but it is quite typical of the successful wines from Chablis in this vintage, with a far more fruit-driven personality than is customary. The fresh and succulent nose offers up scents of apple, a touch of pineapple, citrus zest and a bit of slightly anonymous chalkiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, clean and very well-balanced, with a good core, fine focus and grip and sound framing acids. Typically, this will be a bottling

of Chablis that revels in its wet stone and flinty minerality, but like so many Chablis in this vintage, this is a wine that trades on its lovely fruit tones in 2013. 2015-2019. **88.**

2013 Chablis “Mont de Milieu”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The Mont de Milieu is another new addition to the Drouhin portfolio in 2013, as this gives them a premier cru bottling on the *Rive Droite* to augment their bottlings of Vaillons and Montmains on the *Rive Gauche*. The family does have a very small parcel of Montée de Tonnerre, but not enough to bottle on its own, so this goes into the Vaudon. The 2013 was made entirely in stainless steel and offers up a pretty nose of apple, white peach, orange zest, a nice touch of minerality and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plump on the attack, with a good core, fine freshness and a long, wide open and succulent finish. Like so many 2013 Chablis, this will want drinking in its youth, but it will provide plenty of pleasure out of the blocks. 2015-2020. **89.**

2013 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon

The 2013 Bougros from the Drouhin family’s Domaine Vaudon is quite lovely this year, with a nice base of flinty minerality that was so hard to find in this vintage. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, orange, the lovely flintiness mentioned above, a touch of straw and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and quite round on the attack, with a fine core, sound framing acids and good length and grip on the forward and succulent finish. This will drink well from early on and is a notable success in a tough Chablis year. 2015-2025. **92.**

2013 Côte de Beaune Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

I always like the Côte de Beaune Blanc bottling from the Drouhins, which often contains a fair bit of the younger vine production from the Clos des Mouches. However, with the hail damage, I do not know if this was true in 2013, but in any case, the majority of this cuvée comes year in and year out from six different parcels scattered around Beaune, with one parcel in the premier cru of Champs Pimonts, and the others from *lieux à dits* either above or below the band of premier crus on the slope. The wine in 2013 is a bit less taught than is customary, no doubt owing to the hail, but offers up lovely freshness in its mélange of pear, lemon, spring flowers, chalky soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, round and juicy, with suave framing acids, fine focus and good length and grip on the stylish finish. This will be absolutely delicious to drink young. 2015-2020. **89+.**

2013 Meursault- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Meursault *villages* bottling from Maison Drouhin hails from five different parcels in the village, with one being the lower, *villages* section of Poruzots, and the others being scattered around the village and offering up a fine overall example of Meursault. The 2013 Drouhin Meursault AC bottling is excellent in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a fine constellation of apple, passion fruit, hazelnuts, chalky minerality and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with lovely mid-palate concentration, fine cut and focus and a long, refined and vibrant finish. Lovely juice. 2015-2030+. **91.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Drouhins’ Puligny-Montrachet *villages* bottling is one of their bigger cuvées in the Côte de Beaune, with the family sourcing grapes from eight different parcels of vines throughout Puligny to produce the wine. Several of their plots of vines lie just below premier crus, at the tops of the slopes of their respective *climats*, so the vines are in close proximity to Pucelles, Clavoillon, Perrières and La Garenne, and they also have vines in the well-known *lieu à dit* of Enseignères as well. The 2013 version has turned out beautifully, but is perhaps a touch more

forward stylistically than their Meursault AC this year, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, white peach, lemon blossoms, a fine base of chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, round and juicy on the attack, with a fine core, lovely framing acids and a very long, wide open and complex finish. A lovely example. 2015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Folatières bottling from the Drouhin family has always been one of their consistently excellent wines, and the 2013 is another fine success. The wine offers up lovely shape and refinement on both the nose and palate, wafting from the glass in a mélange of apple, tangerine, white peach, chalky minerality, a touch of fresh almond, vanillin oak and a topnote of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with fine mid-palate concentration, lovely focus, bright acids and a long, pure and zesty finish. Fine juice. 2015-2030+. **92+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Embazées”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

Maison Drouhin has been working with this grower since the 2009 vintage, but the 2013 will be the first time that the Embazées will be bottled on its own as a separate cuvée. The premier cru is located far up on the slope of premier crus, south of La Romanée on the Santenay border and the wine was bottled in October of this year. It really is a very fine new addition the lineup, offering up a bright bouquet of pear, white flowers, a hint of the *crème patissière* to come, a lovely base of soil tones, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with fine mid-palate depth, fine acids and grip on the long and classy finish. 2015-2030+. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” Marquis de Laguiche- Joseph Drouhin

The Marquis de Laguiche Morgeot is outstanding in 2013, wafting from the glass in a pure and refined constellation of pear, orange zest, apple, chalky soil tones, a touch of the butter to come, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with lovely purity and focus, a fine core, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the long and utterly classic finish. A fine, fine bottle in the making. 2017-2035. **93.**

2013 Meursault “Perrières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Meursault “Perrières” from Maison Joseph Drouhin had not been bottled at the time of my December visit, with the wine still resting on its fine lees in the cellars. The wine is really vibrant and classy in this vintage, offering up a superb bouquet of apple, tangerine, almonds, a touch of iodine, complex, chalky minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with vibrant acids, lovely focus and grip and a very long, youthful and perfectly balanced finish. A superb example. 2018-2040. **93+.**

2013 Beaune “Clos des Mouches” Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin

I do not know how the chardonnay vines in Clos des Mouches have managed to pull off this magical feat in the wake of the brutal hailstorm, but the 2013 white here is stunningly pure and beautiful. The bouquet is a superb blend of apple, pear, pastry cream, spring flowers, fresh almonds, chalky soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with a great core of fruit, crisp acids and outstanding length and grip on the vibrant and utterly refined finish. Great juice. 2017-2040. **94+.**

2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Joseph Drouhin (Estate)

The 2013 Corton-Charlemagne from the Drouhins was not yet bottled at the time of my visit in December, but was showing no ill effects from the hail of July. Their parcel is located

high up on the hill of Corton in the *lieux à dits* of Les Longuettes and Les Pougets, right where the hill transitions from Aloxe to Pernand, and maybe being so high up on the hill, they were able to miss a bit of the brunt of the hail. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, fresh almonds, a great base of chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already very complex, with outstanding mid-palate depth, racy acids, superb focus and grip and a very long, youthful and perfectly balanced finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2017-2040+. **94+**.

2013 Montrachet “Marquis de Laguiche”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Marquis de Laguiche Montrachet was still in cask as well at the time of my visit, resting comfortably on its fine lees. The 2013 is going to be magnificent, as the nicely reserved bouquet offers up a superb constellation of pear, lemon, a touch of tangerine, complex chalky soils, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and focused, with a superb core of fruit, fine balance and grip, plenty of backend *nervosité* and outstanding length and grip on the laser-like and youthful finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2017-2040+. **96**.



Véronique Drouhin Boss in the domaine's tasting room in December.

Vins Rouges de Maison Drouhin

2013 Côte des Beaune Rouge- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Côte des Beaune Rouge from Maison Joseph Drouhin had already been bottled at the time of my visit, and the wine was still a bit tight from the recent *mise* in September. This is normally one of the great bargains in red Burgundy, as the wine comes from several parcels in

Beaune, some of which are premier crus where the domaine's parcels are too small to bottle on their own. However, in 2013, all of these parcels were hailed upon, so the production for this cuvée was smaller than usual. The wine offers up a bright and high-toned nose of cherries, red berries, woodsmoke, fine soil tones, coffee and fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, tight and tangy, with fine focus and soil inflection, but pretty modest depth of fruit at the present time, with a touch of tannin and good length and grip on the nascently complex finish. Perhaps it is just the recent bottling, but the wine seems a bit lean today and needs some time in the cellar to flesh out. 2018-2030+? **85-88?**

2013 Beaune "Grèves"- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Drouhin family's 2013 Beaune "Grèves" is quite black fruity out of the blocks this year, wafting from the glass in a blend of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, violets, fresh thyme, dark soil tones and just a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still a bit youthfully shrill, with tangy acids, a good core and fine soil signature on the long and ripely tannic finish. The malo was late to finish here and this wine was still in cask at the time of my visit, destined to be bottled a bit later than normal, due to the late finish of the malo. It was completely destemmed this year, due to the hail in Beaune. It will need several years in the cellar to blossom, but should prove to be quite good. 2021-2050+. **88.**

2013 Beaune "Clos des Mouches" Rouge- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 vintage was not kind to the Clos des Mouches, as the vineyard was pummeled by the July hail, but what was left after the hail had severely cut back the crop load has turned out pretty well in *rouge* and outstanding in *blanc*. The 2013 Clos des Mouches *rouge* offers up a deep and classy nose of black cherries, dark plums, bitter chocolate, woodsmoke, just a whisper of pepper and a fine base of dark soil tones. On the palate more pepperiness shows than on the nose, as this is a medium-weight Clos des Mouches that is fresh from the war of the vines in 2013, with a good core, moderate tannins and good length and grip on the complex, but slightly malnourished finish. I assume that the pinot vines, having been so abused by nature in July, took a while to get their energy directed back into the grapes and the ripening here was not all that it could be in a less capricious year, but this wine has turned out quite well in the context of the abuse and may blossom into a really interesting vintage down the road. However, it will need some bottle age to show to full advantage. 2023-2050+. **87-89+?**

2013 Côte de Nuits Villages- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Côte de Nuits Villages from Joseph Drouhin was still in cask at the time of my December visit, awaiting bottling right after the New Year. The wine is made from a blend of parcels in Fixin, Prémieux, Comblanchien and Corgoloin and spent fifteen months in cask prior to being racked into tanks in anticipation of bottling. The bouquet offers up a fine blend of black cherries, dark berries, charred wood, a bit of venison and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, complex and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core, fine focus, tangy acids and very good grip on the nascently complex and moderately tannic finish. This should turn into a fine middleweight with four or five years bottle age and is a very fine value this year. 2019-2035. **88.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Chambolle *villages* from Joseph Drouhin is really a lovely bottling in the making, which needs six to eight months to bounce back from its recent bottling, but which will be an excellent example of the village. The bright and classic nose offers up scents of cherries, quince, lovely, chalky soils tones, woodsmoke, mustard seed, roses and a dollop of incipient gamebird. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and very transparent, with a fine core,

tangy acids, a nice touch of tannin and fine length and grip on the focused finish. Good juice that will want four or five years in the cellar to really start to sing. 2019-2040. **89+**.

2013 Vosne-Romanée- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Vosne *villages* had also been bottle prior to my visit. The blend includes a bit of the premier cru of les Chaumes, where the family does not have sufficient quantity to bottle the wine on its own. The wine offers up a very precise and transparent nose of cherries, raspberries, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil, Vosne spices and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with a good core, tangy acids, a touch of tannin and very good length and grip on the still quite youthful, but promising finish. This will be a lovely example, but it will need a few years in the cellar to blossom. 2019-2040. **89+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Drouhin family has really focused on the quality of their village wines in the last several years and perhaps none of these bottlings shows it more than their Gevrey *villages*, which has been getting better and better with each passing vintage. The 2013 was still in cask in December and is really very promising, offering up a youthfully complex bouquet of cassis, black cherries, a bit of grilled meat, black minerality, woodsmoke, mustard seed and coffee. On the palate the wine was still showing a bit of CO2 on the backend from its late malo, but offers up fine complexity in its medium-full format, with ripe tannins, tangy acids and very good length and grip on the soil-driven and very promising finish. This will be a lovely wine in about four or five years and should keep nicely for twenty-five to thirty years in the cellar. Fine juice. 2019-2040. **89-90+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Lavaux was one of the few top premier and grand crus in the Drouhin lineup that was already bottled in early December, but the wine was showing beautifully after the *mise* and very easy to enjoy. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a sophisticated mélange of sweet dark berries, black cherries, espresso, Gevrey’s black minerality, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with lovely focus and nascent complexity, a fine core and a long, suavely tannic and very soil-driven finish. A superb example. 2021-2050+. **92+**.

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

Whereas the Lavaux St. Jacques was already bottled in December, this fine Cazetiers was still in tank and would not be bottled until early spring. 2013 is only the second vintage of Cazetiers from Maison Drouhin and this is fast becoming one of their finest premier cru bottlings. The bouquet offers up a pure and very promising constellation of black cherries, red plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a lovely base of soil, a touch of nutskin and a very suave base of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, and nicely concentrated at the core, with fine focus, refined tannins and lovely length and grip on the complex and tangy finish. High class juice and an outstanding new addition to the Drouhin lineup! 2020-2050. **92+**.

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès” from Maison Drouhin is really strong this year, with the purity and elegance of the vintage beautifully synthesized to the sturdiness of top Nuits premier cru. The bouquet is a superb blend of dark berries, cassis, espresso, dark soil tones, a touch of new leather, just a whisper of nutskin, violets and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, chewy and will be quite sappy at the core with some bottle age, with ripe tannins, tangy acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and nascently complex

finish. This is very 1993-like out of the blocks, and though it is not a blockbuster, it may well be the finest young vintage of Procès I have yet tasted from the Drouhin family. Excellent juice. 2021-2050+. **93.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Chambolle Premier Cru bottling from the Drouhins is really superb, jumping from the glass in a primary blaze of red and black cherries, coffee, gamebirds, a beautiful base of soil, mustard seed and a touch of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, tangy acids, fine focus and grip and a long, nascently complex and very promising finish. This will be lovely. 2021-2050. **92.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Petits Monts is outstanding, offering up great purity and soil inflection in its youthfully complex aromatic blend of black raspberries, black cherries, dark soil, espresso, woodsmoke and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tangy, with a lovely core fruit, exceptional transparency, ripe tannins and a long, vibrant and youthful finish. This will be terrific, as it is cut from the same stylistic cloth as the 1993, but is more complete and elegant. 2021-2060. **94.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Amoureuses is outstanding from the Drouhins, offering up a pure and primary bouquet of red and black cherries, a touch of nutskin, fresh herb tones, a beautiful base of soil tones, gamebirds and a suave base of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is complex, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a fine core, ripe tannins, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the youthful and very promising finish. This will be an absolutely classic vintage of Drouhin Amoureuses. 2023-2065. **95.**

2013 Clos de Vougeot- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Drouhin Clos Vougeot is a beautifully elegant and transparent rendition of this underrated *terroir*, wafting from the glass in a pure blend of black cherries, plums, woodsmoke, a touch of venison, fresh thyme, an excellent base of soil and a refined framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with great soil signature, fine-grained tannins, tangy acids and superb length and grip on the focused and outstanding finish. This is a Clos Vougeot to make non-believers in this *climate* stand up and take notice! 2023-2075. **95.**

2013 Grands Echézeaux- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Grands Echézeaux from Maison Drouhin is another absolutely stellar example of the vintage. The wine delivers great purity on both the nose and palate, with the bouquet wafting from the glass in a refined blend of plums, a touch of pomegranate, duck, a superbly complex base of soil, cocoa, a touch of nuttiness, the first hints of the *sous bois* to come with bottle age and a fine framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite youthful in profile, with fine mid-palate depth, ripe, well-integrated tannins, tangy acids and excellent grip on the ripely tannic and perfectly balanced finish. Fine, fine juice. 2023-2075. **94.**

2013 Charmes-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 Charmes-Chambertin from the Drouhin family was one of the few grand crus that I tasted that had already been bottled at the time of my visit in December. This is one of the great, unsung grand crus in the domaine's portfolio, for though the vines are not owned by the domaine, the family has been buying grapes from this particular *vigneron* for more than forty years. The 2013 is another outstanding success, offering up a pure and complex nose of cherries,

red plums, grilled meats, cocoa, dark soil tones, lovely fresh herb tones and a deft touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, beautifully transparent and tangy, with a lovely core of sappy fruit, great focus and grip and a very long, pure and vibrant finish. Given this was just bottled, it would not surprise me if my score ultimately proves conservative! 2023-2060. **93+.**

2013 Griotte-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The 2013 vintage was particularly strong in Gevrey-Chambertin, and this is readily apparent with the 2013 Drouhin Griotte-Chambertin, which offers up excellent nascent complexity and superb depth and breed. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of cherries, red berries, grilled meats, mustard seed, a touch of citrus zest, a refined base of soil tones and cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite structured out of the blocks, with excellent mid-palate concentration, great soil drive, bright acids, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very, very promising finish. Great juice in the making. 2023-2075. **94+.**

2013 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The Drouhin’s Clos de Bèze is always a bit more reserved out of the blocks than their Griotte, though in my experience, it is one of the best bottlings of the grand cru produced in all of Burgundy, if one is sufficiently patient to leave it sleeping in the cellar until it starts to blossom. The 2013 is another characteristically structured and classic example in the making, offering up a youthful bouquet of cassis, black cherries, grilled meats, coffee, a superb base of soil, mustard seed and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very much defined by its *terroir*, with a superb core of fruit, fine-grained tannins, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the still very youthful finish. All this great wine needs is bottle age to blossom. 2025-2075. **94+.**

2013 Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin

The queen of the cellar at Joseph Drouhin is once again superb in 2013, offering up a beautiful, youthfully complex nose of red and black cherries, gamebirds, cocoa, a very complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, mustard seed and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven, with a rock solid core, stunning soil signature, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and superb length and grip on the perfectly balanced finish. This will be an outstanding vintage of this iconic bottling of Musigny. 2025-2080. **96.**

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

I tasted through a range of 2013s this year at Maison Louis Jadot with Frédéric Barnier’s assistant, as Monsieur Barnier was not available at the time of my visit. As was the case last year, I only allocated a single morning to my tasting here, rather than the two double length visits I used to make back in the days when Jacques Lardière was the Technical Director (and seemed to want to show everything in the cellar), as I no longer taste a complete range of the vintage here these days. As always, I left it up to the team at Maison Jadot which wines they wished to show, and I was a bit surprised by some of the choices that were made, as we spent an awful lot of time tasting Côte de Beaune reds from the most severely hail-damaged villages, and much less time on wines from other communes up and down the Côte d’Or. The harvest of 2013 began on September 25th in the Côte de Beaune for Maison Jadot and concluded on the 10th of October in the Côte de Nuits. Malolactic fermentations were generally on the late side here for the 2013s, with certain cuvées quite tardy in finishing up, so some of the wines sampled were still a bit marked by CO2 and temperamental from being close to the finish of their malos, while

other wines were several months removed from their malos and showing better. For the last few years, the technical team at Louis Jadot has prepared samples of the wines in barrel or tank and we have tasted in their new tasting room, but this year, we were back down in the cellars to taste the reds, with only a selection of white wines having been prepared in advance, as most or all of the white wines had already been assembled into tank in preparation for their bottlings after the New Year. Some of the white wines here had seen their malos partially blocked, as has been the custom at Maison Jadot for decades, but I was a bit perplexed by the decision to do so in 2013, given the generally quite high acidity found in the wines of the vintage. The house has switched all of its premier and grand cru white wines over to Diams since the 2011 vintage to try and avert the effects of premature oxidation, which I think is an excellent change and time will tell if this helps with the problem. I often read on internet wine boards that Maison Jadot has one of the worst track records these days for premoxed bottles, but I do not find this to be the case at all and find that the aging results with their white wines are quite consistent with everyone else making white wines in Burgundy these days when it comes to premox. The plague of premature oxidation is a universal problem that transcends growers, winemaking techniques and regions, as it is every bit as prevalent in several other regions around the globe known for (formerly) long-lived, dry white wines and to state that one domaine is more prone than another based on statistically insignificant sampling data seems rather silly to me.

The 2013 red wines at Maison Jadot were a bit all over the board this year, as is to be expected at an estate that has such extensive vineyard holdings in the villages that were in the path of the hailstorm on July 23rd, and several of the wines shown from these villages were decidedly low in energy from the hail, as was also the case in other cellars that I tasted in during the course of my trip. However, this same impression of “low energy” wines that lacked a bit of vibrancy and bounce was shared by some of the Jadot reds that originated in villages where there was absolutely no hail effect at all, such as Gevrey or Chambolle, and this left me wondering if I had caught the wines on a particularly poor day for tasting on December 16th, or if this is in fact the style of the vintage at Maison Jadot. As hail has been a constant companion since Monsieur Barnier took over from Monsieur Lardière here, I have not yet gotten a true sense if there are to be any changes stylistically here with the transition. I am sure that the goal is to retain the house style as much as possible during the change in winemakers, and a few of the changes that Monsieur Barnier has instituted, such as reducing the percentage of new oak used across the board here to roughly a third, are yet to show their true impact, as the vintages have just been so challenging in the Côte de Beaune since his assuming control in the cellars. Needless to say, reducing the new wood here is a decision I applaud! I keep hoping that we will see a classic, high quality vintage in the Côte de Beaune in the next year or two, so that we can get a real sense of any stylistic change that may stir here at this important address in Burgundy. After having spent nearly four hours tasting through the 2013s here, I still left a bit uncertain about the success of the estate in this vintage, as the range of samples seemed to focus a bit on the most challenged villages in the Côte de Beaune, and the number of cuvées which we tasted from unaffected communes was far smaller and not as consistently excellent as I anticipated. As always, there were clearly some excellent wines in the Jadot cellars this year from 2013, but based on the wines I was shown, one has to conclude that the percentage of successes in this vintage was below the customarily high standards of this estate over the last thirty years. Perhaps my impressions would have been markedly different if I had seen different wines or

tasted at a different moment in the wines' evolutions, but I walked away from my morning in the Maison Jadot cellars this year with a few more questions than expected.

Vins Rouges du Maison Jadot

2013 Santenay “Clos de Malte”- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot bottling of Clos de Malte is consistently one of their top values and the 2013 is quite successful, offering up a black fruity bouquet of cassis, black cherries, venison, a bit of charred wood and a nice base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, round and quite suave, with no rough edges, good length, modest tannins and a wide open personality. 2016-2035. **87.**

2013 Monthélie “Sous Roches”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Monthélie “Sous Roches” from Maison Louis Jadot, which is a village wine, was showing a lot of spice on the nose at the time of my visit. The bouquet offers up scents of dark berries, cassis, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a potpourri of dried herbs and spices. On the palate the wine is medium-full and fairly chewy in profile, with good depth and shape and a long, soil-driven finish. There was no major hail damage in this section of Monthélie and this wine has turned out quite well, but it will need a few years in the cellar to blossom. 2019-2035+. **88.**

2013 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Beaumonts”- Maison Louis Jadot

This too is a village wine, and this was one of the later wines to finish up its malo and was not showing well at the time of my visit. It had only been racked once, just before the harvest of 2014, and in mid-December, the wine was not yet recovered from its malo and really hard to get any sense of its quality, as the wine was still quite clenched on the palate and showing a rather rustic personality at the time of my visit. ???

2013 Pommard- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Pommard *villages* was showing quite well at the time of my visit and seems to not have been too affected by the hailstorm in July. The nose is a fine blend of plums, black cherries, venison, coffee and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely structured, with a very good core for a village wine, ripe tannins and good length and grip on the youthful finish. Good juice. 2021-2040+. **89.**

2013 Volnay- Maison Louis Jadot

In contrast to the Pommard AC, the 2013 Volnay *villages* was grumpy and not showing particularly well at the time of my visit. The nose is quite marked by dried herb tones, to go along with notes of dark berries, woodsmoke, soil and gamebirds. On the palate the wine is fullish and clenched, with a good core, but also some rough edges that make the wine a bit rustic on the backend of the palate. Perhaps this is another late malo wine, or this could be the results of the hail. ???

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “la Dominode”- Maison Louis Jadot

I really liked the nose on the 2013 Dominode from Maison Jadot, which jumps from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, woodsmoke, black cherries, espresso, venison and dark soil tones. However, on the palate the wine is not quite as promising as the nose suggests, with its full-bodied format a bit dry-edged on the backend. There is a good core and fine soil signature here, but the tannins are a bit brusque today, and the wine seems just a touch flat in comparison to the Pommard AC. It will certainly need some time, and maybe the wine is just in a cranky stage of its evolution and will gain a bit more vibrancy with bottle age. 2021-2050. **87-88+?**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Guettes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Guettes from Louis Jadot is another red here that is a bit clenched on the palate at the present time, with some early autumnal tones in evidence on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a mix of red and black cherries, game, *sous bois*, bonfires and a bit of rusty soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and quite bound up in its structure today, with firm tannins, moderate depth of fruit and a long, chewy finish. Is this a wine that is just still a bit lean coming out of its malo, or is it always going to be a bit hardscrabble on the palate? 2021-2045+. **86-88+?**

2013 Pernand-Vergelesses “Croix de Pierre”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Croix de Pierre shows more fruit on both the nose and palate than the two Savigny premier crus that preceded it in the lineup, but it too is a bit rustic on the palate and low energy in personality. The bouquet is a mix of dark berries, cassis, woodsmoke, venison and complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and chewy, with a rough edge to the tannins today, good, but not great depth at the core and good length and grip on the fairly lean and low energy finish. This will need time and may blossom, or it may always be a bit lean and rustic in personality. 2020-2045. **86-87+?**

2013 Beaune “Theurons”- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot parcels in Theurons were absolutely pummeled by the hail in July, so that they lost between sixty and seventy percent of a “normal crop” in 2013. The wine shows a good nose of black cherries, cassis, espresso, dark soil tones and woodsmoke. However, on the palate, the effects of the hail can be felt in a palpable lack of energy, as this fullish wine is nascently complex but flat and almost sad from the battering of the hail. The tannins are ripe and well-integrated here, and the wine has good depth at the core, but this wine will always be a bit linear from its battle with the hail of 2013. 2021-2045. **87+.**

2013 Beaune “Clos des Couchereaux”- Maison Louis Jadot

The Clos de Couchereaux, which houses some of the oldest vines in the Jadot stable, was really badly affected by poor flowering in 2013, which resulted in plenty of shot bunches (*millerandage*) and tiny, tiny berries for the remaining grapes on the vines. The results were the ripest wine in the entire Jadot lineup in this vintage, coming in at fourteen percent natural alcohol! The wine is cut more along the lines of the very concentrated Côte de Beaune wines of 2012 than the typically more svelte personalities of 2013, as it offers up a deep and intense nose of cassis, dark berries, espresso, charred wood and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, dense and quite reserved in personality, with firm, chewy tannins and a long, surprisingly cool finish. This is probably my favorite of the Jadot Beaunes in 2013, but it is still fairly atypical in style. 2022-2050. **89.**

2013 Beaune “Grèves”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Beaune “Grèves” from Maison Louis Jadot was another vineyard of theirs that was really ripped by hail in this growing season, and the wine is low energy as a result. The nose is a fairly complex mix of dark berries, cassis, a bit of shoe polish, dark soil, coffee bean and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe, well-integrated tannins and pretty good length and grip on the slightly flat finish. Other than its customary vibrancy and bounce on the backend, this wine has survived the hail pretty well, but it is a good, rather than a great wine and this is usually one of the stars from the Côte de Beaune in the Jadot cellars. 2021-2045+. **88.**

2013 Beaune “Clos des Ursules”- Maison Louis Jadot

As is typical with the Clos des Ursules in the cellars here, the wine is deeper and more complex than any of the Beaunes that were served prior to it in the tasting, but it too is clearly a “low energy” version of itself in this vintage. The nose is a blend of dark berries, black currants, French roast, charred wood, venison and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused, with again, a flat personality from the hail, but a good core, well-integrated tannins and good length and grip on the complex finish. This too is a pretty good result for the vintage, but the stylistic scars from the hail will always be in evidence. 2022-2050. **89.**

2013 Beaune “aux Cras”- Maison Louis Jadot

Since purchasing the vineyard holdings from the Germain family’s Château de Chorey-lès-Beaune, Maison Jadot has the most amazing lineup of utterly prime holdings in the top premier crus in Beaune, but in 2013, these were in the bull’s eye of the path of the hailstorm and all of them got battered. Their bottling of aux Cras shows this in both a bit of low energy on the palate and a really quite short finish, which is not typical of this old vine bottling in a normal growing season. The bouquet is again quite black fruity in its mélange of cassis, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, gamebirds and complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is full and pure on the attack, albeit a bit flat, with a good core and moderate tannins, but a short finish that seems to fall off the table a bit on the backend. Not a bad wine in 2013, but a shell of its customary quality, which is amongst the finest bottlings of Beaune to be found in Burgundy. But, not this year, thanks to the hail. 2019-2040. **87+.**

2013 Volnay “Clos de la Barre”- Maison Louis Jadot

I was not really sure what to make of the Clos de la Barre 2013 from Maison Jadot, as the wine was not showing well out of barrel in mid-December. The nose is a mix of fig, desiccated black fruit, woodsmoke, hung game and tons of dried herb tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, but hollow at the core, with some dry-edged tannins messing with the very lackluster finish. It seems to have been battered by the hail and lost all of its energy; the wine will need time to soften, but I have a hard time imagining these dried fruit and herb tones improving while the tannins soften. 2020-2040. **85?**

2013 Volnay “Santenots”- Maison Louis Jadot

Aromatically, the 2013 Jadot Santenots has a lot more energy and life to it than the Clos de la Barre, but it too is a bit clenched on the palate today. The bouquet is a blend of cassis, black cherries, espresso, venison and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep and full-bodied, with firm tannins and a bit of aggressive acidity currently roughing up the finish. The backend is quite long and shows good grip and soil signature, and I can be led to believe that this is a wine that has simply not shaken off the last vestiges of its malo and will be quite good in due time. 2021-2045. **88+.**

2013 Pommard “Clos de la Commaraine”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Clos de la Commaraine was totally off form at the time of my visit and I did not take a note on the wine, as it would have been totally unfair, given how grumpy it was at the time of my visit. I could not understand why it was even shown.

2013 Pommard “Rugiens”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Rugiens from Maison Jadot is a solid effort, given the heavy hail damage, but it is a bit hollow in the mid-palate and will never be a great example of this fine vineyard. The bouquet is a blend of dark berries, black cherries, venison, soil, coffee and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and focused, but not deep, with well-managed tannins and solid length and grip. If the wine can put some meat on the bones over the remainder of its *elevage*,

then it will place at the upper end of my range, but I am not certain that this will happen and it may always be just a bit emaciated in style. 2022-2045. **87-90?**

2013 Corton “Grèves”- Maison Louis Jadot

The *lieu à dit* of Grèves lies a bit lower down on the slope of the hill of Corton, just to the west of Bressandes on the Aloxe end of the slope, and this area did not get hit anywhere near as severely by the hail as the Pernand end of the hillside. However, the flowering was particularly difficult for the Jadot vines here with plenty of *coulure*, so the yields were still tiny in 2013. The wine offers up a complex and quite spicy nose of black cherries, dark berries, game, a fine base of soil, dried spices and a topnote of bonfire. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with ripe tannins and good length and grip on the finish, but with its energy on the low side. 2023-2050+. **89.**

2013 Corton “Pougets”- Maison Louis Jadot

Pougets is located on the turn of the slope at the far end of Aloxe-Corton, before one moves on into Pernand-Vergelesses, and I am guessing that there was a bit more hail damage here than in Grèves in 2013. The wine was showing fairly well at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, bitter chocolate, cedar and mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core of fruit and a bit of a dry edge to its substantial tannins. The finish here is long and focused, and this should be quite good in the fullness of time. 2023-2060+. **89+.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Drazey”- Maison Louis Jadot

This is a *villages* level *lieu à dit* located below the premier crus of Sentiers and Baudes, on the Morey St. Denis side of the commune and sandwiched between Bussière and Fremiers on the slope. The 2013 immediately shows more vibrancy on the nose than any of the series of Côte de Beaune reds, offering up scents of red and black cherries, mustard seed, coffee, a nice base of soil tones and a touch of the gamebird to come. On the palate the wine is medium-full, suave and bouncy, with moderate depth, but nice persistence to its flavors and sneaky length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This is a tasty bottle of Chambolle AC. 2019-2040. **88.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Gevrey *villages* from Louis Jadot is another lovely example of its level, wafting from the glass in a fine blend of black cherries, cassis, grilled meats, espresso and a fine base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely structured for an AC, with a lovely core, ripe, chewy tannins and fine length and grip on the well-balanced and classy finish. Good juice. 2021-2045+. **89.**

2013 Nuits St. Georges “Boudots”- Maison Louis Jadot

Maison Jadot makes great Boudots and the 2013 is a very good example of the vintage. The deep and complex nose offers up a pure and vibrant mélange of plums, black cherries, a complex base of soil, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a bit of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused, with a fine core, ripe, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the nascently complex finish. As is the case with several of these Jadot reds this year, the wine seems a bit low in energy for the vintage, but perhaps this is just a phase. If it brightens up, my score will seem conservative, as there is really fine stuffing and complexity here. 2022-2055. **91.**

2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Suchots”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Vosne-Romanée “les Suchots” from Maison Louis Jadot is quite a classic example of this vineyard, offering up a black fruity nose of dark berries, black cherries, Vosne spices, a bit of *pigeon*, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-

bdoied and very tangy today, with a good core and very good length and grip on the focused and chewy finish. I would guess that this is another of the late malo wines in the cellar and it will get a bit more suave as it gets further out from the completion of its malo. 2021-2050. **91+**.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 les Baudes from Louis Jadot is a fine example of the vintage, delivering a youthfully complex nose of black cherries, cassis, cocoa, dark soil tones, gamebirds and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and complex, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and a well-balanced and classy finish. A very good result in 2013. 2020-2045+. **90.**

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées”- Maison Louis Jadot

Maison Jadot’s 2013 les Fuées is even a step up from the very good Baudes this year, as the wine offers up a fine and nicely reserved aromatic constellation of cassis, black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, espresso, a fine signature of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and youthfully complex, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, suavely tannic finish. Good juice. 2022-2050+. **92.**

2013 Morey St. Denis “Clos des Ormes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Clos des Ormes from Maison Jadot is not one of the strongest premier crus from the Côte de Nuits that I sampled on this visit, as the wine shows a bit of dried spices on the nose and a bit flat on the palate. The bouquet is a mix of cassis, black cherries, venison, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, dried spices and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite pure on the attack, with good nascent complexity, but again, rather low energy, with ripe tannins and good length and grip on the slightly flat finish. Given the high acidity in general of the vintage, this is a bit perplexing. 2020-2045. **88+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”- Maison Louis Jadot

In contrast to the Clos des Ormes, the 2013 Estournelles St. Jacques is vibrant and a very fine example of the vintage, as the wine delivers a fine and quite classic nose of black cherries, cassis, incipient notes of meatiness, black minerality, espresso, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and focused, with a fine core, suave tannins, tangy acids and a long, complex and beautifully transparent finish. This is really strong this year! 2022-2055+. **92+.**

2013 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Maison Louis Jadot

In marked contrast to the Estournelles, the 2013 Clos St. Jacques was not showing particularly well at the time of my visit, as it too seemed to lack energy and was a bit flat on the palate. The bouquet offers up fine depth in its blend of cassis, black cherries, bitter chocolate, dark soil tones, smoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep and full-bodied, but quite flat, with a creamy core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, nascently complex and quite linear finish. I hope this is just a stage for this wine, which is usually one of the greatest premier cru bottlings to be found in Gevrey. 2023-2050+? **89-92?**

2013 Echézeaux- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Jadot Echézeaux was not showing particularly well at the time of my visit, as it was a bit appley in its aromatic fruit component and not showing a whole lot of depth or dimension on the palate. Perhaps this was just a stage? The bouquet is a mix of black cherries, cassis, apple skin, smoke, autumnal soil tones, game and cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with ripe tannins and good grip on the finish, but without the mid-palate stuffing one expects from a grand cru. Will this put on weight with further time in cask? 2023-2060. **88-91?**

2013 Clos de la Roche- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Clos de la Roche from Louis Jadot was also showing a bit lean at the time of my visit, but with impressive nascent complexity. The nose wafts from the glass in a fine blend of black cherries, plums, *sous bois*, venison, coffee, cedar and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and suave, with ripe tannins, seemingly low acids, a fairly modest core, but good grip and focus on the fairly long finish. If this puts on more weight during its *elevage* it will warrant a score at the top of the range. 2023-2060. **89-92?**

2013 Clos St. Denis- Maison Louis Jadot

The Jadot Clos St. Denis, from old vines owned by the Gagey family, is really quite exceptional on the nose in 2013, but it too was showing rather discreetly in the mid-palate in mid-December and really needs to put on some weight in the core to rate outstanding. The bouquet is certainly first class as it jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, fresh nutmeg, Vosne-like spices, gamebirds, lovely minerality and cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and beautifully transparent, with a modest core, tangy acids and a long, ripely tannic finish. I would bet on this wine blossoming with further time in the cellar and ultimately proving to be one of the top wines in the Jadot cellars in 2013. 2023-2060. **90-93+?**

2013 Clos Vougeot- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Clos Vougeot from Maison Jadot is a young and properly reserved wine out of the blocks, but this will clearly be very fine in the fullness of time. The nose wafts from the glass in a complex blend of red and black cherries, venison, cocoa, woodsmoke, a refined base of soil and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a fine core, lovely soil inflection, ripe tannins and a very long, tangy and promising finish. Very good potential here. 2023-2060. **92+.**

2013 Chapelle-Chambertin- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Chapelle-Chambertin from Louis Jadot has really turned out splendidly and this may well be the finest wine that I tasted in the cellars this year. The beautiful bouquet is a vibrant mélange of red and black cherries, grilled meats, cocoa, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows of marvelous mid-palate depth, with a sense of sappiness to come that is very rare this year in the Jadot cellars. The finish is long and suavely tannic, with great soil signature, beautifully-integrated tannins and excellent focus and grip. A superb result in 2013! 2023-2060+. **94.**

2013 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Clos de Bèze from Louis Jadot is also outstanding in this vintage, but the Chapelle has even better depth and intensity at the core this year. The spicy nose wafts from the glass in a fine blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, mustard seed, coffee, woodsmoke, cedar and a beautiful base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very elegant in profile, with a good core, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the nascently complex finish. This is a lovely wine as well. 2023-2060. **93+.**

2013 Bonnes-Mares- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Bonnes-Mares from Domaine Jadot is also outstanding and was really singing at the time of my visit. The pure and youthfully complex nose delivers a fine constellation of black cherries, plums, cocoa, woodsmoke, gamebirds, lovely soil tones and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, suave tannins and excellent focus and balance on the very long, classy and energetic finish. Lovely juice. 2023-2060. **94.**



Vins Blancs du Maison Jadot

2013 Meursault “Charmes”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Jadot Meursault “Charmes” is a very pretty wine that will drink well right from the outset. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a stylish blend of apple, pear, pastry cream, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full and juicy, with good, but not great depth at the core, bright acids and good, solid length and grip on the wide open finish. This is a bit more fruit-driven than top examples of the vineyard this year and seems more defined by its partially blocked malo than by its *terroir*. 2015-2030. **90.**

2013 Meursault “Genevrières”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Louis Jadot Genevrières was my favorite of the three Meursaults we sampled during my visit, as the wine jumps from the glass in a classy constellation of apple, passion fruit, hazelnuts, salty soil tones and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, elegant and racy, with lovely focus and grip, a fine core and a long, shapely and complex finish. This seems to have far more *typicité* to it than the Charmes. Fine juice. 2015-2030. **92.**

2013 Meursault “Perrières”- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Meursault “Perrières” from Maison Louis Jadot was a bit more grumpy than either the Charmes or the Genevrières at the time of my visit, and did not show the same precision on the nose and the palate as the latter of those two wines. The bouquet offers up a mix of apple, pear, lemon zest, stony minerality and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-

bodied and nicely stony, with a good core, bright acids and good length and grip, but also a bit of a chunky personality in this vintage. Perhaps this is just a stage and more delineation will emerge with further *elevage*? 2018-2030+? **89-92?**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” l’Abbaye de Morgeot - Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 l’Abbaye de Morgeot is a good example of this Chassagne premier cru, wafting from the glass in a vibrant mélange of apple, peach, a touch of *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and nicely balanced, with pretty good complexity, a fine core and good bounce and grip on the long and succulent finish. Good juice that will drink well right out of the blocks. 2015-2030. **91.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” Duc de Magenta- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Duc de Magenta bottling of Morgeot is more refined and deeper this year than the l’Abbaye de Morgeot example. The lovely bouquet offers up a fine constellation of apple, pear, orange zest, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully pure on the attack, with a lovely core, fine focus and balance and a long, nicely reserved and promising finish. A high class example. 2016-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Caillerets from Maison Jadot is outstanding and really shows the beauty of this superb *terroir*. The outstanding nose soars from the glass in a pure blaze of delicious apples, pears, lemon blossoms, a very complex base of chalky minerality and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with a rock solid core, fine focus and length and lovely backend tension between the fruit, soil and acids. Superb juice. 2017-2040. **93.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “la Garenne”- Domaine Louis Jadot

The Puligny “la Garenne” bottling harkens back a bit to the Meursault “Charmes” in its personality seems more defined by its partially blocked malo than its underlying *terroir*. The wine is pretty enough on the nose, offering up scents of apple, pear, pastry cream, chalk and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with a good core, fine focus and a long, crisp finish that cannot match the complexity of the top couple of Chassagne premier crus that I tasted during my visit. This is still a well-made wine, but it is a bit more about technique. 2015-2030. **90+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne” Duc de Magenta- Louis Jadot

In contrast, the Clos de la Garenne 2013 from the Duc de Magenta holdings is outstanding, as the wine delivers a pure and nascently complex bouquet of pear, white peach, white flowers, a whisper of *crème patissière* (a bit of blocked malo here as well?), a lovely base of *terres blanches* and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy in profile, with a fine core, a lovely sense of reserve and outstanding focus and grip on the long and beautifully balanced finish. This is quite serious. 2016-2040. **93.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Louis Jadot

The 2013 Folatières from Maison Jadot is quite a classic example of this vineyard, with its forward and slightly buxom style very well-suited for early drinking. The inviting bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, peach, almond, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, succulent and wide open on the attack, with sound acids and a long, crisp and slightly four-square finish. This may develop more complexity with bottle age, but it is awfully tasty right out of the blocks and there is not the same cut and grip here to guarantee long aging, so I might be inclined to drink this in its generous youth. If it does develop

more complexity with cellaring, it will merit a score at the upper end of the range. 2015-2030+. **90-92?**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Pucelles”- Domaine Louis Jadot

The 2013 Pucelles from Louis Jadot is also a wine that (at least to my palate) shows a fair bit of partially-blocked malo characteristics on both the nose and palate, and less overt Pucelles personality than I anticipated. The wine is still very lovely, but not in the top division of Pucelles examples in this vintage. The nose is a pretty mélange of apple, peach, pastry cream, a touch of lemon zest, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent, with a good core, fine bounce and grip and a long, wide open and classy finish. Maybe not a classic example of Pucelles, the wine is certainly quite delicious to drink and will be accessible from day one. 2015-2035. **92.**

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet from Maison Louis Jadot also showed a surprising degree of blocked-malo personality, but with the volume on the palate dialed up to grand cru intensity. The bouquet is a very pretty blend of apple, pear, *crème patissière*, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and absolutely rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and grip, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the still quite primary finish. The palate impression here is first rate and one hopes that the nose will follow along in due course. 2019-2045+. **94+.**

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet “les Demoiselles”- Maison Louis Jadot

I love the les Demoiselles bottling at Maison Jadot and the 2013 is another fine success. The bouquet is a deep and very classy constellation of apple, pear, tangerine, complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully concentrated at the core, with enormous backend energy, laser-like focus and a very long, poised and classy finish. If the Diams can hold off premox down the road, this will be a classic example of this great bottling. 2018-2040. **94+.**

2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Maison Louis Jadot

The 2013 Corton-Charlemagne from Maison Jadot is a good, solid effort for the vintage, but the wine shows rather deep-pitched on both the nose and palate from the hail of July- despite the wine clearly having some of its malo blocked as well. The bouquet is a blend of pear, apple, pastry cream, chalky soil, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite forward in personality, with a good core, fine balance and grip and a long, wide open finish. This is a very good result, given the hail, but it will be best drunk up in its relative youth. 2015-2035. **91.**

Volnay

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

It is not so much fun visiting producers in Volnay these days, if one has any empathy for all of the hardships that producers have gone through here in the last four years, as they have been harder hit by the depredations of hail, poor flowering and extremely low yields than any other commune in all of Burgundy since 2010. As Frédéric Lafarge wryly commented about the yields in 2013, “it was a bit better than 2012 for us here, as we had thirty-five percent of a normal crop load this year, as compared to only twenty percent of a normal crop the year before.” The Lafarge family began harvesting in 2013 on October 3rd, and Frédéric reported that at least the quality of the grapes this year was outstanding, which was some compensation for having so few of them out on the vines. The last parcel picked this year was the Aligoté old

vines that make up the Raisin d'Orée bottling, which were collected on October 18th! The Lafarge family's wine lineup will be expanding a bit in the 2014 vintage, as Chantal Lafarge, Frédéric's wife, has purchased two hectares of vines in Fleurie and will begin producing her own bottling from this parcel of thirty-five to sixty-five year-old vines. I am very much looking forward to tasting it next year! The 2013s at Domaine Lafarge are amongst the very finest I tasted in the Côte de Beaune on my December trip, as the wines are very refined, elegant and transparent in this vintage, with beautiful signatures of soil and very suave structures, which are quite different than the chewier style of so many 2012s from the Côte de Beaune. Once again (as was the case in 2012), due to the severity of the hail damage, there is no Pommard "Pézerolles" from the Lafarge family in 2013, as the production was wiped out by the storm on July 23rd. However, despite the very low yields as well in their premier crus in Beaune, which were also pummeled by the hail, the family has decided to bottle the Beaune "Grèves" and Beaune "les Aigrots" separately this year, rather than blending them together to make a single premier cru cuvée in 2012, as Frédéric Lafarge commented that "the two wines this year are just such pure expressions of their terroirs that it did not make sense to blend them together and lose that quality, despite the very small number of bottles we will have of each wine in 2013." None of the wines from the hail-affected vineyards showed any signs of the hail, other than the tiny quantities, as the wines are very svelte, transparent and perfumed examples of their respective sites and are going to be stunning middleweights in the fullness of time. The white wines chez Lafarge are very racy, pure and beautifully balanced wines in 2013, and the red wines are quite pale in color in general, with very red fruity personalities for many in the lineup, and all of them just bursting at the seams with very stunning reflections of their underlying terroirs. I very much like the style and personalities of the 2013s from Domaine Lafarge, which should prove to be one of the top recent vintages at this most exquisitely consistent Volnay estate.

Vins Blancs de Domaine Lafarge

2013 Bourgogne Aligoté "Raisin d'Orée"- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 Bourgogne Aligoté "Raisin d'Orée" bottling from the Lafarges is truly exceptional this year, as it jumps from the glass in a blend of apple, tangerine, a superbly complex base of minerality, lime zest and a gentle topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy this year, with a fine core and excellent focus and grip on the very long finish. I have always liked this bottling from the domaine, but think the 2013 is probably the finest rendition I have yet tasted of the Raisin d'Orée. 2015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Meursault- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Because of the hail in 2013, there is only a single bottling of Meursault this year, rather than two cuvées, and the wine has turned out very well indeed. The bouquet offers up a fine and very minerally constellation of apple, quince, chalky mineral tones, almonds and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very nicely reserved in style out of the blocks, with a lovely core, fine focus and cut and superb backend energy on the long and primary finish. Fine juice. 2017-2035. **90+.**

2013 Beaune "les Aigrots" Blanc- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The production was down fully ninety percent for the Lafarge family's les Aigrots Blanc this year, which is too bad, as the wine is quite beautiful. The nose delivers a fine mélange of apple, peach, orange peel, very crystalline minerality and the first vestiges of the honeycomb to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very racy in personality, with fine mid-palate depth, superb focus and grip and a very long, racy and pristine

finish. Very much like the Joseph Drouhin Clos des Mouches Blanc, the very tiny yields here in 2013 have translated into a wine of stunning depth and mineral drive, without any of the atypical concentration that defined so many of the Côte de Beaune whites in the 2012 vintage. A superb bottle. 2017-2035. **92+**.



Frédéric and Michel Lafarge outside of their domaine on a warm December afternoon.

Vins Rouges de Domaine Lafarge

2013 Bourgogne Passetoutgrains “Cuvée Exception”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 rendition of the Lafarges’ Cuvée Exception is pale in color, but aromatically quite lovely, wafting from the glass in a red fruity mélange of strawberries, cherries, woodsmoke and a beautifully complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, tangy and loaded with intensity of flavor, with great transparency, bright acids, lovely focus and sneaky length and grip on the very well-balanced finish. A lovely bottle of gamay. 2016-2025. **88**.

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Michel Lafarge

For a very long time, the Lafarge family’s Bourgogne rouge has been one of the top examples of this level to be found anywhere in Burgundy, and their 2013 is once again outstanding. This wine is typically quite black fruity in personality, but in the 2013 vintage, it is an extremely red fruity wine, as it jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, quince, fresh herb tones, lovely soil signature and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with fine intensity of flavor, superb soil signature and a long, tangy and moderately tannic finish. As is typical with this bottling, there is good structure here and it will

need three or four years of bottle age to fully blossom, and should prove to be a delightful example for the following twelve to fifteen years. 2018-2030+. **88+**.

2013 Volnay- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Like the 2013 Bourgogne rouge, the Volnay AC is also quite red fruity in this vintage, offering up a pure and very classy young nose of red plums, strawberries, roses, gamebirds, complex soil tones and a touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a fine core, ripe tannins and lovely intensity on the nascently complex and vibrant finish. This is really a classy bottle of *villages* in the making. 2020-2050. **90+**.

2013 Volnay “Vendanges Selectionées”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 Volnay “Vendanges Selectionées” from Domaine Michel Lafarge is another stellar example of the vintage, and again, quite red fruity in personality this year. The bouquet offers up a fine constellation of wild strawberries, cherries, woodsmoke, lovely minerality, fresh herbs and a dollop of nutskins. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a fine core, lovely soil signature and a long, tangy and moderately tannic finish. This will be outstanding with sufficient bottle age. 2022-2050+. **91**.

2013 Beaune “Clos des Aigrots”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

As is the case with so many of the red wines from Beaune that I tasted from 2013, the Lafarge family’s Clos des Aigrots does not show the same energy on the nose and palate as the vast majority of wines in the domaine’s lineup this year. The bouquet is deep and complex, but lacks the vibrancy of the Volnays this year, as it offers up scents of cherry, quince, plenty of minerality, herb tones, gamebirds and a bit of pepperiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and chewy, with a fine core, tangy acids and good length and grip on the fairly tannic finish. The wine is going to be good, but it is not quite up to its customary standards in this vintage. 2022-2045+. **89+**.

2013 Beaune “Grèves”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 Beaune “Grèves” is another typical example of the vintage from this commune, with good complexity on both the nose and palate, but without the energy of the top wines in the Lafarge cellars this year. The bouquet is a mélange of cherries, plums, a touch of cocoa, complex soil nuances and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and pure on the attack, with fine nascent complexity, a good core, fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. There seems to be a bit more “meat on the bones” here than on the Clos des Aigrots, and it will drink a bit sooner as a result. 2020-2045+. **91**.

2013 Volnay “Mitans”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Mitans can be one of the most black fruity of the premier crus in Volnay, but this year there is a nice blend of red and black fruit in the fine example from Domaine Lafarge. The reserved and vibrant nose delivers a lovely mix of cherries, plums, complex minerality, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a touch of espresso. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and quite spicy on the backend, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a tangy and beautifully delineated finish. This will be a lovely example. 2022-2050. **91+**.

2013 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

Continuing the theme of 2013 *chez* Lafarge, the Clos du Château des Ducs is again very red fruity in personality this year, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of raw cocoa, glorious minerality, nutskins and gamebirds. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very tangy, with fine mid-palate concentration, svelte tannins and a very

long, transparent and complex finish. A beautiful vintage for the Clos du Château des Ducs. 2023-2060+. **93**.

2013 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 Caillerets is absolutely classic from Domaine Lafarge, delivering a pure and still quite primary bouquet of cherries, red currants, woodsmoke, tons of exotic spice tones such as cardamom and coriander, a stony signature of soil, mustard seed and spit-roasted *pigeon*. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very stony in personality, with a lovely core, ripe tannins and a very long, tangy and transparent finish. This is still a very young wine, but it will be outstanding in the fullness of time. 2024-2060+. **93+**.

2013 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Michel Lafarge

The 2013 Clos des Chênes is simply superb, jumping from the glass in a complex mélange of cherries, red plums, nutskin, complex minerality, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in profile, with a rock solid core, ripe, beautifully-integrated tannins, bright acids and laser-like focus on the very long, primary and classy finish. Great juice in the making. 2025-2065+. **94+**.

Meursault

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

Arnaud Ente greeted me very cordially when I arrived at the domaine to taste the 2013s, but quickly asked me why I had not visited him last year to taste his 2012s. I told him that I had been told by his US importer, when I asked to make an appointment last year, that he was not seeing any visitors, due to the extremely short crop of 2012. He told me that I should have contacted him directly, as he would have been happy to see me last year! In any case, he has a bit more wine in 2013 than in 2012, though not what anyone would consider a bountiful crop, as his yields in the more recent vintage are only twenty-six hectoliters per hectare for the entire domaine, as opposed to only nineteen hectoliters per hectare in 2012. Monsieur Ente began harvesting quite early in 2013, as his team of pickers hit the vineyards on September 25th and had brought in the entire crop by the 3rd of October. As he explained, “with climate change, I try to be very specific about getting the harvest started as soon as the grapes reach maturity, so that I can guard the elegance, acidity and typicité in the wines, which can diminish so quickly these days, if one is a bit late getting started picking.” As I have observed in the last several vintages that I have tasted chez Ente, these are amongst the most beautifully refined and mineral white wines to be found anywhere in the Côte de Beaune these days, and though there are several estates in Meursault that are more famous than Domaine Arnaud Ente, absolutely no one in this renaissance in Meursault is making finer wines than Monsieur Ente these days. The 2013s are amongst the most pure, racy and electric white wines that I tasted during my entire sixteen days in Burgundy on this trip, with great purity and energy, and they are clearly amongst the most magical wines to be found in this great white Burgundy vintage. They may very well vie with the 2010s chez Ente as the greatest wines ever produced by Arnaud, but time will decide this somewhere down the road. While the entire range of white wines is stellar in 2013, the red wines are also outstanding as well, and this is only fitting, as 2013 will be the last vintage for the ancient Gamay vines from which Monsieur Ente has produced his bottling of Bourgogne “Grande Ordinaire”, as they have finally gotten so old (they are well over one hundred years of age) that they had to be replanted after the 2013 harvest. Tasting the wines from Domaine Arnaud Ente is always one of the absolute highlights of my trip every winter to Burgundy, and

the combination of the absolutely stellar quality of the 2013s here and the fact that I did not get a chance to taste the 2012s made the pleasure that much more poignant this past December.

2013 Bourgogne Aligoté- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Bourgogne Aligoté is once again a lovely example of this underrated varietal, wafting from the glass in a complex and classy blend of lime, pear, chalky minerality and a floral topnote redolent of lime blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely stellar in its balance, with a fine core and great backend cut and energy on the long and zesty finish. No one makes better Aligoté in Burgundy than Arnaud Ente and the 2013 is a superb bottle in the making. 2015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Arnaud Ente is another extremely strong example, delivering a very Meursault-like bouquet of apple, passion fruit, a touch of iodine, chalky soil tones and a lovely topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very intensely flavored, with a fine core, a very racy personality and a long, minerally and beautifully focused finish. This will need a couple of years to fully blossom and will be an exquisitely classy middleweight when it is ready to drink. 2016-2030. **90+.**

2013 Meursault- Domaine Arnaud Ente

As I have noted in the past, 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 2013 is a beautiful village wine, jumping from the glass in a complex constellation of pear, tangerine, hazelnuts, orange blossoms, outstanding limestone minerality and a gentle topnote of iodine. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy, with a lovely core, superb cut and grip and a very long, poised and laser-like finish. Stellar Meursault AC! 2017-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Meursault “Clos des Ambres”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Clos des Ambres is a bit deeper-pitched and more nutty in personality than the Meursault AC, but these old vines have produced an absolutely stunning young bottle in this vintage. The deep and complex nose delivers a fine blend of apple, pear, hazelnuts, iodine, orange zest, beautiful soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, stunning soil signature, racy acids, outstanding focus and enormous backend minerality on the very long and very refined finish. This is stunning juice. 2018-2040. **93+.**

2013 Meursault “Petits Charrons”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

Monsieur Ente's 2013 Petits Charrons is another excellent example of the vintage, with a bit more reserved personality than the Clos des Ambres, but outstanding potential. The beautiful bouquet offers up a blend of pear, tangerine, almond, a bit of upper register smokiness, lovely soil tones and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with excellent mid-palate depth, snappy acids and great focus and grip on the very long, soil-driven and youthful finish. It is still very early days for this excellent Petits Charrons, and with sufficient bottle age, this may very well catch the Clos des Ambres. 2018-2035+. **93.**

2013 Meursault “la Goutte d'Or”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Goutte d'Or from Domaine Arnaud Ente is utterly spectacular wine. The beautiful and very complex nose soars from the glass in a mélange of passion fruit, apple, pear, almonds, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very racy in personality, with laser-like focus, a rock solid core, stunning mineral drive

and a very, very long, poised and still quite primary finish. This is breathtakingly beautiful wine in the making. 2020-2045. **94+**.

2013 Meursault “la Sève de Clos”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 la Sève de Clos, which comes from more than one hundred and thirty year-old vines in the *lieu à dit* of En l’Ormeau (which lie just behind Domaine Coche-Dury) is absolutely brilliant in this vintage. The stunning and supremely elegant bouquet delivers a fine constellation of pear, lemon, hazelnuts, magically complex minerality, orange zest, iodine and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved in profile, with a great core, laser-like focus, brisk acids and stunning length and grip on the perfectly balanced and laser-like finish. Brilliant Meursault. 2019-2035+. **95**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Referts from Arnaud Ente is utterly refined this year, delivering a superb aromatic blend of apple, white peach, lemon chiffon, chalky minerality, a discreet base of vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very racy, with excellent mid-palate depth, superb elegance and cut and a very long, vibrant and very elegant finish. This is seemingly more approachable out of the blocks than either of the top two Meursault bottlings, but this is more a function of the wine’s impeccable balance, and I would be inclined to give it as much bottle age as either the Goutte d’Or or the la Sève de Clos before I started drinking this in earnest. A beautiful bottle of Referts. 2019-2035+. **94**.

2013 Bourgogne “Grande Ordinaire”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The last vintage of Domaine Ente’s version of Grande Ordinaire from these great old gamay vines is truly outstanding and is a very fitting final year for this lovely wine. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, cranberries, smoke, roses, chalky soil tones and a lovely topnote of black pepper. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very tangy, with a fine core and a long, seriously complex and still quite youthful finish. Lovely juice that needs a few years in the cellar to really reach its apogee. 2017-2035+. **90**.

2013 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Arnaud Ente

The 2013 Santenots from Monsieur Ente is one of the smallest cuvées in the cellar this year, as fully fifty percent of a normal crop was lost due to the hail damage in July. The wine has really turned out beautifully however, with only the quantity suffering from the hail, as the wine soars from the glass in a very red fruity aromatic constellation of cherries, strawberries, woodsmoke, coffee, gamebirds and a fine base of complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, young and tangy, with excellent mid-palate depth, nascent complexity and a long, suavely tannic and very soil-driven finish. A beautiful bottle of Volnay in the making. 2022-2055+. **93**.

Domaine des Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

Dominique Lafon was in a good mood at the time of my visit, as he had just returned from the family domaine in Mâcon, where the 2014 vintage was shaping up to be very strong. In 2013, he noted that it was a very complicated year, both in Mâcon and the Côte de Beaune, with the yields ultimately almost as short as in the very small harvest of 2012. His Volnay vineyards, of course, were once again hailed upon in 2013, and a very difficult flowering wreaked havoc with potential quantity in the Meursault vineyards as well. He also noted that 2013 was the shortest crop he has yet seen in the Mâcon, so it was tough sledding all the way around this year. However, despite all of the challenges faced in the vineyards over the course of the growing

season of 2013, Monsieur Lafon is very happy (and a bit surprised) with how well the wines have been turning out in barrel. Like several other growers, he observed that the vintage's wines were not showing a whole lot of character prior to malo, but that they have opened up nicely after the malos (where they have finished up in his cold cellars!) and are showing really lovely personalities that promise fine drinking in the fullness of time. As I noted in the vintage's introduction, Dominique Lafon's cellar is full of wines that are all on their own pace of evolution, with malos very late across the board, but some wines so sluggish that he has had to jump through hoops with a few of the wines to get them through their secondary fermentations. As I mentioned, a few of the Comtes Lafon wines, such as the Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" Meursault AC or Bouchères, all had to be racked up into tanks to finish their malos, and then returned back to casks for further élevage, as some of the barrels of each wine simply were plodding along and not really getting anywhere with their malos when in the cellars in cask. So the 2013s here were all of the place in terms of evolution at the time of my visit, with some wines racked, others having been racked back down into casks, some with half of the casks racked and others further behind in their pace of malo and not yet racked, and some in need of a racking now and a touch reduced. However, despite the tasting acrobatics required, it is quite clear that this will be yet another very successful vintage for the Lafon wines- both from Mâcon and the Côte de Beaune.



Dominique Lafon in his office at the domaine in Meursault.

Mâconnais Wines

As Dominique Lafon noted, “the 2013 vintage in the Mâcon was the smallest I have ever experienced here, as the flowering took place under very unsettled weather and we have ended up with only half a crop in this year.” The yields here varied quite a bit from vineyard to vineyard, with none of them robust, and production ranged from twenty to thirty-two hectoliters per hectare, which is infinitesimally small in the Mâcon. All of the Héritiers du Comte Lafon Mâconnais wines were bottled either in July of 2014 (for the more basic cuvées) or early September, for the more structured crus. The wines have turned out very well, with zesty acids, lovely depth and fine soil signatures, and the only bad news is that the quantities are going to be very, very small for this vintage. Happily, 2014 is a much more normal-sized crop in the Mâcon, and the potential looks good as well.

2013 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2013 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is a very pretty wine, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, a touch of grapefruit, salty soil tones and a bit of citrus peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with good acidity, fine focus and sneaky length and grip on the backend. Good juice. 2015-2020. **88.**

2013 Mâcon-Uchizy “les Maranches”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2013 les Maranches from the village of Uchizy is a bit riper and more generous on the attack than the Milly-Lamartine this year, and it is a tad less elegant and racy as a result. The wide open nose offers up a mélange of apple, peach, toasty Mâcon soil tones and a bit of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite broad-shouldered for a young Mâcon, with a good core and a long, zesty and easy-going finish. This will drink best in its youth. 2015-2018. **87.**

2013 Mâcon-Bussière “la Monsard”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The La Monsard was fermented all in large casks this year, as the yields were so small in these vineyards in Bussière as there was not sufficient quantity to fill even one of the small stainless steel tanks in the cellars here. The wine has turned quite well indeed in 2013, offering up a quite refined bouquet of apple, orange, toasty soil tones, a bit of fresh almond and just a whisper of buttery oak (though the casks were not new). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite long, with a fine core and a long, classy finish. This is quite unique in personality this year from past iterations, with the barrel-fermentation giving the wine a rounder texture and a bit less mineral drive than is customary, but the quality is every bit as high as previous vintages, just with a slightly different personality this year. 2015-2020. **88+.**

2013 Mâcon-Chardonnay “Clos de la Crochette”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2013 Clos de la Crochette was the first wine picked by Dominique’s team in Mâcon, as this is always one of the most easily-ripened vineyards. The wine offers up a fine and wide open aromatic constellation of peach, tangerine, lovely minerality, spring flowers and a touch of toasty Mâcon soil tones as well. On the palate the wine is long, crisp and full-bodied, with a good core, lovely focus and bounce on the backend and fine depth at the core. Good juice. 2015-2021. **90.**

2013 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine “Clos du Four”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2013 Clos du Four has turned out beautifully in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a very classy blend of apple, pear, a touch of nutskin, toasty soil tones, orange peel and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with good mid-

palate concentration, lovely focus and nascent complexity and lovely length and grip on the finish. A strong vintage for this iconic Mâcon bottling. 2015-2022. **91.**

2013 Mâcon Viré-Clessé- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon

The 2013 Mâcon Viré-Clessé from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is really lovely this year, with the very short crop load giving the wine an almost musky character on the nose that is very, very appealing. The bouquet is a mix of pear, nectarine, a touch of acacia blossom, chalky soil tones and a zesty topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very suave on the attack, with a fine core, very good focus and balance and a long, vibrant and classy finish. Another really lovely bottle of 2013 Mâcon. 2015-2025. **92.**

Côte de Beaune Rouges

The late and individually-minded malos amongst the Comtes Lafon red wines of 2013 made it a bit of a roller coaster to taste through the lineup, as not a single wine was in the same point of evolution as its neighbor at the time of my early December visit. Dominique Lafon commented “that I am leaning towards bottling the reds on the earlier side in this vintage- once the malos finish- as I really like the balance that they are developing and I cannot envision a lot of benefit to a long élevage for these wines, once they have settled down after their malos and it would be a pity to lose any of the great purity they are developing by leaving them too long in cask.” The yields are again very short for the red wines in the cellars this year, with for example, only two barrels out of a customary six made for the Clos des Chênes and four barrels out of ten for the Champans.

2013 Monthélie “les Duresses” Rouge- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Monthélie “les Duresses” Rouge from Dominique Lafon finished up its malo in tank and then had been racked back into barrel to finish its *élevage*, and was showing very good potential at the time of my visit. The wine is very red fruity this year, which was a bit of a surprise for this normally very black fruity wine, as it wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, wild strawberries, woodsmoke and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and quite pure, with lovely soil signature, modest tannins and a long, tangy finish. This may well put on a bit more weight with further *élevage* and then bottle age, and if it does, my score will prove to be a bit conservative. 2020-2045. **89+.**

2013 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Clos des Chênes *chez* Lafon was the most cooperative red in the cellars this year, as it finished its malo in cask and had not yet been racked at the time of my visit. The wine was showing very well indeed, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, a superb base of stony soil tones and incipient notes of gamebird in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with a good core, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the tangy and quite transparent finish. A lovely bottle in the making. 2022-2050. **92+.**

2013 Volnay “Champans”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Champans was a bit grumpier at the time of my visit, but it seemed quite clear that this too will be a lovely example of the vintage with some bottle age. The wine offers up a quite black fruity nose of black cherries, cassis, coffee bean, dark soil tones, smoke and a bit of *pigeon* in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and very soil-driven in personality, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and a long, vibrant finish. This will be very good indeed, but will need a handful of years to really blossom. 2022-2050. **91-93.**

2013 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Santenots du Milieu was the most problematic child in the cellars in 2013, as Dominique picks two sections of this vineyard, based on age of vines, and makes two lots to start out fermentations each year. Typically everything will be blended together after the malo, but this year, the oldest vines had a very easy malo in cask, while the “younger vines” (still all between forty and fifty years of age!) never really got started in cask, and had to be racked together in tank with some of the casks of the old vines to use the bacteria from the latter to get their malos going in earnest. Consequently, there are still two lots in the cellars at a later date than is customary *chez* Lafon. The wine will ultimately be very good, as the on form casks offer up a lovely and classically black fruity nose of cassis, dark berries, incipient notes of venison, a bit of bonfire and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and tangy, with a good core, lovely soil signature and a ripely tannic finish. 2022-2050. **91-93.**

Côte de Beaune Blancs

2013 Meursault- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

Dominique Lafon’s 2013 Meursault AC was also a bit of a challenge to get through its malo, as this too was racked up into tank to finish and then returned to cask once the malolactic fermentation was completed. The wine is always one of the most elegant renditions of Meursault *villages* produced and in the inherently elegant vintage of 2013, this is a marvelous combination. The lovely bouquet offers up scents of apple, pear, chalky, almost salty soil tones, hazelnuts and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and intensely flavored, with a good core, bright acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and almost silky finish. A lovely wine in the making. 2015-2035. **90+.**

2013 Meursault “Clos de la Barre”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Clos de la Barre will be an absolute classic here, offering up a pure and vibrant nose of passion fruit, apple, hazelnut, lovely chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully balanced, with a very good core, lovely focus and grip and a long, tangy and very transparent finish. A very refined example in the making. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2013 Meursault “Désirée”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The younger vines in Désirée were the most cooperative of all the cuvées in the Comtes Lafon cellars this year, as Dominique reported “that this wine had an absolutely normal malo.” The wine is very lovely on both the nose and palate, delivering a fine blend of apple, tangerine, hazelnut, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and very elegant in profile, with good mid-palate depth, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the focused and quite racy finish. This is not quite as solid at the core as the Clos de la Barre, but it will offer up earlier accessibility by way of compensation and unrepentant elegance in this vintage. 2015-2035. **91+.**

2013 Meursault “Bouchères”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

Since the division of the old Domaine Manuel holding between Jean-Marc Roulot and Dominique Lafon, the Bouchères has been a lovely new addition to the Comtes Lafon lineup. The wine is produced from a fifty-fifty split of Domaine Roulot’s previous holdings in Bouchères, which Domaine Lafon purchased, and the former-Manuel holdings in the vineyard that lie outside of the Clos de la Bouchères, which Domaine Roulot now produces on its own. The 2013 from Comtes Lafon is a lovely example of the vintage, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, passion fruit, musky floral tones, orange zest, complex soil tones and a stylish

base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and tangy, with a fine core, impressive transparency and lovely backend energy and tension on the focused and zesty finish. A very elegant and classy result. 2017-2035+. **93.**

2013 Meursault “La Goutte d’Or”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 La Goutte d’Or from Dominique Lafon is shaping up to be a very complex and classy middleweight, as it offers up a lovely bouquet of apple, passion fruit, hazelnuts, white soil tones, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with good depth at the core, bright acids, lovely focus and grip and a very long, pure and vibrant finish. I imagine that this wine will continue to put on weight in the mid-palate over the coming years. 2017-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Poruzots was another one of the Lafon wines that went upstairs to finish its malo in tank and then was racked back down into cask to finish its *elevage*. Despite all the cellar calisthenics, the wines was showing beautifully at the time of my visit, offering up a deep, complex and very classy bouquet of apple, passion fruit, orange blossoms, a complex base of soil tones, a touch of iodine, almonds, vanillin oak and a bit of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, fine focus and grip and a very long, poised and seamless finish. A beautiful young bottle of Poruzots. 2019-2040+. **93+.**

2013 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Genevrières from Domaine Lafon had been racked in September of 2014 and was really showing beautifully at the time of my visit. The gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, tangerine, passion fruit, iodine, musky floral tones, salty *terres blanches* and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with a silky textural element to the attack, a great core and stunning soil signature on the very long, very racy and utterly refined finish. A stunning wine in the making. 2020-2040+. **94+.**

2013 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Meursault “Charmes” from Monsieur Lafon shares the same intense, almost salty soil tones of the Genevrières this year, delivering an excellent aromatic constellation of apple, pear, a touch of fresh coconut, almond, chalky saltiness and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and displays excellent mid-palate depth, with lovely focus and grip, impeccable balance and a very long, racy and quite mineral finish. Another stellar example of the vintage. 2019-2040. **94.**

2013 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

The 2013 Perrières was another of the outliers in the Lafon cellars this year, as its malo was quite normal and trouble-free! The wine is going to be superb, as it offers up a fine bouquet of pear, tangerine, iodine, almonds, a great base of stony, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full and very soil-driven, with a fine core, laser-like focus and outstanding length and grip on the utterly classic and very, very promising finish. 2020-2050. **95+.**

2013 Montrachet- Domaine des Comtes Lafon

In contrast to the utterly cooperative Perrières, the 2013 Montrachet at Comtes Lafon this year was a bit reduced at the time of my visit and ready for its racking, so it was not as pleasurable to taste at this point in its evolution than is normally the case in the winter. With some extended swirling, the wine cleans up enough to show a deep and nascently complex nose of apple, pear, almonds, orange zest, complex, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate

the wine is full-bodied, refined and shows lovely purity on the attack, with a good core, crisp acids and a very long, primary and transparent finish. I have little doubt that this will be just fine, once it has had its racking and had a chance to settle in for its final leg of *elevage*. 2019-2050+. **95-97.**

Domaine Guy Roulot (Meursault)

Jean-Marc Roulot and his team have made really lovely examples of the vintage in 2013, with the characteristic racy style of the domaine adding lovely bounce and zesty snap to the structures of these fairly forward, succulent wines. I am not sure if it was simply the stage I caught these wines in this year in early December, or if the Roulot lineup in 2013 is a bit more forward in style than some of the neighbors' wines this year, as these look likely to delight from a very early age. The harvest here started on September the 25th, with the hail of July happily only hitting hard the Bourgogne vineyards this year, but leaving mainly untouched the top Lieux à Dits and Premier Crus of the estate that are situated in Meursault. The wines were all resting comfortably in tank at the time of my early December visit, with racking scheduled for the end of January and bottling to commence in March. A few of the wines were slightly reductive at the time of my visit, but in a manner that simply promised a nice sense of reserve out of the blocks. Malos were on the early side here, as was not always the case elsewhere, which allowed for the wines to really be showing well in December and may account a bit for their more forward appearance. Not surprisingly, another absolutely refined range chez Roulot in 2013.

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Guy Roulot

There will be a painfully small quantity of Bourgogne Blanc this year from Domaine Roulot, but the wine has turned out very well indeed. The bouquet is bright and quite complex for its level, wafting from the glass in a gently reductive mix of apple, hazelnut, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and a bit of crystalline minerality. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and focused, with perfectly respectable depth and lovely backend energy and grip on the long and zesty finish. A very pretty Bourgogne. 2014-2022+. **88+.**

2013 Auxey-Duresses Blanc- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Auxey-Duresses from Domaine Roulot is a lovely wine that will drink very well out of the blocks, with a bit more mid-palate amplitude than the Bourgogne Blanc, though perhaps not quite the same zesty energy on the finish as the above wine. The bouquet is a lovely blend of apple, pear, white flowers, a touch of nutskin and a nice base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and nicely balanced, with lovely generosity on the attack, a good core and fine length and focus on the succulent and wide open finish. Good juice. 2014-2020+. **88+.**

2013 Meursault- Domaine Guy Roulot

The new addition of the straight Meursault *villages* has turned out beautifully in 2013 and will make friends early on. The very classic nose delivers a very pretty mélange of pear, almond, chalky soil tones, lime blossoms and incipient notes of *crème patissière*. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and still quite primary, with a good core of fruit, excellent focus and grip and a long, precise finish that echoes the backend energy found in the Bourgogne Blanc this year. This will be very hard not to drink right out of the blocks, but a year or two in the cellar will allow its secondary layers of complexity to start to emerge and it will be even better with that bit of bottle age. 23015-2025+. **90.**

2013 Meursault “Vireuils”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Vireuils *chez* Roulot is a lovely and quite forward example of the vintage. The bouquet is complex, expressive and quite classic in its blend of apple, pear, hazelnut, chalky soil tones, just a whisper of vanillin oak and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and wide open on the attack, with a good core, fine cut and grip and a long, poised and very well-balanced finish. Fine juice. 2015-2025+. **90+**.

2013 Meursault “Meix Chavaux”- Domaine Guy Roulot

Domaine Roulot’s 2013 Meix Chavaux is an excellent example of the vintage, with a bit more precision evident aromatically than the more generously styled Vireuils this year. The lovely and elegant bouquet offers up scents of lime, pear, fresh almond chalky minerality, a nice touch of reductive iodine and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with lovely attack and backend grip, but with the wine taking a touch of a dip in the mid-palate today. The finish is long and very nicely balanced and this will be a lovely wine with a year in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to blossom. 2015-2025+. **90+**.

2013 Meursault “Luchets”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Luchets was really singing at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in an absolutely classic blend of tangerine, pear, hazelnut, a lovely base of soil, iodine and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary in personality, with an excellent core of fruit, fine focus and grip and outstanding backend precision and energy on the long finish. A really lovely bottle of Luchets in the making. 2015-2025+. **92**.

2013 Meursault “Tillets”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Roulot Tilletts, as is typical of this *lieu à dit*, is a bit more elegant out of the blocks than the Luchets, but every bit as fine this year. The refined bouquet offers up scents of apple, lime blossoms, almonds, incipient notes of pastry cream, chalky soil tones and a nice base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tight and young, with a fine core, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long, racy finish. This sense of reserve out of the blocks is pretty rare in 2013 and augurs very well for the future development of this lovely Tilletts. 2016-2030. **92**.

2013 Meursault “Tessons” Cuvée Mon Plaisir- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Tessons from Domaine Roulot is extremely refined this year and a beautiful bottle of Meursault in the making. The pure and vibrant nose jumps from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, fresh almond, lime zest, spring flowers, chalky minerality and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the very elegant finish. This will deserve at least a few years in the cellar to fully blossom. Fine juice. 2017-2030+. **93**.

2013 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Poruzots from Jean-Marc Roulot is a stunning bottle of wine in this vintage. The utterly refined and complex nose delivers a classic constellation of passion fruit, apple, iodine, a complex base of chalky soil tones, hazelnut, lime zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite primary in profile, with a rock solid core, stellar soil inflection, excellent nascent complexity, vibrant acids and great cut and grip on the very long and tensile finish. A beautiful bottle of Poruzots. 2017-2035+. **94**.

2013 Meursault “Clos des Bouchères”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Clos des Bouchères *chez* Roulot is also excellent, with all of the elegance of the vintage very much in evidence in its suave and quite wide open bouquet. The lovely nose wafts

from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, white flowers, almonds, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is quite a bit more reserved than the nose suggests, with its full-bodied format offering lovely fruit on the attack, a fine signature of soil, bright acids, excellent focus and grip and a long, pure and classy finish. From the mid-palate back, this wine is still quite bound up in its fine structural elements and it will really deserve at least a few years in the cellar to fully blossom and start to drink at its full potential. A lovely example of the vintage. 2017-2035. **93+**.

2013 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine Guy Roulot

Not surprisingly, the 2013 Charmes from Domaine Roulot is excellent. The pure and still quite youthful nose delivers a fine constellation of apple, passion fruit, fresh lime, almonds, chalky soil tones, a touch of *crème patissière* and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with fine mid-palate depth, crisp acids and excellent cut and grip on the long, youthful and energetic finish. High class juice. 2017-2035. **94.**

2013 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine Guy Roulot

The 2013 Meursault “Perrières” from Domaine Guy Roulot is a very young and very, very promising example of the vintage. The utterly complete nose wafts from the glass in a primary mélange of apple, pear, almond, very complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a rock solid core of fruit outstanding soil signature, lovely cut and grip and a very, very long, pure and youthful finish. Give this outstanding wine some time to blossom. 2018-2035+. **94+**.



The center rotary in Puligny-Montrachet, lit up for Christmas.

Puligny-Montrachet

Domaine Jacques Carillon (Puligny-Montrachet)

I had far more of an adventure than I anticipated getting to Jacques Carillon's cellars in December this year to taste his 2013s, as the village of Puligny-Montrachet was in the midst of repairing their water pipe grid-work under the streets, and no matter what route I attempted to take in the early evening dark to arrive at the Carillon cellars, I seemed to arrive at closed streets and deep excavations! Finally, giving up (and already well more than half an hour late), I parked at the school in the village and proceeded to the cellars on foot, with Monsieur Carillon greeting me almost immediately upon my abandoning my car, as he had seen the headlights reaching blockade after blockade over the previous thirty minutes and had assumed it was me vainly trying to get there by car! Happily, once we did manage to meet up on the dark streets of Puligny, the range of wines was absolutely superb and well worth all of the circling and re-circling back to the same blockades, as Monsieur Carillon has made outstanding 2013s. In his opinion, his lineup of 2013 wines are a bit like a cross between 2007 and 2008 in style, which needless to say, is a pretty good combination! All of his 2013s had been racked in September of 2014 and were scheduled for bottling in the early spring. The yields here were a bit better in 2013 than in 2012, but still not one would consider a "normal crop" level, but Monsieur Carillon is quite content with the style and shape of the vintage and feels that they will drink very well with a bit of bottle age and also age quite well.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Jacques Carillon

As is customary with Monsieur Carillon, the 2013 Puligny AC was raised in fifteen percent new wood and is a very elegant rendition of its appellation. The very refined nose jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of lemon, apple, chalky soil tones, white flowers and a very discreet touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully focused, with a lovely core of fruit, fine soil inflection and a long, youthful and zesty finish. A high class *villages*. 2016-2035. **90.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet "les Macherelles"- Domaine Jacques Carillon

The fine 2013 Chassagne "les Macherelles" from Jacques Carillon is very elegant out of the blocks this year, with the bouquet offering up a pure and classy mix of pear, lemon, apple blossoms, a complex base of soil and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully transparent out of the blocks, with a good core, fine focus and balance and a long, crisp and refined finish. The *terroir* of les Macherelles can be a bit broad-shouldered in some vintages, but when synthesized with the great inherent elegance of the 2013 vintage, it has really turned out suavely in the hands of Monsieur Carillon! 2017-2035+. **91.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet"- Domaine Jacques Carillon

The 2013 Champs Canet is really very refined this year, soaring from the glass in a pure and still quite primary mélange of white peach, apple, a touch of pink grapefruit, chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely round on the attack, with a fine core, zesty acids and outstanding length and grip on the properly reserved finish. While this wine will be accessible at the outset, due to its beautiful balance, I would give it at least a couple of years' worth of bottle age to allow its secondary layers of complexity to start to emerge. 2017-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet "Perrières" - Domaine Jacques Carillon

The 2013 Puligny-Montrachet "Perrières" from Domaine Jacques Carillon is reference point material in this vintage and is a gorgeous example of this outstanding premier cru. The

outstanding bouquet delivers an aromatic constellation of lemon, white peach, a touch of sweet grapefruit, a very complex base of stony minerality, spring flowers, a touch of the pastry cream to come and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, racy and full-bodied, with a rock solid core of fruit, great mineral drive, racy acids and outstanding length and grip on the nascently complex finish. 2018-2035+. **93+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Jacques Carillon

Jacques Carillon’s very old vines in Referts routinely produce one of Puligny’s greatest premier cru bottlings and the 2013 is no exception. The gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a very pure and nascently complex blend of pear, apple, lemon blossoms, a touch of citrus zest, a dollop of iodine, vanillin oak and a beautifully refined base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very energetic, with a fine core, great backend mineral drive and laser-like focus on the long and racy finish. Great juice. 2019-2040. **94**.

2013 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Jacques Carillon

The 2013 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet from Monsieur Carillon is a great, great wine in the making. The stunning and youthful nose offers up scents of pear, white peach, lemon, very complex, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite primary still in personality, with a rock solid core, brilliant focus and grip and a very, very long, very young and perfectly balanced finish. There are only one and a half barrels of this great wine in 2013, which is the only bad news, as the quality is stunning! 2021-2050. **97**.

Domaine Jean Chartron (Puligny-Montrachet)

Jean-Michel Chartron continues to make absolutely superb wines from his family’s domaine in the center of Puligny-Montrachet, and his 2013s are another extremely strong set of wines. As is customary when visiting in November (or in this case, mid-December), the wines were in varying stages of their élevage, with a handful already bottled, and others already assembled in stainless steel tanks in preparation for early spring bottling and others still in cask and not yet assembled. Most of this latter category were the grand crus here, which had been fined at the start of November, but which had bounced back nicely six weeks down the road and were showing very well indeed. The 2013 Rully in particular was very strong in the cellar this year, amongst the lower level bottlings, and I often think that if one is shopping for wines from the Côte Chalonnaise in the cellars of the Côte de Beaune, one should buy one’s Montagny from Maison Joseph Drouhin and one’s Rully from Domaine Chartron, as both estates truly specialize in these particular villages. The entire range in 2013 is outstanding and Domaine Jean Chartron really deserves to be wider recognized for the beautiful wines that they have been consistently producing for many years now- the 2013s are stellar.

2013 Bourgogne Blanc “Clos de la Combe”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Chartron had already been bottled several months prior to my visit and was showing very well indeed on the 18th of December. The bouquet is bright and classy, offering up scents of white peach, pear, a nice base of chalky soil tones, citrus peel and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, bright and focused, with a good, solid core and sneaky length and grip on the stylish finish. A fine example. 2015-2025+. **88**.

2013 Haute Côtes de Beaune Blanc “En Bois Guilleman”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Haute Côtes de Beaune Blanc from Jean-Michel Chartron had also been in bottle for a while prior to my visit. The wine offers up a lovely nose of apple, pear, spring

flowers, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and has more depth at the core than the straight Bourgogne Blanc, with good acids and a long, tightly-knit finish that could use a year or two of cellaring to fully blossom. Good honest juice. 2016-2025+. **89.**

2013 Rully “Montmain”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Rully has been hit almost as hard by hail in recent years as Volnay, and Jean-Michel quipped that 2014 was looking like the first good crop in his Rully vineyards, as he had “only lost twenty-five percent of the crop to hail.” The 2013 was a far shorter crop than that, which is too bad, as the wine has turned out very well, jumping from the glass in an excellent aromatic blend of apple, tart orange, stony minerality, citrus peel and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine focus and a long, snappy and beautifully balanced finish. This is high class Rully, as is customary *chez* Chartron, and had already been bottled at the time of my visit. 2015-2025+. **89+.**

2013 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Pimentiers” Blanc- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Savigny “Pimentiers” Blanc had been assembled in tank, but not yet bottled, and it is a really lovely wine, as the vines lie further east in the valley and were not as hard hit as those in the direct line of the hail in July. The bouquet is really very classy, offering up a lovely mix of lemon, apple, an incipient notes of beeswax, chalky soil tones and an understated base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very classy, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, zesty finish. A lovely example and a terrific value. 2015-2030. **90.**

2013 Meursault “les Pierres”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Meursault AC *chez* Chartron was also in tank and showing extremely well at the time of my visit. The bright and very refined bouquet delivers scents of apple, pear, almonds, chalky soil tones and a nice touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and complex, with lovely intensity, bright acids, a fine core and excellent focus and grip on the pure and very classy finish. This is a superb bottle of *villages* and will drink very well from its release. One of the best village level Meursaults I have tasted from Jean-Michel Chartron. 2015-2035. **91+.**

2013 St. Aubin “Perrières”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 St. Aubin premier cru of Perrières from Domaine Chartron was in tank and showing well, as it wafts from the glass in a very elegant aromatic constellation of apple, white peach, a touch of *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very elegant on the attack, with fine mid-palate depth, bright acids and lovely focus and grip on the long, complex and wide open finish. This will really drink well in its youth and would make a great white Burgundy for a restaurant wine list. 2015-2035. **90+.**

2013 St. Aubin “Murgers des Dents de Chien”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 St. Aubin “Murgers des Dents de Chien” from Domaine Jean Chartron is stunning, as it delivers a fine nose of pear, lemon, a complex base of chalky minerality, spring flowers, a whisper of the pastry cream to come and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven, with an excellent core, crisp acids and a long, complex and perfectly balanced finish. A superb expression of this outstanding *terroir*. 2017-2035+. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Benoites”- Domaine Jean Chartron

I always chuckle to myself when tasting in a cellar with great St. Aubin premier crus, as inevitably there is a bit of a letdown moving from these wines to village level wines in

Chassagne or Puligny, as the latter simply do not have the same complexity and yet always sell for more in the market! The 2013 Chassagne AC from Domaine Chartron is a very good example of its level, offering up a deep and soil-driven aromatic blend of apple, peach, orange zest, soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and broad-shouldered, with very good mid-palate depth, bright acids and very good length and grip on the youthful and slightly four-square finish. This has more stuffing than the Murgers des Dents de Chien, but also less elegance and complexity. It is a very good Chassagne *villages*, but I would be buying the Murgers for my cellar! 2016-2035. **90.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

Of all the 2013s *chez* Chartron already assembled in tank, only the Puligny AC was a bit grumpy at the time of my visit. The nose is quite expressive in its mix of white peach, pear, a lovely base of limestone, spring flowers and vanillin oak. However, on the palate the wine was quite shut down and a bit out of sorts, with its full-bodied and deep personality not offering a lot of generosity at the present time. The focus, grip and acid structure here are all very good indeed, and I am sure this wine will be excellent, but it had hung up the “do not disturb” sign on the door at the time of my visit! 2015-2035. **90-91.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Happily, the Chassagne “Caillerets” was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. Jean-Michel Chartron makes great wines year in and year out from this great premier cru, and his 2013 is again a stellar example, soaring from the glass in a complex and very refined blend of pear, apple, lemon blossoms, a very, very complex base of chalky soil tones, citrus zest and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with great focus and grip, zesty acids, great transparency and a very long, pure and energetic finish. Great juice. 2017-2040. **93+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Folatières from Domaine Chartron is very elegant and light on its feet this year. The bouquet delivers a fine mélange of white peach, apple, chalky soil tones, pastry cream, fruit blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and vibrant, with fine mid-palate depth, lovely complexity and a very long, pure and zesty finish. A lovely example as well. 2016-2035+. **93.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Pucelle”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Clos de la Pucelle is more reserved and more precise in profile than the very good Folatières this year, as it offers up a first class bouquet of lemon, apple, pear, a beautifully complex base of chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and deep, with outstanding focus and grip, a fine sense of reserve out of the blocks that augurs extremely well for its evolution in bottle and great balance and nascent complexity on the very long and pure finish. Great juice. 2018-2040+. **94.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos des Caillerets”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Clos des Caillerets from Jean-Michel Chartron is utterly classic and a great wine in the making. The bouquet is a superb and very floral mélange of delicious apples, lemon, very complex, chalky minerality, spring flowers, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, laser-like focus and huge backend energy on the very long, poised and electric finish. Brilliant premier cru in the making! 2019-2040. **94+.**

2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Jean Chartron

Jean-Michel Chartron reports that he lost one-third of his crop in Corton-Charlemagne this year, which was not too bad, compared to some others on the hill of Corton. His vines are in the *lieu à dit* of le Charlemagne, which is on the far western end of the Aloxe side of the hill, and the hail here was not quite as bad as further west in Pernand-Vergelesses. The wine was still in cask at the time of my visit and absolutely singing, offering up a classic nose of apple, tangerine, chalky, stony minerality, a touch of iodine, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with a rock solid core of fruit, zesty acids, excellent focus and grip and a long, seamless and nascently complex finish. High class Corton Charlie. 2020-250+. **94+**.

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet *chez* Chartron is another stellar wine in the making. The classic nose offers up great purity and elegance in its aromatic constellation of white peach, apple, orange zest, an outstanding base of soil, gentle floral tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and focused, with outstanding mid-palate depth, impeccable balance and grip and a huge backend energy on the extremely long and youthful finish. An absolute classic in the making! 2020-2055. **95**.

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet “Clos des Chevaliers”- Domaine Jean Chartron

Jean-Michel Chartron’s 2013 Clos des Chevaliers is one of the finest white wines of the vintage this year, with absolutely breath-taking potential. The young and stunning nose soars from the glass in a blaze of pear, delicious apple, very complex, chalky minerality, hints of the pastry cream to come, citrus peel, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with stunning soil signature, laser-like focus and magnificent purity and elegance on the very, very long, electric finish. Brilliant Chevalier. 2020-2055. **96+**.

2013 Montrachet- Maison Jean Chartron

There is only a single barrel of Montrachet in the Chartron cellars this year, and though the wine is excellent, it cannot quite keep pace with the Bâtard and Clos des Chevaliers this year in terms of lift or raciness. That said, the wine is still outstanding, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of white peach, apple, tangerine, a fine base of soil, a bit of smokiness, citrus oil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite powerful in personality, with a fine core, bright acids and a very long, well-balanced and complex finish. A fine wine by any measure, but after the fireworks of racy brilliance of the preceding two wines, this seems just a touch muscle-bound in style today. 2018-2035+. **94**.

Vins Rouges de Domaine Jean Chartron

2013 Haute Côtes de Beaune Rouge “Sous la Roche”- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Haute Côtes de Beaune Rouge “Sous la Roche” from Domaine Jean Chartron had been assembled in tank in preparation for bottling in the spring. It is a good, solid wine this year, but seemed just a touch rustic in personality at this stage of its evolution (though to be fair, it was tasted on the heels of six or seven utterly stunning premier and grand cru white wines this year!), offering up scents of cherries, quince, a bit of pepper, woodsmoke, coffee and soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and youthful, with a solid core, a bit of chewy tannin and good length and grip on the fairly structured finish. Perhaps this is just a bit grumpier than the white wines in tank at the present time. 2017-2030. **85-86+?**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos des Caillerets” Rouge- Domaine Jean Chartron

The 2013 Clos des Caillerets rouge was also in tank at the time of my visit, but this wine was completely on form and absolutely singing. The beautiful bouquet offers up a red fruity and soil-driven mélange of strawberries, cherries, coffee, gamebirds, a beautiful base of chalky soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave in personality, with a fine core, great transparency and a long, moderately tannic and tangy finish. Fine juice. 2020-2045+. **90.**

Domaine Leflaive (Puligny-Montrachet)

Domaine Leflaive has another absolutely stellar lineup of wines waiting in the cellars from the 2013 vintage. The estate's team of harvesters began picking in this vintage on September 24th and finished up on October 5th, noting that the rain on the 30th was followed by a couple of days of fairly warm temperatures which gave a push to botrytis and it was important to sort carefully this year to make sure that none of the nobly-rotten grapes made their way into the cuvées. All of the wines were in fine form at the time of my visit, as the warmer temperatures of October and November of this year had kept the cellars a bit warmer than is customary at this time of year, and the wines were not as closed down as is typically the case in the winter at Domaine Leflaive. The only wine that was not absolutely singing was the Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet, which was showing a bit tight and I surmised that it was simply a bit behind the other wines in terms of its evolution and had not yet fully blossomed from behind its girdle of acidity. The wines across the board are absolute classics in the making, reveling in the purity of fruit of the vintage and the outstanding transparency that will make this a very special vintage for both red and white Burgundies at the addresses who have taken full advantage of the possibilités inherent in the year. This Domaine Leflaive has absolutely done and made another beautiful set of wines.

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Leflaive

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Leflaive is a classic example, offering up a pure and classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of beeswax, candied lemon, chalky soil and a dollop of spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and zesty, with a good core, fine backend mineral drive and lovely focus and balance on the long and vibrant finish. Very elegant this year. 2018-2035. **89+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive

The 2013 Puligny *villages* is excellent, wafting from the glass in a refined blend of apple, white peach, a lovely base of limestone, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and exudes a nice sense of reserve out of the blocks, with a lovely core, bright acids, fine focus and grip and a long, suave and nicely structured finish. This wine will be accessible fairly early, but I would definitely keep it in the cellar for the next five years and really let its secondary layers of complexity emerge fully. Classy *villages*, but that is always the case at Domaine Leflaive! 2020-2045. **91+.**

2013 Meursault “Sous la d’Ane”- Domaine Leflaive

The 2013 Meursault “Sous la d’Ane” from Domaine Leflaive is very pretty this year, offering up a high-toned and pretty aromatic constellation of pear, tangerine, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with good, but not great depth at the core, bright acids, lovely focus and nascent complexity and a long, zesty finish. Today, this is not showing quite the same mid-palate depth

as the Puligny AC, but it may put on a bit more weight with bottle age, and if it does so, my score will seem a tad conservative. 2017-2040. **90+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clavoillon”- Domaine Leflaive

I can still recall back in the ‘80s and early ‘90s when the Clavoillon here was a bit chunky in personality and a bit of a weak link in the domaine’s lineup, but with the wholesale switch over to *biodynamique* viticulture, this wine has developed a sense of elegance that I never imagined possible. The 2013 is another absolutely beautiful wine in the making, delivering an utterly refined nose of apple, lemon, chalky minerality, fruit blossoms, a bit of orange zest and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and racy in personality, with excellent mid-palate depth, beautiful focus and balance, bright acids and outstanding transparency on the long and nascently complex finish. A beautiful wine in the making. 2018-2045+. **92+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Leflaive

The 2013 Folatières was just a touch reductive at the time of my visit. With some swirling, the wine blossoms to show an extremely mineral and soil-driven rendition of this vineyard in 2013 *chez* Leflaive, jumping from the glass in a blaze of apple, tangerine, a touch of iodine, lovely minerality, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and snappy, with a fine core, great backend energy and focus and a very long, pure and soil-driven finish. This is simply outstanding this year! 2020-2050. **93+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Domaine Leflaive

I am always a huge fan of the Domaine Leflaive Combettes and the 2013 is destined to be a reference point vintage for this great cru. The wine is extremely esthery this year on the nose, offering up a beautiful aromatic constellation of apple, pear, lemon oil, complex, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms, bee pollen and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and simply stunning, with a rock solid core, racy acids and superb focus and grip on the very, very long, pure and elegant finish. An absolute classic. 2020-2050. **94+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Pucelles”- Domaine Leflaive

Given the inherently elegant profile of the best wines of 2013, I was not surprised to find the Domaine Leflaive Pucelles to be utterly in its element in this vintage and a stunning young wine. The magical bouquet offers up a youthful blend of delicious apple, pear, lemon, spring flowers, a beautifully refined base of chalky soil, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with outstanding mid-palate depth, bright acids and a very long, youthful and electric finish. A magical young wine. 2021-2050+. **95**.

2013 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive

As I noted in the introduction, the 2013 Bienvenues *chez* Leflaive was a bit reticent at the time of my visit, and given the absolute fireworks of virtually every other wine in the cellar, I have to assume that this wine was simply lagging a bit in terms of evolution and still a bit buttoned up behind its structural elements. The pretty bouquet offers up scents of white peach, pear, orange blossoms, a touch of beeswax, chalk and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and very tightly-knit, with excellent length and grip on the backend, fine focus and plenty of backend energy. It is not particularly expressive in the mid-palate today, but I am going to assume that is just the stage it is in at the present time, as it seems unthinkable that a team that is at the absolute top of its game these days would hit the ball out of the park with every other wine and turn out a lean example of Bienvenues in 2013. 2023-2060. **94-96**.

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive

As Domaine Leflaive is fortunate enough to have fairly sizable holdings in Bâtard-Montrachet, there are a couple of different tanks of the wine in the cellars, with everything to be assembled in the spring. I tasted from the tank that hails from the domaine's vines that lie immediately above Bienvenues and the wine was absolutely singing, soaring from the glass in a blaze of apple, lemon, tangerine oil, a beautifully complex base of chalky minerality, spring flowers, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely electric, with great structure and cut, a bottomless core and laser-like focus on the extremely long and rapier-like finish. Stunning Bâtard! 2023-2065. **96+**.

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive

The 2013 Domaine Leflaive Chevalier-Montrachet is also, like the Combettes this year, very esthery on the nose, as it delivers a stellar aromatic constellation of apple, pear, fresh lemon, crystalline, chalky minerality, orange zest, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly refined, with a rock solid core, bright, perfectly integrated acids, seamless balance and great cut and grip on the endless and supremely elegant finish. A beautiful, beautiful vintage of Chevalier in the making *chez* Leflaive. 2023-2060. **97**.

Domaine Etienne Sauzet (Puligny-Montrachet)

The Boudot family has made another simply stellar set of wines in 2013. The harvest started at Domaine Sauzet on September 25th, and yields, while superior to the miniscule numbers of 2012, were hardly robust, as universally the domaine brought in thirty-five hectoliters per hectare. However, even with another relatively short crop, the 2013s are a return to an utterly classic style from the more uniquely concentrated profile of several of the wines here in 2012, and the 2013 vintage is extremely successful at Domaine Sauzet this year. Emile Boudot was particularly happy with the style of the vintage of 2013 here, as he finds the late harvest of 2013 providing wines of dramatically precise expressions of terroir. As is customary at this time of the year, the Bourgogne Blanc had already been bottled (right before the harvest of 2014) and the premier crus had already been racked once, also right before the harvest, and were resting comfortably in tank awaiting a spring bottling. Across the board in 2013, the inherent elegance of the vintage is very much in evidence in the Domaine Sauzet lineup, with the zesty acidity of the year beautifully buffered by ripe fruit tones, and the wines brimming with chalky minerality and lovely potential for aging. Domaine Sauzet has been on a terrific hot streak for at least the last decade and it shows no signs of slowing down with the 2013 vintage, which will again find the estate at the very pinnacle of white wine producers in the Côte de Beaune. I would not be surprised to see several of these 2013s ultimately show a bit of similarity to the beautiful 1985s here (despite the vintage characteristics being quite different out of the blocks), which aged beautifully and showed wonderful purity and elegance at their apogees and which the 2013s will clearly share with the '85s in the fullness of time. Given that the yields are much lower here in 2013 than 1985, and the growing season was cooler, it is hard not to come to the conclusion that ultimately, the 2013s will prove to be superior to the 1985s, but they should bear some similarities with that very, very successful previous vintage at Domaine Sauzet.



Emile Boudot in the tasting room at Domaine Etienne Sauzet in Puligny-Montrachet.

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

Domaine Sauzet's Bourgogne Blanc is always one of the top examples in the village of Puligny and the 2013 is another excellent example. The bouquet is quite pretty wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, peach, white soil tones and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and still just a bit grumpy from its September bottling, but with a good core, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the finish. This still needs a few more months to settle in, but will be quite tasty. 2015-2025. **87-88.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet "les Enseignères"- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

While the Boudot family's parcel of vines in Enseignères are not particularly old by the lofty standards of the domaine, at fifty-five years of age, they are really at the qualitative peak and producing premier cru quality wine year in and year out these days. The fine nose on the 2013 offers up a very floral mélange of orange blossoms, apple pear, a lovely base of soil, citrus zest and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and classy, with a lovely core, racy acids and fine cut and grip on the long and beautifully balanced finish. A classic. 2015-2035+. **90.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Puligny AC from Domaine Sauzet is also a very strong *villages* in this vintage, jumping from the glass in a vibrant mélange of white peach, apple, spring flowers, chalky soil

tones and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and quite youthful in profile, with good mid-palate concentration, lovely cut and grip and a long, snappy and nicely reserved finish. This will need a year or two to really blossom, but it too will be an excellent bottle of village wine. 2016-2035. **90.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Clos de la Garenne from the Boudot family is a lovely wine, offering up a bright and vibrant bouquet of apple, pear, lemon zest, white flowers, chalk and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and nascently complex, with a fine core, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the youthful and promising finish. I would give this three or four years in the cellar to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge and the acids to relax a bit- it will drink well for quite a long time. 2018-2035+. **91+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Champ Gains”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Champs Gains in the Sauzet cellars was one of the more closed down premier crus in this fine lineup, and it may well be that the wine is still in the process of blossoming from behind its girdle of acidity and my score could well prove to be a bit conservative down the road. The bouquet is a youthful blend of apple, tangerine, limestone, orange zest, the first signs of pastry cream to come and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit reticent on the attack, with a good core, brisk acids and a long, youthful and zesty finish. This will need a bit of bottle age to really start to sing, but it will be very good in the fullness of time. 2019-2040. **91.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The Domaine Sauzet Referts in 2013 is a lovely wine that is also nicely structured and looking for a bit of bottle age prior to drinking. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a still quite primary mix of apple, pear, incipient *crème patissière*, lemon zest, spring flowers and discreet new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already complex on the attack, with very good mid-palate depth, bright acids, lovely focus and a very long, snappy and still quite adolescent and closed finish. This will be excellent, but it too needs a bit of time in the bottle to fully blossom. 2020-2040. **92.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Perrières”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Perrières from the Boudots is outstanding, with such beautiful balance out of the blocks that it will drink a touch earlier than the Referts, though it is equally structured. The gorgeous nose delivers a fine constellation of lemon blossoms, delicious apple, white peach, stony soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and beautifully balanced, with a fine core, excellent soil signature, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the primary and racy finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2019-2040. **92+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières” - Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The Boudot family is quite fortunate to have their parcel of vines here in the tiny, upper section of *En la Richarde*, which lies on the same level as Chevalier-Montrachet, up above Caillerets, and this is clearly the tiny filet section of the large vineyard of Folatières. Consequently, the Domaine Sauzet Folatières is always one of the most racy and refined examples of this cru, and in the inherently elegant vintage of 2013, this is even more apparent than usual. The stellar nose jumps from the glass in a mélange of apple, tangerine, chalky minerality, apple blossoms, incipient notes of *crème patissière* and a very discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and extremely racy for young Folatières, with a beautiful core of fruit, brisk acids, excellent focus and a very long, poised and youthful finish. Another very strong premier cru in the making. 2019-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Truffières”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

There are all of two barrels of Truffières in the cellars in 2013, but that is an improvement on 2012! The wine is going to be excellent in this vintage, delivering a lovely aromatic constellation of apple, tangerine, superb minerality, citrus zest, a stylish base of vanillin oak and a beautiful floral topnote redolent of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in profile, with a rock solid core, racy acids, excellent focus and grip and a long, classy and youthful finish. High class juice here. 2019-2040. **93+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Champ Canet”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Champ Canet from Domaine Sauzet is another absolutely classic example of this fine vineyards, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, white peach, lemon oil, chalky minerality, white flowers, orange zest and discreet vanillin oak nuances. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and snappy, with a fine core, excellent balance and focus, lovely, nascent complexity and a very, very long and zesty finish. Impressive. 2019-2040. **93+**.

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Combettes from Domaine Sauzet is a beautiful bottle of premier cru in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of apple, white peach, chalky minerality, orange oil, hints of the floral tones to come, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with enormous backend energy, great focus and grip and a very, very long, snappy and youthful finish. Great juice in the making, but give it some time in the cellar to blossom! 2020-2040+. **94**.

2013 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Etienne Sauzet is a gorgeous example of the vintage in the making, as these seventy-plus year-old vines have turned out a great performance in this vintage. The utterly classic nose delivers a nascently complex and very pure blend of white peach, lemon, complex, chalky minerality, spring flowers, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and bottomless, with a very minerally personality out of the blocks this year, laser-like focus and great cut and grip on the long and classy finish. A supremely elegant and intensely flavored example of this great *terroir*. 2022-2060. **95+**.

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet from the Boudot family is every bit as emblematic of the elegance of the vintage as the great young Bienvenues. The gorgeous bouquet delivers scents of apple, tangerine, lemon, marvelously complex soil tones, citrus zest, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very racy out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, outstanding focus and grip, beautiful balance and a very long, very energetic and utterly refined finish. Young Bâtard does not get any more elegant than this stellar example. 2020-2060. **96**.

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

Domaine Sauzet makes stunning Chevalier-Montrachet, but in a vintage where the elegance quotient is so high across the board, the slight advantage of refinement that this *terroir* enjoys over Bienvenues and Bâtard is not quite so evident. The 2013 Chevalier *chez* Boudot is a gorgeous wine that wafts from the glass in a utterly pristine blend of apple, lemon, white peach, almost crystalline minerality, white flowers, the first vestiges of pastry cream and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, rock solid at the core, with stunning focus and grip, racy acids and a very long, electric finish. Great juice. 2020-2060. **96**.

2013 Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet

The 2013 Domaine Sauzet Montrachet is another absolutely classic example of its great *terroir*, with more depth, power and broader shoulders than the three grand crus that preceded it in the cellars this year. The outstanding nose offers up an aromatic constellation of peach, apple, tangerine, chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary in personality, with a stunning core, racy acids and a very, very long, adolescent and powerful finish. These are four simply stunning grand crus in the Sauzet cellars in 2013, and it is really hard to choose a favorite amongst them, as they are all quintessential examples of their respective vineyards. 2022-2060+. **96+**.

Chassagne-Montrachet

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard has made absolutely stellar examples of the 2013 vintage, with both the reds and the white wines showing beautifully at the time of my December visit. Last year, I had the pleasure to taste with Céline Fontaine, Richard's daughter and the heir apparent at the domaine, but this year, as she is expecting her first child, I tasted with Monsieur and Madame Fontaine (who seemed to be very much looking forward to their first grandchild). As is customary with Monsieur Fontaine, all of the 2013 white wines had been bottled in the fall of 2014, so that by the time I stopped by to taste the range on December 16th, the wines were in beautiful form after their mise and really showing extremely well. The lineup of Chassagne premier crus in the domaine's cellars is second to none, and in a vintage like 2013, where the underlying terroir of each wine is so apparent, tasting through this absolutely stellar lineup of premier crus is like a master class in the different terroirs of Chassagne-Montrachet. I know that there are more famous domaines than Fontaine-Gagnard in the Côte de Beaune these days, but to my palate, these are amongst the most brilliant white wines to be found in all of Burgundy today, and the entire lineup of 2013s is absolutely stellar in this vintage and will delight fans of this estate. The red wines were still in cask in December, having been generally racked right before the harvest of 2014, and they were to be assembled after the holidays and bottled at their customary times in the late spring and early summer of 2015. The malos for the red wines here were quite late for some of the cuvées, with a few of the wines still showing a bit of backend CO2 from the malolactic, but the overall quality was very easy to appreciate for the red wines chez Fontaine in 2013 and they should not be overlooked in the rush to secure some of the stellar 2013 whites from the domaine. In particular, the Chassagne rouge bottlings from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard are superb in this vintage, and will offer up some of the most exciting red wine values to be found in this excellent vintage and should be on the shopping lists of the most savvy, price-conscious Burgundy lovers. When I commented to Monsieur Fontaine about how impressed I was by the elegance and purity of his Chassagne rouge bottlings, he commented that "vignerons in the village are making a profound error replanting so many vineyards in the village to chardonnay from pinot noir, as there are several terroirs in Chassagne that are much better for red wines." A case in point would be Clos St. Jean, which really makes far more elegant and classy pinot noir than it does chardonnay. This is especially clear in an era of climate change, as one of the obvious winners, for the moment, with the warmer seasons in Burgundy in the last decade are the red wines of Chassagne-Montrachet.

Vins Blancs

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is a very pretty and stylish example of the vintage, offering up a bright bouquet of apple, a touch of pineapple, lovely soil tones, citrus zest and white flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and nicely racy, with a really good core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, zesty finish. Classy juice and a superb value. 2015-2030. **89.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Chassagne *villages* from the Fontaine family is excellent, wafting from the glass in a complex and vibrant blend of apple, pear, spring flowers, a refined base of chalky soil tones, a touch of vanillin oak and a topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and vibrant, with a good core, lovely soil drive and a long and classy finish. This will drink with great style right from the moment of its release, but it has the requisite balance to also age very well indeed. Lovely juice. 2015-2035. **90+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Maltroie”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Maltroie from Fontaine-Gagnard is another lovely example of the vintage, but it is not a huge step up from the very strong Chassagne AC this year. The bouquet is refined and wide open out of the blocks, delivering scents of apple, pineapple, wet stones, a touch of lime peel and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more primary than the nose suggests, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, crisp and succulent finish. Another strong effort. 2015-2035+. **90+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet- “Clos des Murées”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Clos des Murées from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is another fairly forward bottling in their stellar portfolio this year, with a fine signature of soil tied to beautifully pure fruit tones. The excellent bouquet offers up a mix of pineapple, tangerine, chalky minerality, a bit of smokiness, gentle notes of new wood and a topnote of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with lovely focus and balance, a good core and fine balance on the long and wide open finish. This will make friends early. 2015-2035+. **91.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Clos St. Jean from the Fontaines is more soil-driven and stony in personality than the Clos des Murées, wafting from the glass in a more reserved blend of lime peel, apple, citrus blossoms, wet stone minerality, gentle smokiness and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a fine core and sense of reserve, lovely focus and grip and excellent balance on the long and classy finish. I would give this wine three or four years in the cellar before starting to drink it with abandon. 2018-2035+. **91+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet Vergers”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine family’s Vergers has turned out beautifully in the 2013 vintage, as the wine offers up a bright and very classic bouquet of pear, apple, lemon, complex, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, outstanding soil signature, fine cut and nascent complexity and a very long, racy and perfectly focused finish. This is a dynamite bottle of Chassagne premier cru! 2018-2035+. **93.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Chenevottes from the domaine is also outstanding, but cut from a more forward and succulent cloth than the excellent Vergers in this vintage. The gorgeous nose delivers a constellation of apple, pear, tangerine, lovely soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and a bit more reserved than on the nose, with a fine core, bright, vibrant acids, excellent focus and balance and a very long, pure and nicely soil-driven finish. This is just a quintessential example of young Chenevottes that will drink beautiful at a fairly young age, but is so beautifully balanced that it will have no problems in aging for a long time as well. 2016-2035+. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeots”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The two examples of Morgeots that I tasted from Domaines Fontaine-Gagnard and Bernard Moreau et Fils are two of the most beautiful examples of this vineyard that I have had in many years and remind me strikingly of the magical 1985 version from Domaine Ramonet when it was young. The Fontaine version is stunning, wafting from the glass in a blaze of apple, lemon, great chalky minerality, citrus oils, vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and laser-like in its focus, with a rock solid core, great focus and grip and a very long, racy and supremely elegant finish. Great Morgeots (and how often does one have a chance to say that!) that will need a few years in the cellar to fully blossom and should age superbly well. 2018-2040. **93+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Boudriotte from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is more forward than their excellent Morgeots, delivering a fine bouquet of apple, orange, spring flowers, stony minerality and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, bright and wide open in profile, with a good core, fine, succulent acids, excellent balance and grip and a long, focused and very classy finish. Fine juice. 2015-2035. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Grande Montagne”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 la Grande Montagne is one of the more reserved and stony premier crus in the Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard lineup, offering up a fine and still quite youthful nose of lime, green apple, complex, stony minerality, citrus zest and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and zesty, with outstanding mineral drive, fine focus and grip and a very long, racy and transparent finish. Excellent wine. 2018-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

I love good Caillerets and the Fontaines’ version is stellar in 2013. The pure and utterly classic aromatic constellation delivers a blend of delicious apples, pear, lemon, very complex, chalky minerality, a plethora of fruit blossoms and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very racy, with a rock solid core, great detail and a very long, quite reserved and utterly pristine finish. Great juice and an absolutely classic example of this great, great premier cru vineyard. 2019-2040. **94+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Romanée”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Romanée” from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is another brilliant premier cru this year, with all of the elegance and transparency of the very finest whites of the Côte de Beaune very much in evidence on both the nose and palate here. The stunning bouquet is a blend of lemon, apple, hints of the pastry cream to come with bottle age, a stunning base of limestone minerality, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and laser-like, with a rock solid core, stunning transparency and great length and grip on the very long, racy and energetic finish. Stunning young juice. 2020-2040. **94+.**

2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet from the Fontaine family is utterly magical wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a gorgeous and youthful mélange of apple, pear, tangerine, gentle smokiness, an exotic touch of spiced meats, a superb base of chalky soil tones, lemon

blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and absolutely rock solid at the core, with a primary personality, great focus and grip and a very, very long finish that thunders to a close with great mineral drive and backend energy. Brilliant Criots. 2021-2055. **96.**

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard is equally brilliant, soaring from the glass in a primary blend of apple, pear, a touch of *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones, spring flowers, a touch of fresh almond and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again quite bottomless at the core, with great elegance for young Bâtard, racy acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long, poised and utterly classic finish. Another legend in the making. 2021-2055+. **96.**

2013 Montrachet- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine family's Montrachet is one of the very finest white wines I tasted from the 2013 vintage. Their vines lie right next to Domaine Leflaive's at the top of the slope in the Chassagne side of Montrachet, with the Comtes Lafon parcel lying below both of these on the gentle hillside. The bouquet on the 2013 is reserved and potentially magical, offering up scents of apple, pear, lemon, a glorious base of chalky minerality, spring flowers and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with great focus and grip, racy acids and enormous backend energy on the electric and endless finish. Pure magic in the making. 2025-2065+. **98+.**

Vins Rouges

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Three quarters of the vines for this bottling lie in Volnay, with the other twenty-five percent in Chassagne. The wine is very pretty and red fruity this year, wafting from the glass in a mix of strawberries, cherries, a nice touch of soil and a topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and very nicely transparent, with a juicy core and lovely focus and balance on the long finish. Monsieur Fontaine joked that "it is not very fair to be tasting a Bourgogne rouge after Montrachet!" A fine example. 2015-2025. **87.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

I really like the 2013 Chassagne *villages* Rouge from Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard, which will drink with great style right out of the blocks. The nose is again very red fruity and attractive in its mélange of red berries, cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebirds, a lovely base of soil and a topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and youthful in personality, with a lovely core of sappy fruit, impressive transparency, moderate tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. This is really a strong example and a great, great value! 2018-2035+. **89+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeots Rouge- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Monsieur Fontaine told me that the pinot vines for this bottling actually lie in Boudriotte (which can be sold as Morgeots), not far from those that make up the Clos de Boudriotte rouge bottling from Domaine Ramonet. The 2013 version is excellent, jumping from the glass in a complex aromatic blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, coffee, again, rose petals and a superb base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and nicely structured, with a fine core, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and potentially very elegant finish. All this excellent wine needs is some time in the cellar to fully blossom. 2019-2040. **90+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” Rouge- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Clos St. Jean is clearly my favorite red wine *terroir* in Chassagne-Montrachet and the Fontaine family makes one of the consistently finest examples. Their 2013 is outstanding and another great value, as the wine delivers a pure and classy bouquet of cherries, *fraises du bois*, cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, coffee, roses and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very, very elegant out of the blocks, with a great core of fruit, suave tannins and a very long, pure and tangy finish. A beautiful bottle in the making! 2019-2045. **92+**.

2013 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Monsieur Fontaine considered himself pretty lucky in 2013, as the domaine “only” lost thirty percent of the crop in Clos des Chênes to the hail in July, which was far better than the results in 2012. This is a very fine bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in a youthfully complex constellation of red and black cherries, gamebirds, coffee, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a refined framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite elegant, with lovely mid-palate concentration, excellent focus and grip, refined tannins and a very long, pure and soil-driven finish. A really lovely example of this great vineyard. 2022-2060. **92+**.

2013 Pommard “Rugiens”- Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

The Fontaine-Gagnard Rugiens is excellent in 2013, offering up a deep and very classic bouquet of cherries, quince, a touch of blood orange, gamebirds, a very complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke and a refined base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with a very fine core, tangy acids, lovely focus and balance and a long, ripely tannic and youthful finish. Excellent wine. 2023-2065. **93**.

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils (Chassagne-Montrachet)

Alex Moreau and his brother are making absolutely brilliant wines these days at their family domaine in Chassagne-Montrachet. In fact, no one is making better white wines today in the Côte de Beaune and Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils is now one of the superstars of white Burgundy and should be ranked up at the very pinnacle of producers in the region, alongside historically important estates such as Domaines Leflaive and Sauzet in Puligny and Domaine Ramonet in Chassagne. The 2013s that I tasted with Alex this year were amongst the most brilliant groups of wines I tasted anywhere during my sixteen days in the region, with the wines across the board sharing a stunningly pure expressions of each underlying terroir and simply gorgeous fruit tones. The acids here are bright and racy, the texture of the fruit almost silky and the wines simply exude their signatures of soil. While the domaine remains best known for its brilliant white wines, the reds here are better and better with each passing vintage, and if I were told by my Domaine Moreau merchant that I could no longer buy the white wines, but could have all the reds I wished, I would be perfectly content with that outcome! As is typical when I visit here in the winter months, the wines were in various stages of evolution, with the Bourgogne bottlings having been bottled prior to the harvest of 2014, as well as the Chassagne AC Blanc and the St. Aubin “en Remilly”, and the premier cru whites were all assembled in tank and most had been fined two weeks prior to my visit. The red wines chez Moreau are quite black fruity this year, with their “cool vintage” character just exuding soil signatures and the inherent elegance of the vintage really showing in these outstanding young wines. As Alex’s Volnay vineyards were once again hit by hail in 2013, there will not be a lot of bottles from any of his three premier crus in that village, but the crop is quite respectable in size for the pinot noirs in Chassagne, and

these are very, very strong this year and will offer up some of the finest values to be found for cellar-worthy red wines from the 2013 vintage. For those who have not yet discovered the brilliance of Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils, the 2013 vintage would be a brilliant place to start, as there are no finer wines to be found in this vintage in Burgundy.



Alex Moreau standing in the premier cru vineyard of Maltroie, on the closest thing to a sunny afternoon on my trip.

Vins Blancs

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Moreau was barrel-fermented entirely in old casks in this vintage and was bottled in September of 2014. The wine is really lovely, offering up a classy nose of pear, apple, a touch of almond, white flowers and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and very svelte on the attack, with a very good core, bright acids and fine length and grip on the impressively pure finish. A really lovely example. 2015-2025. **89.**

2013 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 en Remilly had also been bottled in September and was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The beautiful bouquet soars from the glass in a complex constellation of pear, lemon, complex minerality, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, citrus zest and a very discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very soil-driven this year, with beautiful focus and balance, a fine core and a very long, refined and vibrant finish.

This is already delicious to drink now, but it is so beautifully balanced that it will have no troubles aging. 2015-2030+. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Chassagne *villages* had been bottled the week before my visit, but had not yet shut down and was really showing superb potential on both the nose and palate. The pure and classy bouquet delivers scents of apple, pear, orange zest, a lovely streak of minerality, white flowers and just a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is, full-bodied, focused and very long, with lovely elegance, excellent mid-palate depth and very good cut and grip on the long and refined finish. Nobody makes better village level Chassagne-Montrachet these days than Alex Moreau! 2016-2035+. **91+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

As I noted in the introduction, all of the premier cru whites had been fined two weeks prior to my visit, and some were a bit crankier than others. The Vergers was showing no ill effects and was really expressive, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of apple, pear, spring flowers, chalky soil tones, pastry cream and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very mineral in personality (particularly for young Vergers!), with a rock solid core of fruit, great focus and backend energy and a very long, refined and vibrant finish. A beautiful example. 2018-2040. **92+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Chenevottes from Domaine Moreau was also in fine, fine form at the time of my visit. The pure and utterly classic nose delivers a fine mélange of apple, pear, spring flowers, chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms, hints of the butter to come with a bit of bottle age and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with bright acids, excellent transparency, fine focus and grip and a very, very long and dancing finish. A great bottle of Chenevottes in the making! 2016-2035+. **93.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Maltroie was very fine on the nose at the time of my visit, but was still missing a bit of its precision on the palate, as a result of its recent fining. The bouquet is first rate and really exciting, offering up a lovely blend of apple, lime, wet stone minerality, vanillin oak and a topnote of gentle smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more reserved in personality than either the Vergers or Chenevottes, with a fine core, lovely balance and a long, crisp and very mineral finish. I am sure this is every bit as laser-like in its focus as the rest of this range, but as it was a bit agitated, I have scored it within a range. 2019-2035+. **92-93.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Champgains”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Champgains was also suffering just a touch on the backend from its recent fining, but aromatically it was spot on and I have little doubt that this too is going to be an outstanding bottle. The excellent bouquet is a mélange of apple, pear, tangerine, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, lime zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely balance, zesty acids and excellent length and grip on the finish. Again, I am sure it will be absolutely precise once it has settled back in, but I give it a range again to be my customary cautious self! 2018-2035. **92-93.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

Perhaps it is a result of really having cut my white Burgundy teeth on Domaine Ramonet’s Morgeot back in the 1980s, but when I taste a great example of Morgeot, I get very excited, and the 2013 from Domaine Moreau is indeed a stunning example of this *terroir* at its finest. The gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, lemon, pear, a deep, chalky

signature of soil, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, racy and very soil-driven this year, with a superb core, laser-like focus and great cut and grip on the pure and very, very long finish. All one needs to do is add a drop of peppermint oil here and be transported back in time to the Ramonet Morgeot bottlings of the early 1980s! A great wine in the making! 2020-2040+. **94.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Grandes Ruchottes from Alex Moreau is a brilliant wine in the making and unmistakably of grand cru quality this year. The magical bouquet is a fine blend of apple, pear, a touch of sweet grapefruit, kaleidoscopic, chalky minerality, citrus zest, a touch of lemon oil and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and simply electric on the palate, with a bottomless core, impeccable focus and balance, racy acids and a very long, youthful and supremely elegant finish. 2020-2050. **95+.**

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Domaine Moreau Bâtard-Montrachet had been assembled into its small tank a month before my visit, but had not yet been fined and was showing beautifully. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, lemon, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, great focus and cut, lovely transparency and outstanding length and grip on the poised and perfectly balanced finish. Great juice in the making. 2020-2060+. **95+.**

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Chevalier-Montrachet in the Domaine Moreau cellars is extremely similar to Domaine Leflaive’s this year (and I tasted the two wines a couple of hours apart on the same day), with a beautiful, esthery quality to the bouquet that is very, very special. The glorious bouquet delivers a refined aromatic constellation of apple, pear, lemon, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, a beautifully complex base of chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep full-bodied, young and impeccably balanced, with a great core, stellar backend energy and a very, very precise, nascently complex and boundless finish. A spectacular beauty! 2021-2060+. **97+.**

Vins Rouges

2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from Domaine Moreau is a very pretty example of the vintage, offering up a red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, a touch of cocoa, a nice dollop of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with solid depth, bright acids and just a touch of backend tannin on the long finish. Good juice. 2015-2025. **87+.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge- Dom. Bernard Moreau et Fils

The old vine Chassagne Rouge had also been bottled prior to my visit, but only two weeks before I arrived, and the wine was not yet shut down and was still showing very well. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a fine mélange of black cherries, woodsmoke, dark berries, cocoa and a lovely base of minerality. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and tangy, with lovely transparency, a very good core of fruit, fine focus and a long, classy and moderately tannic finish. This wine was raised in fifteen percent new wood this year, but I could not find even a whiff of oak anywhere in the wine, as the minerality is so vibrant this year! This wine will age beautifully and will be a superb value for the intrepid red Burgundy shopper. 2019-2040. **90.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Cardeuse” Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 la Cardeuse had been racked into tank three weeks before my visit, but was showing no ill effects from its movement and was absolutely singing. The elegance of the vintage is played off to fine advantage here, as the wine jumps from the glass in a lovely blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, cocoa, a beautiful base of soil, a touch of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with great focus and grip, suave tannins and a long, complex and vibrant finish. This will need five or six years in the cellar to fully blossom, but it is going to be an outstanding wine and will offer excellent value as well. 2020-2050. **92+**.

2013 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Santenots from Alex Moreau is really a lovely wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a mix of black plums, black cherries, coffee, dark soil tones smoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with fine focus and grip, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the soil-driven and nascently complex finish. The tannins here are a bit chewier than in the la Cardeuse, but that is more a reflection of just how suave the 2013 Chassagne red wines are this year, rather than any demerit for this lovely example of Santenots. 2021-2055. **92**.

2013 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Clos des Chênes *chez* Moreau is a superb example of this great *terroir*, and it is a pity there is not more of it to go around. The beautiful and utterly classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, a complex base of dark soil tones, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fresh thyme and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and nascently complex, with fine focus and grip, a lovely core, ripe tannins and a long, transparent and tangy finish. High class Clos des Chênes! 2023-2055. **93**.

2013 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2013 Domaine Moreau Caillerets is also outstanding and really is a quintessential expression of this *terroir*. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a constellation of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, black plums, stony minerality, *pigeon*, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plush on the attack, with a fine core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and a lovely spine of minerality perking up the bright and beautifully focused finish. Fine, fine juice. 2023-2055. **93**.

St. Aubin

Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy (St. Aubin)

Olivier Lamy has made lovely wines in 2013, having begun picking on September 20th and finishing up on October the 3rd. He was pleasantly surprised with the ultimate ripeness levels, given how slowly the sugars were moving up in the cool month of September, and he ended up chapitalizing everything three-tenths to half a degree and emerged with wines generally at 12.5 percent alcohol. Malos here were leisurely, but not alarmingly slow, with everything wrapped up in the cellars by July of 2014. There is a new wine in the Lamy lineup in 2014, a Santenay “Clos de la Gravière” Blanc that augments the red wine bottling from this top premier cru in Santenay that Olivier added to his lineup in 2012. He noted that eighty percent of the parcel of chardonnay that he now works with in Clos de la Gravière is planted with fairly young vines, but twenty percent are still old vines, and it was quite clear that in the coming years, this wine has outstanding potential and is destined to be one of his top premier cru bottlings. While Monsieur Lamy has been quite well known for many years for the outstanding

quality of his white wines, I find that I am more and more impressed with each passing vintage with the caliber of his red wines, which seem to be getting more and more elegant each year. The Lamy cellar is now principally stocked with demi-muids of four hundred and fifty and six hundred liters, rather than two hundred and twenty-five liter barriques, as he has been totally content with the more discreet signature of new wood in the wines raised in the larger-sized barrels, which he began using now nearly a decade ago. A couple of the white wines had already been bottled, but the majority of the premier crus had been assembled in tank and were scheduled to be bottled early in the spring. The Murgers Dents de Chien, Puligny and Chassagne premier crus, as well as the Haut Densité bottlings and the brilliant Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet were still in cask and were to be assembled early in the new year and bottled a bit later than the other premier crus that were already in tank. The entire range was very strong in 2013, with excellent signatures of individual terroirs, great purity to the fruit components and excellent, zesty structures that add vibrancy to the wines destined for earlier drinking and great structures for those that will benefit from extended cellaring. A fine, fine lineup chez Lamy in 2013.

Vins Rouges

2013 Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Santenay “Clos des Hâtes” rouge from Monsieur Lamy is a very nice, cooler vintage bottle of red Burgundy that will need three or four years in the cellar to blossom. The fine, black fruity nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, bitter chocolate and a nice base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and sappy at the core, with modest tannins, tangy acids and good length and grip on the youthful finish. A good bottle of *villages* in the making. 2018-2030+. **87**.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Gaujomme” Rouge- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Lamy Chassagne Rouge *villages* was showing very well at the time of my visit, as these fifty-five year-old vines have produced a quite elegant example. The bouquet is a blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, coffee and cooler, dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and has a nice, plump core of fruit, round tannins and good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. This will never be the most complex of Chassagne reds, but it will offer lovely depth of pure fruit and good length in the fullness of time. 2019-2035. **88+**.

2013 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Rouge- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Derrière Chez Edouard rouge is a bit more structured out of the blocks than the two preceding village wines, but shares the same purity and fine, cooler vintage character on both the nose and palate. The fine nose delivers scents of dark berries, black cherries, smoke, a bit of currant leaf, chalky soil tones and espresso. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite tightly-knit, with very good mid-palate depth, moderate tannins, bright acids and lovely soil signature on the long and vibrant finish. This will need some time, but it will be quite strong. 2020-235+. **88+**.

2013 Santenay “Clos des Gravières”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Clos des Gravières rouge from Olivier Lamy is a very fine example of Santenay in the making, as these forty-five year-old vines have produced a lovely example of the vintage. The bouquet is a bright and classy, red fruity constellation of cherries, quince, woodsmoke, chalky soil tones, a touch of pepper and a topnote of the gamebirds to come. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and nicely transparent, with a good core, tangy acids, fine focus and grip and a nice bit of backend tannin adding conviction on the well-balanced and

youthful finish. This will blossom very nicely with five or six years in the cellar and should be one of the absolute steals for a red wine in 2013. 2020-2040. **89.**

Vins Blancs

2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Lamy had only been bottled three weeks prior to my mid-December visit and was (understandably) still a tad agitated from its recent *mise*. The wine was raised entirely in six and seven year-old *demi-muids* in this vintage and offers up a pretty nose of apple, lime, chalky soil tones and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and shows a good core, with nice length and grip on the zesty finish. The focus was not precise at the time of my visit, but this is a reflection of the recent bottling, rather than the wine, and I am sure this will be quite tasty. 2015-2020+. **87-88.**

2013 St. Aubin “La Princée”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

Monsieur Lamy’s 2013 St. Aubin *villages* was bottled a couple of weeks earlier than the Bourgogne this year and was showing very well at the time of my visit. The bouquet is bright and classy, wafting from the glass in a mix of pear, apple, white flowers, a lovely base of chalky soil tones and incipient notes of *crème patissière*. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and juicy on the attack, with a good core, fine focus and very good length and grip on the zesty finish. A very pretty *villages*. 2015-2025+. **89.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Le Concis du Champs”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet AC bottling had been assembled in tank already and was scheduled for bottling early in the new year. This is one of the warmest of Olivier Lamy’s vineyard parcels and he started harvesting in 2013 with these grapes. The wine is quite lovely, with the elegance of the vintage working very well in the aromatic constellation of pear, apple, spring flowers, a deep base of soil tones, pastry cream and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite generous on the attack, with fine mid-palate concentration, bright acids and a long, focused and well-balanced finish. This is just a touch chunkier in personality than the St. Aubin *villages* bottling this year, but it compensates with just a bit more mid-palate stuffing. A very good example. 2015-2030+. **89+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Les Tremblots”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Puligny “les Tremblots” is another very pretty and stylish village wine, offering up a lovely and floral nose of apple, tangerine, chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and a bit more reserved stylistically than either of the other AC bottlings in this vintage, with a good core, a fine girdle of acidity and very good cut and grip on the long, pure and racy finish. This lovely bottle of Puligny AC will want at least a year of bottle age to fully blossom from behind its fine structural elements. 2016-2030+. **90.**

2013 Santenay “Clos des Gravières” Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The new bottling of Clos des Gravières Blanc from Olivier Lamy is a very exciting new addition and the inaugural vintage is of very high quality. The wine offers up a bright and very classy bouquet of delicious apples, pear, lemon blossoms, a complex base of chalky minerality and just a whisper of the *crème patissière* to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely balanced, with the high percentage of younger vines here taking just a bit of mid-palate depth away, but with lovely soil signature, fine focus and grip and a long, bright and vibrant finish. This is very, very good this year, but once the younger vines get a few more vintages under their belt, this will be one of the stars in the cellar. 2015-2025. **89+.**

2013 St. Aubin “Clos du Meix”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The Clos du Meix is always my favorite St. Aubin premier cru *chez* Lamy for early drinking and the 2013 will be another charmer right out of the blocks. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a succulent blend of apple, tangerine, stony minerality, spring flowers, just a touch of lemongrass and discreet vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and intensely flavored, with fine mid-palate depth, superb transparency and a long, bouncy and crisp finish. This will drink well right from the start, but I might be inclined to give it at least a year in the cellar to allow its secondary layers to start to emerge a bit from behind its fine girdle of acidity. 2016-2030+. **90.**



Olivier Lamy in his deep and cold cellars in St. Aubin.

2013 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The regular bottling of Derrière Chez Edouard Blanc is very fine in 2013, offering up a pure and classic aromatic blend of apple, pear, pastry cream, a lovely base of limestone and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, bright and bouncy, with a fine core, lovely focus and transparency and a long, zesty and very elegant finish. This too would really benefit from at least one year’s worth of bottle age to allow it to really start to blossom. Fine juice. 2016-2030+. **90+.**

2013 St. Aubin “les Frionnes”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

I really like the raciness and precision that the 2013 les Frionnes was showing at the time of my visit. The wine offers up an excellent and youthful nose of lemon, pear, complex, chalky soil tones, orange zest, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and still youthfully tight, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a very long finish that closes with excellent backend energy. 2017-2035. **91.**

2013 St. Aubin “Clos de la Chatenière”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Clos de la Chatenière was also showing very, very well at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a pure and classy nose of white peach, apple, chalky soil tones, pastry cream, spring flowers, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant out of the blocks, with a fine core, lovely focus and impressive grip on the beautifully balanced and vibrant finish. Given this excellent bottle of St. Aubin a couple of years in the cellar to really start hitting on all cylinders. 2017-2035+. **92.**

2013 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

Domaine Lamy’s 2013 en Remilly is another outstanding bottle in the making. The bouquet is pure, nascently complex and very classy, delivering a nicely reserved mélange of apple, pear, just a touch of grapefruit, complex, limestone minerality, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and tightly-knit, with a superb core, lovely focus and grip and a very long, vibrant and youthful finish. This will need some time to start to show its secondary layers of complexity, but it will be a dynamite example of the vintage once it has blossomed. 2018-2035+. **92+.**

2013 St. Aubin “Murgers Dents de Chien”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 Murgers Dents de Chien was still in cask at the time of my visit. This is a tight, racy and rock solid premier cru St. Aubin that is going to be outstanding with a bit of bottle age. The wine offers up a lovely nose of lemon, apple, pear, complex minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a rock solid core, great transparency, a fine sense of reserve and a very long, racy and energetic finish. Outstanding juice. 2018-2035+. **93.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Macherelles”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The les Macherelles premier cru from Monsieur Lamy in 2013 is a lovely wine, with the elegance of the vintage working very well with this *terroir*. The nose was just a touch reductive, in a Jean-François Coche sort of way, as it offers up scents of apple, tangerine, lovely minerality, a bit of smokiness, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite mineral in profile for this cru, with a good core, bright acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and classy finish. Good juice, but without quite the same breed as the top St. Aubin premier crus. 2018-2035+. **92.**

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Chaumées”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

Olivier Lamy’s parcel in les Chaumées lies right next to Domaine Michel Niellon’s Clos de la Truffière, and the wine has really turned out well in 2013. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a blend of lemon, pear, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, lemon blossoms, citrus zest, chalky and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very mineral in profile out of the blocks, with a lovely core, excellent focus and balance, racy acids and outstanding grip on the long, complex and very classy finish. A superb wine. 2019-2035+. **92+.**

2013 Puligny-Montrachet “Les Tremblots” Haut Densité - Domaine Lamy

Domaine Lamy’s Haut Densité version of Les Tremblots is extremely mineral in personality this year, and this wine may still be a bit buttoned up behind its excellent girdle of acidity and merit an even higher score when it has had a bit of bottle age. The very primary nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, lemon, complex, stony minerality, citrus zest, just a whisper of vanilla (despite having been raised entirely without new wood in this vintage) and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a fine core, excellent focus and grip and a very long, zesty and still quite primary finish that needs some bottle age to properly unwind. This will be very, very good. 2020-2040. **92+**.

2013 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Haut Densité - Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

The 2013 version of Derrière Chez Edouard Haut Densité is one of the best wines in the Lamy cellars in this vintage, which certainly comes as no surprise! The beautiful and still quite youthful nose offers up a fine aromatic constellation of lime, lemon, pear, kaleidoscopic minerality, spring flower, a touch of fresh almond and a very discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tight and very racy, with laser-like focus, great mineral drive and a very long, youthful and vibrant finish. A beautiful wine in the making, but give it some bottle age! 2020-2040+. **94**.

2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy

Olivier Lamy makes one of the most brilliant examples of Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet and his 2013 is stupendous. The absolutely magical young nose soars from the glass in a blend of lemon, apple, pear, chalky minerality, spring flowers, a hint of the smokiness to come, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is [pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great transparency, snappy acids and superb length and grip on the beautifully focused and electric finish. A great, great wine in the making! 2021-2050. **96+**.