

# VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

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## CHÂTEAU DE PIBARNON BANDOL'S MOST ELEGANT WINE



Château de Pibarnon is one of the crown jewel estates in the Bandol appellation. Today, it is one of the largest of the top quality domaines in Bandol, with fully fifty hectares under vine, with the vineyards sitting in a magnificent amphitheater looking out at the Mediterranean Sea from a south-facing ridge top that sits at three hundred meters above sea level. This makes Pibarnon's vineyards the highest elevation parcels in Bandol. The region of Bandol is one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world that continues to produce wine, with historical evidence of serious vine cultivation dating back here to 700 BC and the region reaching one of its apexes of popularity during Roman times, with the fame of the wine stretching throughout the empire a century before the birth of Christ. There is ample archeological evidence that large quantities of Bandol wine were exported from the region during its Roman period to a number of cosmopolitan imperial centers. Interestingly, given this long history of wine production, Bandol only received its own appellation in 1941. Like much of France, phylloxera found its way to the vineyards of Bandol in the early 1870s and nearly wiped out production within a decade, with vineyards only beginning to be widely replanted in the early years of the twentieth century. The king grape in Bandol is Mourvèdre, both in its historical past and today, but this notoriously finicky grape variety was not widely replanted in the wake of phylloxera, with *vignerons* preferring easier to grow, earlier-ripening and higher-yielding varieties, so as Remington Norman observes, "between 1880 and 1914 Mourvèdre was virtually forgotten here." Happily, a respect for the past and an appreciation that Bandol's rosiest future could also be found with a

return to Mourvèdre resonated with producers here as the twentieth century unfolded, so that the grape became the foundation of the wines again in the second quarter of the twentieth century and by the time the AOC of Bandol was officially established in 1941, the appellation's regulations stipulated that the wines labeled as Bandol must be comprised of at least fifty percent Mourvèdre, with the other permissible red grapes being Grenache and Cinsault.

Château de Pibarnon was purchased and lovingly established by Henri de Saint-Victor in 1977, as he and his wife Catherine traded in their successful Paris-based lives to settle at Pibarnon. The property was not ancient by Bandol standards, having only been sparingly planted in the mid-1950s by an Italian immigrant from Piemonte by the name of Modesto Ramognino, who was able to clear and plant three and a half hectares of Mourvèdre vineyards on this isolated ridge, which at that time had no electricity or running water. Signor Ramognino dreamed of making a Barolo-styled wine out of Mourvèdre from his recently cleared and planted parcels in this era and he made some of the appellation's finest wines during his career at Pibarnon. His very good wines at Pibarnon caught the attention Henri de Saint-Victor by happenstance when he started looking for an opportunity in the wine world, as it was a bottle of the 1975 Pibarnon *rouge* that he and Catherine shared at lunch in a small local restaurant that set them winding their way up into the hills to visit the property immediately after lunch! Monsieur de Saint-Victor was a wine connoisseur already during his days in Paris, but it was classed growth Bordeaux, Burgundy and the occasional northern Rhône wine with which he was most familiar, and that bottle of '75 Pibarnon may well have been the very first example of Bandol he ever tasted! Signor Ramognino had only sold the property a short time before, and the subsequent proprietor was finding life at the isolated winery a bit more rigorous than he had hoped.

Back in late 1977, there was still no running water at the property, with a pair of wells servicing the tiny estate, and only the original three and a half hectares of vineyards were planted, though the property possessed plenty of excellent sites for potential vineyard expansion. As Henri and Catherine's son, Eric tells the story, the couple took a half dozen older vintages with them back to Paris to taste with wine-loving friends, and when the wines showed consistently well, they told the proprietor that they were interested in buying the property. Henri de Saint-Victor had been a researcher in the pharmaceutical business back in Paris, but once he and Catherine purchased the estate, he plunged into the establishment of the property, bringing in running water, bulldozing the land himself to plant another six hectares of terraced vineyards around the original three and a half of Mourvèdre, tending his vines and learning winemaking on the fly and producing his first vintage in 1978. As Eric de Saint-Victor recalls, Henri had approached a local winemaking consultant to take on Pibarnon, but the consultant was too busy at that time with his full roster of clients to add another domaine. But, based on his conversation with Monsieur de Saint-Victor, he knew he was already a wine lover and gave him some very good advice "don't worry, you already know how to taste and you will know what to do!" The old house that had been on the property was too large for the family, the cellars too small, and once the new vines were in the ground, the buildings on the estate also had to be razed and proper cellars and a new house built. It is quite easy to imagine that the dust never settled during the first five or six years of Henri and Catherine's tenure at Château de Pibarnon!

Clearly Monsieur de Saint-Victor had a golden touch in the cellars, not to mention some outstanding *terroir* to work with, as his very first vintage of 1978 won the gold medal at the 1980

Paris Agricultural Show for both his red and rosé bottlings of Pibarnon, with the Bandol Blanc taking home a silver. With the couple still doing virtually everything at the estate themselves (they would not hire their first vineyard worker until after winning the medals in Paris and their first cellar assistant would not arrive until 1984), the estate was able to start to garner a roster of local restaurants and private clients who appreciated the quality of this new producer in Bandol. Hard work and a continuum of very well-made wines throughout the 1980s allowed the family to continue to slowly expand their vineyard base, clearing more of the original property to put in vines and also purchasing a few adjacent vineyards that had been share-cropped prior to their arrival in the late 1970s. By the early 1990s, the area under vine had grown to twenty hectares. However, one of the interesting stipulations in the AOC for Bandol is that vineyards must be at least eight years of age before their production can be sold as Bandol, so the decade of the 1980s and early 1990s at Pibarnon saw a constant shortage of wine for a growing list of customers, as the domaine waited for more of their newly-planted vineyards to reach sufficient age to be part of the Bandol production at Pibarnon. In 1989, Henri de Saint-Victor was joined at the estate by his son Eric, who had trained in Bordeaux and today continues on the family legacy of producing long-lived, elegant and authentic examples of Bandol at Pibarnon. The official passing of the baton as head of Château de Pibarnon occurred in the year 2000, as Henri reached the age of retirement and Eric took over as head of the estate.

Eric de Saint-Victor had arrived at Pibarnon with his parents as a thirteen year-old in 1977 and grew up on the estate. As he recalls, “it was good fun for a thirteen year-old boy here, as in Paris, you could not really do a whole lot at that age, but at Pibarnon one could do everything- learn to drive a tractor, learn to drive a car, start to make a little money helping in the vineyards and cellar- and it really was a fantastic experience for me.” As he recalls, even when he was away at boarding school in his later teenage years, his parents would wait for him to come home on holidays to help at the winery, so that bottling would be scheduled when he was going to be back at the estate to help out: “we would bottle by hand in those days- six thousand bottles a day- with a hand corking machine- that was hard work.” This was still the formative years for Pibarnon, and though it was getting nicely established in the local restaurants and with some private clients, it was still a small winery and the expansion that was to come in the latter half of the 1990s was still on the horizon and not yet a reality. Eric studied biology for a couple of years at the university and then was able to do a winemaking *stage* at Cheval Blanc in St. Émilion for a year in 1988, before returning to Pibarnon in 1989. As he recalls, “I just had a sense that it was a good time to return, as my parents seemed to have lost a bit of energy and enthusiasm for the estate, as they had been working very hard at it for twelve years by now- no real holidays, plenty of work on weekends- and so I joined full-time working with my father in 1989.” Eric brought new energy to the domaine, and as the vineyards planted in the earlier half of that decade began to come on line, the estate began to enter into its current phase.

With the twenty hectares of vines nicely established by 1992, and growing acclaim for the consistent excellence of the Pibarnon wines allowing each vintage to sell through the pipeline fairly briskly, one might imagine that Henri, Catherine and Eric de Saint-Victor were ready to settle in and enjoy the ride at Pibarnon, but the possibility to add an adjacent hillside property brought back the bulldozers and the dust was once again in the air, as the family began carving another amphitheater of vines out of the surrounding Provençal landscape. No doubt, part of the attraction of this new vineyard addition was the chance to work with slightly different *terroir*



once the new vineyards came up to speed, as Pibarnon's original twenty hectares of vines are planted on classic Bandol argilo-calcaire soils, interspersed with scree from the surrounding hillsides and plenty of stones, but at these higher elevations, there is also a much larger percentage of active limestone in these soils than in the more heavily clay-dominated soils found in most of the appellation. However, as the bulldozers carved out what would become the new amphitheater of vines at Pibarnon, they found a vein of blue clay in the soils that would produce a substantially different palette of *terroir* for future vintages of Pibarnon. Today, with the new plantation of the first half of the 1990s now fully established, Château de Pibarnon is comprised of fully fifty hectares of vines, with the vast, vast majority of these vineyards planted to Mourvèdre. It is one of the interesting facets of Bandol that only fifty percent of the blend is required to be of Mourvèdre for the red wine AOC, but many of the top estates produce their top bottlings almost entirely from Mourvèdre, with the Grenache and Cinsault tending to play more prominent roles in either the standard *rouge* cuvée or in the Rosé. At Château de Pibarnon, perhaps owing to the original three and a half hectare of Signor Ramognino having been planted to exclusively Mourvèdre, the domaine's vineyards are still more than ninety percent committed to this grape variety. There are only two and a half hectares planted of Grenache, six hectares planted with white grapes for the Bandol Blanc bottlings, a bit of Cinsault that is used exclusively for the Rosé and the remainder of the vineyards are planted with Mourvèdre at Pibarnon.

The traditional rule of thumb for the role played by the various grape varieties in the red wines of Bandol has been that the always sturdy and slow to unfold Mourvèdre is given a bit more early fleshy appeal by the inclusion of Grenache, while Cinsault provides a spine of acidity in the finished wine to help offset the very warm summer climate of the region. However, as the *terroirs* of Château de Pibarnon are substantially different from the majority of the appellation, with much more active limestone in their higher elevation vineyards and plenty of fossilized crustaceans in the soils, the wine here has always been inherently more elegant out of the blocks than many examples of Bandol, and given the influence of the unique *terroirs* of Pibarnon on the finished wine, Mourvèdre principally on its own can produce a wine that is at once more generous in the mid-palate and more refined structurally than is customary for this varietal elsewhere in the appellation. The higher elevation, coupled with the influence of the nearby Mediterranean, also give a good spread of diurnal variation to allow the wines of Pibarnon to retain lovely brightness and structural bounce during the hot Provencal summers which are needed to ripen the slow-paced Mourvèdre. Additionally, one must also note that almost all of the annual precipitation in Bandol occurs in the late autumn and winter seasons, with rainfall during the spring and summer virtually non-existent, so the humidity fostered by the nearby ocean is of paramount importance in allowing the Mourvèdre variety in particular to excel in Bandol, as it is a notoriously unhappy grape if hydric-stressed during the growing season. The terraced vineyards at Pibarnon (known in Bandol as *les Restanques*, from which the estate's second wine takes its name), with their generally southeasterly exposition, also serve well in retaining the water deposits of the winter rains to be doled out during the dry summer months to the vines.



*Eric de Saint-Victor, with his parents, Henri and Catherine, in the cellars at Château de Pibarnon.*

In 2004, Eric de Saint-Victor began the conversion over to one hundred percent organic farming at Château de Pibarnon. Yields at the estate are never allowed to reach the maximum of forty hectoliters per hectare that is allowed for the AOC of Bandol, with a green harvest carried out if necessary so that targeted crop loads of between thirty-one and thirty-eight hectoliters per hectare can be realized each year. In the early years of the estate, Henri de Saint-Victor would always include some stems in his fermentations, but 1998 was the last year where Eric followed his father's winemaking formula. He recalls, "when we bottled the 1998 vintage, I thought, wow, that is going to take a long time to come around- by the way, the vintage is drinking great today- and I thought maybe a bit less extraction and trying to make a bit more elegant and accessible wine would not be a bad idea." Up until the 2008 vintage, complete destemming was the new rule for the wines at Château de Pibarnon, but with the arrival of Associate Winemaker Marie de la Rose here (after *stages* at some of Burgundies finest estates, including Domaine Méo-Camuzet), there has been a trend to include a percentage of whole clusters for the *grand vin* red wine at Pibarnon, with the variation of retained stems dependent upon the style of the vintage. Vinification is done in stainless steel tanks, followed by a fairly long post-fermentation maceration period of three weeks, with pump overs, rather than punch downs, prior to the wines being racked into a combination of older *foudres* and smaller casks for the *elevage*. The *grand vin* is aged for an average of twenty months prior to bottling, whereas the second wine, les Restanques de Pibarnon, is aged for eighteen months, with a larger percentage of *foudres* utilized for this bottling. For the *grand vin*, no more than ten percent Grenache is included with the Mourvèdre, but for the second wine, thirty percent of the *cépages* is Grenache. The Cinsault planted on the estate is never used for the red wine bottlings at Pibarnon, as it is all retained for

the Bandol Rosé. The first vintage of the les Restanques de Pibarnon was produced in the 2003 vintage and now comprises twenty percent of the production of the red wines here, with the younger vines used for this bottling.

Since the very first vintage produced here by Henri de Saint-Victor in 1978, the estate has also produced both a Bandol Blanc and a Bandol Rosé bottling in addition to their reds. The white wine at Château de Pibarnon is made from a blend of forty-five percent Clairette, thirty percent Bourboulenc and twenty-five percent Roussanne (with a smidgeon of Viognier perhaps finding its way into the blend, despite it not being officially allowed in the whites of the AOC). The white grapes are planted in selected sites that actually face northerly in exposition, which allows the grapes to retain better acidity for the white wines. The whites are fermented at low temperatures in stainless steel tanks, with a small percentage of the blend aged in older *foudres* prior to *assemblage* and bottling. The primary bottling of Bandol Rosé is made from a blend of sixty percent Mourvèdre and forty percent Cinsault, with the Mourvèdre made by the *saignée* method (with a bit of skin contact to give the finished wine its pale salmon color), whereas the Cinsault is fermented as free-run juice. The wine is aged in stainless steel tank for six months before bottling. In the 2014 vintage, Château de Pibarnon produced a second cuvée of Bandol Rosé called “Nuances”, which is made entirely from Mourvèdre and which was raised in a combination of baked clay eggs and old *foudres* for six months before its *mise*. Typically, the domaine will make a selection of their Mourvèdre from parcels with a higher degree of clay in the soil for the Rosé bottlings, retaining the sections with the highest percentage of limestone for the *vins rouges*.

In October of 2015, Château de Pibarnon, in conjunction with their New York distributor, Michael Skurnik Wines, organized a superb vertical tasting of their wines which included a handful of vintages of their Bandol Blanc and Bandol Rosé bottlings and a deep range of red wines that spanned more than thirty years. I was very happy to have an opportunity to taste a few of their older white wine bottlings, as I had never tasted any examples of this cuvée with bottle age on it, as well as a nice sampling of their lovely Bandol Rosé, which is a very fine example. Based on the very strong turnout for this tasting, it is quite clear that the superb quality of the wines from this estate is hardly a secret in New York these days, and it seems pretty clear that amongst the cognoscenti Château de Pibarnon is now widely recognized as the finest estate in Bandol alongside that of the justly-famous Domaine Tempier. As the notes below will attest, the whites and rosés from the domaine were all exemplary and a pleasure to taste, but the main event of this very deep tasting was the Pibarnon red wines, which are truly world class. As touched upon above, the higher altitude vineyards at the estate exhibit a different type of soil than most vineyards in Bandol, with more fossil-infused active limestone than in the slightly heavier soils of Bandol found a bit lower down the hillsides, and this translates into wines that are extremely elegant by Bandol standards and allows the domaine to use a very high percentage of Mourvèdre in their red wine, as it is always ninety percent of the blend. Due to Pibarnon’s rather unique *terroir*, the red wines here are accessible a bit earlier in my experience than those from other top estates such as Domaine Tempier, as this Tertiary limestone induces a bit more suave tannic chassis in the young wines, and this is particularly noteworthy when one considers that the red wines here are nearly all Mourvèdre, and this grape is often defined by its firm structure and very slow pace of evolution in bottle.

The result is one of Bandol's greatest red wine bottlings, which to my palate is clearly on the same quality level as the more famous (and more expensive) Domaine Tempier. While I have more Tempier in my cellar than any other producer in Bandol, the consistent excellence of the Pibarnon reds in our vertical tasting made me wish that I had salted away more of this domaine's wines in the past, as a cellar with cases of Château de Pibarnon from vintages like 2010, 2008, 2001, 2000 and 1993 would look far more properly-stocked than my meager stash of bottles of Pibarnon allows. Happily, the domaine makes older vintages available to their distributors in major markets around the globe, so at the time of the tasting, one could still order reds from the estate from the 2012, 2011, 2010 (a must buy for a seriously well-stocked cellar!), 2004, 2001 (another great, great wine) and the superb 2000 vintage, which is a very impressive range of vintages still available in the market. Other than Kalin Cellars or Emidio Pepe, who else can offer such a wide array of matured world class wines, with several of these vintages now starting to reach their periods of peak drinkability? Responsible sommeliers here in New York should make sure that they have some of the 2004, 2001 or 2000 on their lists, as one is not going to find many better values out there for mature wines of this stature at very fair prices. And, as the notes below will demonstrate, Château de Pibarnon has to be one of the most consistent producers in the world from vintage to vintage, as our vertical showed so many excellent wines that were in a very close range of very high quality, and yet each was also defined by its own vintage's personality. Not surprisingly, several of the classic vintages that were a bit less ripe were my personal favorites, but this is not an estate that allows the wines to go over the top stylistically even in the hottest of Provençal summers. Eric de Saint-Victor has been firmly ensconced here since the 1989 vintage and it was very clear from our vertical tasting that he is currently at the absolute top of his game, making Château de Pibarnon one of the world's finest estates and one of the best bargains in the world of high class wine today.



### ***Bandol Blanc***

#### **2014 Bandol Blanc- Château de Pibarnon**

Bandol Blanc is not a wine I cross paths with too often, but based on how lovely the 2014 Château de Pibarnon Blanc was showing in October, this is a wine I really should have a few bottles in my cellar. This is a cooler vintage in Bandol, which has played to the advantage of this lovely white wine bottling in 2014. The wine wafts from the glass in a complex blend of pear, lemon oil, a youthful touch of grapefruit, chalky soil tones and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely “cool” in profile, with a good core, bright acids and fine length and grip. Good juice. 2015-2025+. **91+**.

#### **2010 Bandol Blanc- Château de Pibarnon**

Overall, the 2010 vintage was a warmer year in Bandol than 2014, and despite the weather cooling a bit from mid-August on to harvest time in this year, the 2010 Pibarnon Blanc shows a bit more overt ripeness than the cool and classy 2014 version and even a bit of heat on the backend of the palate. The nose has blossomed nicely to offer up scents of pear, orange zest, chalky soil tones, honeysuckle and beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more buxom in personality than the racy 2014, with a good core, still sound acids, but a bit of alcohol poking out on the fairly long finish. This is okay, but not in the league with the white here from cooler years. 2015-2020. **88**.

#### **2004 Bandol Blanc- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2004 Pibarnon Blanc is drinking beautifully at age eleven and shows just how well this bottling can evolve with cellaring. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a mature blend of ripe pear, a touch of marzipan, chalky soil tones, sweet quince and a delicate topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still in its plateau of maturity, with a good core, sound structure and very good length and grip on the fairly complex finish. There is still plenty of life in the 2004 Pibarnon Blanc, but the wine is at its apogee and is unlikely to improve from here. A lovely bottle. 2015-2020. **90**.

### ***Bandol Rosé***

#### **2014 Bandol Rosé- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2014 Pibarnon Rosé is a very pretty wine that is stylishly light on its feet and yet packs lovely intensity of flavor. The bouquet hops from the glass in a mix of ripe peach, tangerine, chalky soil tones, a dollop of orange peel and a spicy topnote redolent of coriander seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and tightly-knit, with a good core and fine length and grip on the vibrant and still fairly primary finish. This will blossom beautifully with another year’s worth of bottle age and should keep very well. 2015-2020+. **92**.

#### **2014 Bandol Rosé “Nuances”- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2014 is the first vintage of the special, one hundred percent Mourvèdre Rosé bottling of Nuances, which was raised in cement eggs and *foudres*, rather than stainless steel tanks, as is the case with the regular bottling of Rosé. The wine seems a bit riper on the nose than the regular cuvée, offering up scents of strawberries, tangerine, white pepper, chalky soil, Provençal spices and dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused, with a fine core, crisp acids and very good length and grip on the finish. This does not seem as complex as the regular bottling, which is a blend of Mourvèdre and Cinsault, but perhaps it is just more primary out of the blocks and will blossom with a bit more bottle age. 2015-2023. **90+**.

### **2010 Bandol Rosé- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2010 vintage in Bandol was a splendid year, but a hot summer that only saw the temperatures start to moderate towards the middle of August. My guess is that vintage conditions such as this are better for the reds than the rosés, as the 2010 Pibarnon Rosé shows a bit more overt ripeness on the nose than its 2014 counterpart and is consequently a bit less complex. The bouquet remains quite fresh, offering up scents of white peach, citrus peel, a bit of white pepper, chalk and a touch of paraffin. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and still very nicely balanced, with good acids, length and grip, but not a whole lot of developmental complexity in evidence. This is a very good bottle of Bandol Rosé, but I prefer the verve of the cooler 2014 vintage. 2015-2018. **89.**

### ***Les Restanques de Pibarnon Bandol Rouge***

#### **2011 Bandol Rouge “les Restanques de Pibarnon”- Château de Pibarnon**

2011 is a classic vintage in Bandol, and the les Restanques de Pibarnon is a very tasty and robust example of the appellation, as its higher percentage of Grenache in the *cépages* (in comparison to the *grand vin*) gives it a more buxom personality. The bouquet offers up a ripe blend of dark berries, *garrigue*, cigar ash, a fine base of soil and notes of ground pepper. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still a bit youthfully coarse in personality, with a good core, moderately chewy tannins and just a whisper of *sur maturité* noticeable on the long finish. The thirty percent Grenache here takes away a bit of the inherent elegance of Pibarnon’s wines, but I suppose it is better off in the second wine than in the first! Not bad, and perhaps in cooler . 2015-2025+. **87+.**

#### **2010 Bandol Rouge “les Restanques de Pibarnon”- Château de Pibarnon**

In the top flight vintage of 2010, the Les Restanques de Pibarnon” is quite successful and at age five is starting to show some secondary nuances on both the nose and palate. Like the 2011, the influence of the higher percentage of grenache in the blend is certainly in evidence, but this wine offers up a lot of personality and still has potential for some longer-term aging, despite it being quite accessible today. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a fine Provençal blend of red and black cherries, *garrigue*, a bit of roasted game, pepper, soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, spicy and robust in personality, with a very good core of fruit, still a bit of tannin and impressive length and grip on the well-balanced and complex finish. There is not the same degree of refinement here as is found in the *grand vin*, which is principally due to the higher percentage of Grenache in the *cépages*, but the flip side is that the 2010 *grand vin* is still quite young, whereas the Les Restanques is starting to drink quite well already. A fine second wine. 2015-2030+. **89.**

### ***Pibarnon Bandol Rouge***

#### **2012 Bandol Rouge “Cuvée Henri-Catherine”- Château de Pibarnon (magnum)**

The Cuvée Henri-Catherine is a special bottling that was only produced as a series of one thousand magnums to commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the purchase of Château de Pibarnon by Henri and Catherine de Saint-Victor back in 1977. The 2012 vintage is a cooler and quite classic vintage in Bandol and the precision of the aromatics here is very much in evidence in comparison to the riper 2011s, as it wafts from the glass in a very refined constellation of cassis, black raspberries, tree bark, cigar ash, a lovely base of chalky soil tones and a bit of peppercorn in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, a vibrant personality and a long, ripely tannic and peppery finish. This



is a lovely wine in the making, but it will need some bottle age to fully blossom. 2023-2050. **92+**.

#### **2011 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

According to Eric de Saint-Victor, the 2011 vintage in Bandol is quite similar in style to his first vintage at Pibarnon all the way back in 1989. However, to note how climate change has affected the region over the last couple of decades, I did observe that the 2011 Pibarnon comes in at fourteen percent alcohol, whereas the 1989 was only 12.5 percent! In any case, this is a very good wine in the making, offering up a deep, ripe and youthful bouquet of cassis, dark soil tones, a bit of animal, cigar smoke, tree bark and a hint of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely balanced, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and impressive length and grip on the focused and still quite primary finish. It will be interesting to follow the evolution of the 2011 Pibarnon and see if it will start to show some of the same breed of the 2012 Cuvée Henri-Catherine as it blossoms with bottle age. 2021-2050. **91+**.

#### **2010 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

The summer of 2010 was cooler than that of 2011, and as a result, the wines are the product of a long, classic growing season and this seems likely to be one of the greatest recent vintages at Château de Pibarnon. The bouquet is just starting to stir a bit at age five, offering up a superb blend of cassis, grilled meats, French roast, a fine base of soil, Mediterranean herb tones and a touch of graphite. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and seamlessly balanced, with a fine core, ripe, suave tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long and still quite youthful finish. The inherent polish given to the tannins from Pibarnon's unique *terroir* really shows to fine effect in this superb 2010! 2022-2055. **93+**.

#### **2008 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2008 vintage is the first here to utilize a significant percentage of whole clusters and the wine is already showing a lovely aromatic sophistication as a result. This vintage produced one of the lowest yields in recent times at the estate, as only twenty-seven hectoliters per hectare were cropped. The winter was particularly wet, which proved to be a good thing in 2008, as the fine water reserves were certainly beneficial in the very hot summer of '08. However, the heat broke early in Provence, with cooler temperatures arriving in mid-August and carrying through to the harvest, so that the grapes ended up ripening in a very relaxed fashion over an extended *fin de saison* and producing wines of impeccable balance and purity. The 2008 Pibarnon is a classic in the making and may well vie with the 2010 as the best recent vintage here, as it delivers a classy bouquet of cassis, Provençal herbs, dark soil tones, a touch of dried eucalyptus, smoke, a note of chicory and a gentle framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very soil-driven in personality, with fine focus and balance and still a bit of backend tannin in need of resolution before this wine starts to drink with overt generosity. All of the constituent components are in place with the '08 Pibarnon for an outstanding bottle of Bandol in the years to come. 2020-2050. **93**.

#### **2007 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon (magnum)**

2007 was a warmer summer than 2008- particularly the latter half of the growing season- and the '07 is a very promising vintage of Pibarnon. The wine offers up a very Hermitage-like blend of dark berries, a touch of black raspberry, meaty tones, *garrigue*, a fine base of soil and just a hint of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with ripe, gently chewy tannins, fine focus and grip and a long, well-balanced and nearly ready finish. Pibarnon typically takes ten to twelve years to really come into its own and

at age eight, the 2007 vintage here is really starting to take shape nicely. This is a full fourteen percent alcohol, but quite pure and classy in profile. 2017-2035+. **92.**

**2004 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon (magnum)**

The 2004 Château de Pibarnon was the first vintage in our vertical that had reached its plateau of maturity and is really drinking very well indeed today. Despite some rainy weather in the first half of September, this is a quite classic vintage as the latter half of the month was excellent weather-wise and the later harvest was conducted under ideal conditions. The bouquet on the '04 wafts from the glass in a blend of baked black berries, French roast, cigar ash, dark soil tones, *garrigue* and a discreet framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and blossoming beautifully, with a fine core, really lovely focus and grip, melting tannins and truly exceptional backend energy on the poised and classy finish. The signature refinement of Pibarnon is front and center in this lovely vintage. 2015-2035+. **92.**

**2002 Bandol Rouge “Cuvée Jubilée”- Château de Pibarnon (magnum)**

The Cuvée Jubilée was a special selection from the '02 vintage that was produced exclusively in magnums. The wine was showing nicely mature at our vertical tasting, but a bit more *sauvage* in style than most vintages of Pibarnon in the lineup. The bouquet is a mix of cassis, tree bark, animal tones, espresso, lovely botanical overtones and a bit of cigar ash. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, but without the same mid-palate intensity found in the 2004 regular bottling, and good, but not great length on the still gently tannic finish. This is a good solid bottle of Bandol at its peak of maturity, but there are stronger vintages of Pibarnon to be found on either side of the '02. 2015-2025+. **89.**

**2001 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

The superb and very classic 2001 vintage of Château de Pibarnon showed extremely well at our tastings and of relatively recent vintages, this is one that I would be searching out for current drinking. The pure and complex nose wafts from the glass in a lovely mélange of Provençal herbs, licorice, baked black berries, a touch of forest floor and a refined, smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and utterly classic in profile and balance, with still a whisper of backend tannin, excellent focus and grip and a very long, very suave finish. Gorgeous, *à point* Bandol! 2015-2035+. **93.**

**2000 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

The 2000 vintage was another very strong year in Provence, with a warm and very long summer allowing for impeccable ripening of the grapes prior to harvest under ideal conditions. At age fifteen, the 2000 Pibarnon is still a bit on the young side, as it shows a bit more backend tannin than the 2001 vintage does today. The bouquet is deeper-pitched in profile than its younger sibling, delivering a complex mix of cassis, tarry tones, tree bark, licorice, a touch of roasted venison and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and showing excellent mid-palate depth, with fine focus and grip, a meaty personality and still a bit of tannin looking to more fully fade away. I would give this top flight vintage of Pibarnon a few more years in the cellar to reach its absolute apogee. It should continue to drink very well for at least a couple more decades. 2018-2040+. **93.**

**1998 Bandol Rouge (100% Grenache)- Château de Pibarnon**

The four bottles that the domaine sent for this tasting of the regular 1998 cuvée were not on form in October, so I did not take a note on that wine, but this experimental bottling of one hundred percent Grenache that they also brought along was showing quite well. Obviously, this has been kept at the estate, as the Bandol AOC requires at least fifty percent Mourvèdre in the blend, but this was a very interesting experiment to taste. The bouquet is an intriguing blend of

Bandol and Châteauneuf du Pape elements, as it delivers scents of fruitcake, dark berries, *garrigue*, licorice, soil and leather. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and gently tannic, with a good core, fine focus and grip, but not the same complexity as one finds from the primarily Mourvèdre-based classic bottlings from Pibarnon. It is really a very unique synthesis of Bandol's *terroir* and classic Grenache flavors and aromatics, but it is not in the same league as the regular bottling of Pibarnon and its ninety percent Mourvèdre! 2015-2030+. **89.**

#### **1993 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

I am a big fan of the 1993 vintage for Bandol, as I find it to be a very strong and very classic year in this corner of Provence. The '93 Pibarnon is a stellar bottle of Bandol at its apogee of peak drinkability, soaring from the glass in a blaze of baked black fruit, licorice, Provençal herb tones, cigar ash, autumnal notes of fallen oak leaves, botanicals and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and at its zenith, with outstanding focus and balance, a lovely core, great soil signature and a very long, very complex and vibrant finish. A gorgeous vintage of Pibarnon. 2015-2030. **93.**



*Château de Pibarnon's relatively high altitude vineyards, looking out at the Mediterranean Ocean.*

#### **1990 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

The 1990 vintage of Château de Pibarnon is another great year at this iconic estate, offering up the depth, purity and complex personality of this wine at its best. Interestingly, both this and the excellent 1989 were only 12.5 percent alcohol (or at least this was how they are listed on their labels), which is quite a bit lower than the riper vintages we see in the last decade and one wonders if a vintage like 2007 or 2011 will really age as gracefully as the '90 and '89 have done. The 1990 has transitioned very nicely to full maturity and is now showing a bit of red

fruit in its aromatic profile of baked cherries, tree bark, bonfire, a touch of anise, gamebird, dark soil tones, gentle notes of Provençal herbs and cigar ash. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and *à point*, with lovely complexity and focus, still a vibrant core and lovely length and grip on the meltingly tannic and classy finish. A lovely vintage of Pibarnon that is now at its apogee. 2015-2030. **92.**

**1989 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon**

Both 1990 and 1989 were outstanding, ripe vintages in Bandol, and I am sure that Eric de Saint-Victor could not have asked for a better vintage to start off his full-time career at Pibarnon with than the 1989. The 1989 Pibarnon is now fully mature and offers up a deep and complex nose of baked dark berries, hung game, licorice, charred wood, dark soil tones, tree bark and lovely botanicals in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality (particularly for a riper year), with an excellent core, melted tannins, lovely complexity and a very long, classic and very refined finish. As the 12.5 percent octane level suggests, this is not a blockbuster vintage of Pibarnon, but one that is utterly complete and a great pleasure to drink today. 2015-2030. **92.**

**1982 Bandol Rouge- Château de Pibarnon (magnum)**

The magnums of the 1982 Château de Pibarnon were only shipped into New York a couple of weeks prior to the October tasting and I suspect that this vintage would show more energetically if the bottles had not recently had their passports stamped. The fully mature, tertiary nose wafts from the glass and delivers a blend of desiccated black fruit, coffee, *garrigue*, bonfires and dried herb tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, fairly delicate and seems to be seeing some of its fruit beginning to dry out, with a nice signature of soil, but an overall impression of a very delicate wine on the cusp. I have to imagine that trying a bottle of this at the domaine directly or from a magnum tucked away in the cellar for a year after travel would produce a far more vigorous impression, as based on the slightly younger wines at our vertical, I do not see any reason to not assume that the 1982 should still be in its plateau of maturity, rather than starting to slide down the far side. **87-92+?**

## THE 2014 BURGUNDY VINTAGE: A VERY, VERY FINE YEAR



*The vineyard of Les Vergelesses in Pernand-Vergelesses.*

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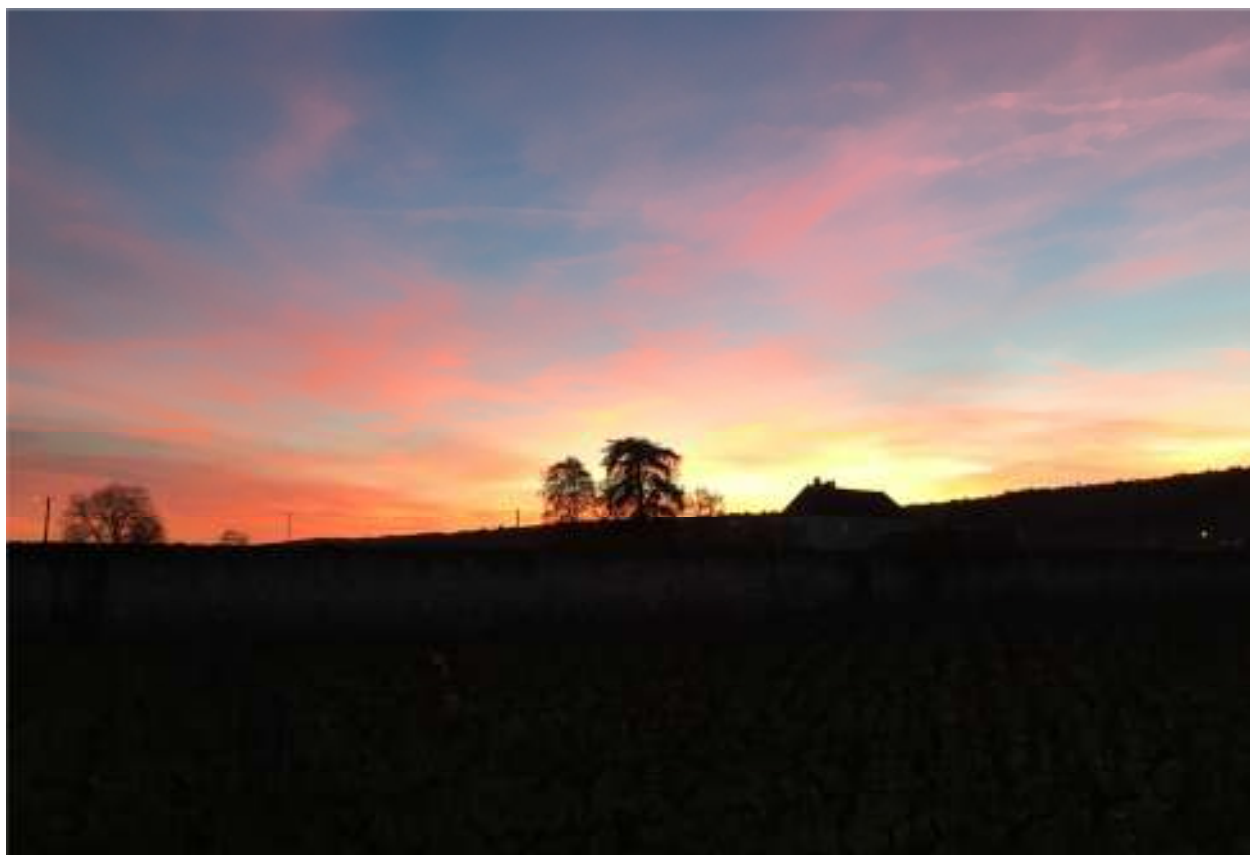
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## THE 2014 BURGUNDY VINTAGE: A VERY, VERY FINE YEAR



*A beautiful November sunset over the Clos de la Bussière. (courtesy Jeremy Seysses)*

The 2014 vintage is superb for white wines in the Côte d'Or, simply brilliant in Chablis and very strong for many red wine domaines as well, though perhaps just a tad less consistently impressive on this side of the ledger. The biggest problem this vintage may face is that it is already sliding under the shadow of the very ripe (and very hyped) 2015s, which seem to have caught the imagination of the Burgundy market even before they have finished their primary fermentations! While I have only tasted a small handful of 2015s, as I see no point in tasting a wide range of completely juvenile wines and trying to pretend they show some semblance of their future shape or quality, I heard enough stories as I went from cellar to cellar tasting splendid 2014s about the occasionally freakishly high levels of natural alcohol in some of the 2015s (well north of fourteen percent alcohol and some borderline fifteen percent!) that I am perfectly content to wait and see how the wines of 2015 will eventually show once they have had a chance to get through both their alcoholic and malolactic fermentations and spend a year in cask and start to take on some personality before hanging the moniker of “vintage of the century” around the wines. That 2015 may produce some superb red wines seems quite likely at this early stage, based on conversations with *vignerons*, but it seems pretty universally acknowledged already amongst the Burgundians themselves that 2014 is the far superior vintage for white wines. And there seems very likely to be a lot of powerfully ripe, fairly high alcohol 2015 red wines as well, with early comparisons from the *vignerons* to a possible cross of 2009 and 2003-

not particularly the combination that gets this *terroirist* particularly excited out of the blocks! But, make no mistake, the more mercenary elements of the wine trade are already planning on hyping the 2015s mercilessly, as they did the rather buxom 2009s, and it seems highly probable that no matter what the actual quality of the 2015 vintage, it will be priced in the stratosphere by the trade, who will be looking for another vintage of windfall profits like they had with the 2005s. But, from the quiet observations by the *vignerons* themselves, the odds of the 2015 vintage ending up defined more by its idiosyncratic style, rather than its sublime quality, seem reasonably high at this very early stage of the proceedings. Another year will tell.

In the meantime, there is an absolutely splendid crop of 2014s happily humming along towards bottling in the Burgundians' cellars and there are going to be some absolutely stellar and classically-proportioned wines to emerge from this vintage. So taking a cautionary approach to all the hype surrounding the still infantile 2015s seems a proper plan for the present time and focusing on the really outstanding 2014s is a most prudent course for those shopping for more Burgundy for the cellar. The 2014 vintage may, in the aggregate, be just a tad stronger for white wines than it is for red wines, but this is not to say that there are not a very large coterie of absolutely magical 2014 reds also waiting in the wings- there is simply not quite the same consistency of excellence in the top red wine communes as is found in the very best white wine communes this year. And, it should be mentioned right at the start that the Chablis region has probably witnessed the most classically excellent vintage of any of the various sectors of Burgundy in 2014, as these wines have simply gorgeous, pure fruit, laser-like precision in their expressions of *terroir* and a beautiful chassis of acidity to carry them very well into the future. These qualities can also be found in many white wines in the Côte d'Or in the most favored villages who were able to escape a late June brush with hail, so that villages such as St. Aubin, Chassagne-Montrachet and most of Puligny-Montrachet have crafted truly excellent 2014s. Things are a bit more mixed in Meursault and further north, where some vineyards were hit with the mid-season hailstorm, while other vineyards in these villages were not in the path of the storm have produced wines as pure and vibrant as the villages completely unaffected. Hail has become a very dominant theme in the Côte d'Or in recent years, with the villages of Pommard, Beaune, Volnay and Meursault particularly prone each year it seems, and one can only hope that nature will relent one day soon and give *vignerons* in these communes a bit of a break.

The growing season of 2014 got off to a very early and promising start, with very warm and sunny temperatures in the early spring getting the sap flowing in the vines early on and the vintage was out of the blocks nearly three weeks ahead of normal. There was even talk of yet another August start to the harvest if things held on as they began. The spring was warm, sunny and fairly dry, with only a few scattered showers giving a bit of water to the vines and allowing the season to continue along promisingly, with balmy seasonal temperatures and plenty of sunlight. The flowering took place in late May and very early June under nearly ideal conditions in most villages, though there was a burst of very high temperatures which caused a bit of difficulty, and the crop load looked likely to be of a good, reasonable size. The projected crop load of 2014 was most welcome at all domaines, as of the previous four years, only the 2011 vintage produced yields that *vignerons* would term "correct". The one caveat was that a bout of very high temperatures in early June which created some *millerandage* as a result of the heat spike, and those affected vineyards saw potential yields drop by up to twenty-five percent. Of course, Mother Nature being her usual capricious self in Burgundy these days, the end of the

month turned nasty and June 28<sup>th</sup> saw a severe thunderstorm roll in with a heavy serving of hail. The storm did not hail on every village, so Gevrey saw a bit, Morey was principally passed over, Chambolle was hit in the southern half of vineyards of Musigny, les Amoureuses and a bit of Charmes, and some of the Clos Vougeot and vineyards in Vosne-Romanée were also hit. Nuits St. Georges was spared. Further south, the storm rolled in through the gap in the hills behind Clos des Mouches on the Beaune and Pommard border, once again hitting hard several Beaune premier crus, vineyards in Pommard and Volnay and the northern half of Meursault. Due to the valley that runs through the middle of Savigny-lès-Beaune, the premier crus on the Beaune side saw a fair bit of hail damage, but those on the opposite slope towards Pernand-Vergelesses were far less affected, with the exception of the premier cru of Fournaux, which is the furthest east on the slope. Further south in Puligny, Chassagne and St. Aubin there was no hail at all and these villages have very much benefited from Mother Nature sparing them the fury of this storm. Happily, Chablis saw none of this inclement weather at the end of June and the 2014 vintage is classic here (though Mother Nature has made up for her generosity of '14 by a devastating hailstorm in September of 2015 in Chablis, but that is a tale that will have to wait for next year).

The timing of the hailstorm was about as good as it could be, if one can really use the term “good” for heavy hail during a growing season in Burgundy, as at least it struck when the grapes were absolutely tiny, rock hard and the size of miniature peas. Consequently, the impact of the stones did not scar the skins and there is absolutely no signs of “hail taint” in the aromatics and flavors of the finished wines. However, the storm did (once again) dramatically cut back on potential yields in the vineyards affected, as the damaged tiny grapes shriveled up and fell off the vines in the subsequent weeks, so that in places like Pommard, Volnay and Meursault, yet another small crop is in the offing in 2014. One cannot overstate just how difficult it has been in these villages that have been pummeled with hail with such brutal frequency in recent years and there is no doubt that a number of family domaines in these communes are stretched financially to the brink and really need to see a couple of good, normal crop loads in the coming years to try and right the ship a bit. While the 2014 vintage was not affected with the *gout de grail* in the wines where hail hit, there are other side effects to the storm than can certainly be sensed in some of the finished wines. The textures of the tannins are a bit more coarse in the red wines where hail hit the vines in 2014, in comparison to the silky smooth impression of the tannins of 2014 from unaffected vineyards. There are, of course, variations on this theme, as in villages like Gevrey or Chambolle, where hail has not been a consistent issue in recent years, the slightly different texture to the tannins is really only noticeable if one is very carefully looking for it, but in villages like Volnay or Beaune, where the hail has barely taken a season off in the last five years, it is a bit more obvious. However, one should point out that this characteristic is far more subtle in 2014 than was the case in hail-affected villages in the 2012 vintage. In the white wines from hailed-upon vineyards, the wines often show a notably lower level of vibrancy and energy in comparison to the wines from vineyards or communes that were spared, so while all the aromatics and flavors are perfectly correct, the wines are less structured, zesty and intense where the hail had its way on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This is all quite understandable, as the vines that were hit once again by hail in 2014 diverted some of their energy reserves to trying to regrow vegetation and repair their wood, instead of focusing all their energies on ripening their bunches.

As one would expect, the hail damage varied rather dramatically from commune to commune and vineyard to vineyard where the storm struck. For example, in Chambolle-

Musigny, François Millet noted that their production figures were down from ten to twenty percent in Musigny, Amoureuses and Bonnes-Mares. Charles van Canneyt of Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat lost about twenty percent of his production in Clos Vougeot and in his Vosne vineyards, but production levels were normal in his parcels in Nuits St. Georges, where there was no hail. Further south in the village of Volnay, Frédéric Lafarge noted that many vineyards were down more than fifty percent in yield because of the hail. Likewise, Louis Boillot observed that his production in Volnay “Caillerets” was down by fully fifty percent as well (only one barrel out of his customary two) and at Domaine des Comtes Lafon, yields were down across the board by an average of forty percent (with only three casks out of a normal eight in Volnay “Champans”), so one can see that the extent of the impact of the hail damage was dependent upon one’s location in 2014. As I mentioned above, the impact of the hail on the textural side of the finished wines also varied quite notably in the villages where this was the fourth year out of five with heavy hail damage, such as Volnay, in comparison to the Côte de Nuits communes where this was the first serious bout of hail in several years. There were other undesired side effects of the hail as well in 2014, as several *vignerons* who normally prefer to use a significant percentage of whole clusters during fermentation reported cutting back on their inclusion of stems in this vintage, with some cuvées completely destemmed, while others included a much smaller percentage of whole clusters than customary, after the bunches were very, very carefully sorted to ensure that only bunches with pristine stems were included in the vats. Additionally, as Louis Boillot commented, “one had to be very careful and gentle with extraction in 2014, so I did not do any punch-downs at all for many wines from the Côte de Beaune in this vintage, and only gently pumped over the must twice a day to keep the cap moist during the fermentation.” The continued saga of hail in the Côte de Beaune has also so traumatized the vines in several parcels that replanting has been necessary for many *vignerons*, as the vines simply have not been able to survive the repeated abuse of the last five years. For example, the Lafarge family has had to finally grub up their ninety-three year-old vines in Beaune “Grèves” after the 2014 vintage, as they succumbed to all of the hail damage of recent years, and Louis Boillot has had to replant one-third of his already tiny parcel in Volnay “Caillerets” for the same reason. Another impact of all the hail in the Côte de Beaune in recent times is that many domaines pruned very short in the winter and spring of 2014, with short canes that would purposefully produce fewer bunches, so that the plants could divert more energy to recovery from all of the past years of hail damage.

While the hail storm of June 28<sup>th</sup> was one of the most significant climactic events of the growing season of 2014, Mother Nature was not done delivering challenges to *vignerons* in the Burgundy region. After the very early and warm spring, and lovely conditions leading up to the hail of late June, the weather took an unexpected turn for the worse by mid-July, with temperatures dropping dramatically, clouds rolling in and staying for weeks on end and plenty of intermittent rain throughout the month of August. It got so unseasonably cool in August that Marie-Christine Mugneret noted “that we actually had to turn on the heat at home in the middle of the month to keep warm!” It was a good thing that 2014 had gotten out of the blocks so early back in March and that the flowering had been two to three weeks ahead of schedule, as nature decided in August to take back those three weeks’ head start, with photosynthesis sluggish in the cold and overcast conditions of August and ripening slowing to a crawl. As Marie-Andrée Mugneret commented, “on September 1<sup>st</sup>, none of us could tell what the vintage was going to be like, as it was a complete mystery whether or not the crop would even fully ripen after the weather of August.” Happily, 2014 provided one of the most beautiful Indian Summers of recent

memory (probably the nicest September since the 2002 vintage was also delivered with similarly perfect weather in the last fortnight of the growing season). The sun came out and stayed out every day, with lovely daytime temperatures, but cool, brisk evenings, a lovely wind out of the north and just as ideal an end to the year as one could ever have hoped for. Sugars mounted nicely, but not too briskly, the cool nights kept the acidity levels quite good, the north wind blew away any potential threats of mold or mildew and the tannins ripened in exemplary fashion in the perfectly measured beauty of the first two weeks of September. What had been a perfect mystery of a vintage on the first of the month was turning into a very, very pleasant surprise by the middle of September. As Bertrand Chevillon laughed, “2014 is another *bonne surprise*- just like the 2013 vintage!”

The grapes came in to the wineries in near perfect condition, with the *vignerons* able to take their time at harvest and pick each parcel as it reached ideal ripeness. Sorting was far more important for the quality of the stems in the bunches from vineyards hit by the hail of late June, but elsewhere, there was not a whole lot to do in terms of sorting and more than one *vigneron* showed me videos on their smart phones of the grapes coming into the wineries and the sorters mostly plucking out the stray leaf or two mixed in with the bunches that really looked quite gorgeous. Sugars were quite good, though not particularly spectacular in level, with potential natural alcohols typically ranging from 11.7 to 12.7 percent, depending on the vineyard. Most *vignerons* chose to chapitalize a bit in 2014, with each producer selecting an addition of sugar to the fermenting vats that seemed judicious to he or she, so that the finished wines tend to range from the low twelves up to around thirteen percent, depending on where the natural sugars were at the start and how much a *vigneron* decided to chapitalize. As Christophe Roumier commented, “if we are going to have vintages of elegance and *typicité*- and these happen to be the wines that I like the best- we are going to have to understand that chapitalizing is going to remain part of the process in most vintages, and not be too shy to do so in years where it will produce better wines.” However, one should note that the chapitalization used today in Burgundy is a far cry from the decade of the 1970s, when *vignerons* would routinely give the wines a full degree or more of sugar to plump up the finished wines, as climate change is producing far more ripe grapes to begin with than was the case back then, and most domaines today, if they chose to chapitalize in 2014, typically added enough sugar to keep the fermentations going a bit longer and raise wines from two-tenths to a half a degree in alcohol and no more in this vintage.

Malolactic fermentations in 2014 were generally fairly brisk, but normal in duration, with cellars finishing up anywhere from the late spring of 2015 to early in the summer. Almost all of the *vignerons* that I spoke with about the fermentations in 2014 commented on how very uneventful and easy it was this year, with clean, lovely grapes producing very smooth fermentations and wines just humming along in the cellars and evolving slowly, but progressively in cask during their *elevage*. As Cécile Tremblay noted, “2014 was a very easy vintage, as I just crushed the grapes after a careful sorting and then have done nothing-absolutely nothing in the cellars since then!” This was in notable contrast to 2013, where *vignerons* spent endless hours out in the vines fighting off the threats of mold, mildew and oidium throughout most of the summer, and then had long, drawn out malos to contend with in the cellars and finally arrived at really lovely wines after a marathon of non-stop work, worry and fatigue. In 2014, the contrasts of the very smooth sailing in Burgundy from the first of September on through to the *elevage* of the wines was a welcome respite from the eternal

struggle of 2013. And the wines are really turning out beautifully and there is no doubt that this is a very, very, very good vintage across the board and truly spectacular in many, many cellars. Those who chase the market demon of the 2015 vintage early on and ignore these 2014s are going to feel like total fools a decade down the road!

I should take a moment to mention Burgundy's issues with the Suzuki fruit fly, which was discussed in more detail in the last issue's article on the 2014 vintage in the Loire Valley. As readers will recall, these Asian flies bite into the ripe grapes out on the vines and can introduce an element of volatile acidity into the grapes from their intrusions. During the growing season, anxiety levels in Burgundy were pretty high about the impact the flies might have on the 2014s, but in the end, they turned out not to be a particularly widespread phenomenon in Burgundy in this vintage, and I did not see any wines that showed any effects from the Suzuki in 2014. This was in notable contrast to some of the wines from the Loire in 2014, where the problem was quite evident. Véronique Drouhin Boss noted that the flies "were a bit of an issue in Vougeot and Chambolle-Musigny, and also in parts of Gevrey-Chambertin in 2014, but were really not seen anywhere else in the Côte d'Or in this vintage." It will be interesting to see how the Suzuki effects future vintages here, but happily, they were not an issue in 2014.

So what are the styles of the wines of 2014? Let us start first where the wines are most uniformly stunning, and that is in Chablis. While I only had time on this trip to taste at six of my favorite estates in this part of Burgundy, as there never seems to be even remotely enough time during the winter visit to Burgundy to get around to everyone that deserves a visit (and I am doing a minimum of five visits per day!), I tasted such uniform beauty in Chablis on this visit that it is quite clear that this region is an absolute star of 2014. The wines have very, very pure, generous and seamlessly integrated fruit in this vintage, with the succulent ripeness of apple and pear more in the ascendency over the more tart citric notes of grapefruit and lemon that define less generously ripe years here, but at the same time, they are utterly classic examples of Chablis and are not tropical or overtly plump in style. It is just a vintage of perfectly ripe, suave fruit tones, which happen to be coupled to really stunning transparency and mineral drive. The acidities are excellent in Chablis in 2014- perhaps not as tensile as a vintage like 2004, but still plenty brisk, lively and delivering excellent shape, bounce and grip to the finished wines. The wines should drink beautifully early on, as the rare combination of pure fruit and stunning *typicité* will make them exemplary and very tempting right out of the blocks, and yet the vintage is impeccably balanced and plenty zesty and should age as long as premo holds off and potential longevity of twenty-five years or more is certainly not out of the question for the favored bottles spared from premature oxidation issues. I cannot emphasize how rare it is for a young vintage of Chablis to be this delicious from the outset, as the mineral signature of each *terroir* is front and center in the young wines, married to really gorgeous fruit, and the wines are starting out life amazingly complex and complete and they are already very delicious to drink. 2014 is simply a great vintage in Chablis and I cannot wait for my spring trip to get back there and really sample across a far wider range of 2014s from this region!

In the Côte d'Or, there are many cellars of white wines where the excellence of the Chablis vintage is echoed beautifully, and there are some absolutely superb wines in the making. However, as I noted, the most consistent excellence is found in the communes completely unaffected by the June 28<sup>th</sup> hailstorm. For buying cuvées across the board from a domaine, the



villages of Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet and St. Aubin offer the most consistency, and in a cellar such as Alexandre Moreau's in Chassagne, there is honestly not a single bottle of white wine that is worth overlooking in 2014. It is a perfect vintage where if one cannot get all of the Chassagne "Grandes Ruchottes" that one desires, then the option of taking more Chenevottes or Vergers is going to be very richly rewarded, as there are simply no wines below exceptional in the most favored cellars of these three communes. The wines are loaded with pure, elegantly measured fruit tones, loads of flowers and gorgeous minerality, with very good acidity and excellent focus and grip. My spring trip will have tons more notes from domaines I did not visit on this trip and there are some gorgeous 2014 white Burgundies from the southern half of the Côte de Beaune waiting in the wings. In Meursault, things are not quite as homogenous, as hail hit many vineyards here and changed the wines a bit as a result. For premier cru fans, Genevrières was almost untouched by the hail, but the other premier crus and many of the top *lieux à dits* in the village saw shorter yields, more forward and accessible constitutions and a discernable lack of energy in some the wines (in comparison to unaffected vineyards) from their battering on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



The red wines of 2014 are a bit less homogenous in quality, or at least this was my perception during my nearly three weeks here in early November. But, the wines were in varying stages of evolution in the cellars, with some wines suave, velvety, transparent and absolutely singing at the time of my visits, whereas other cellars were a bit more cantankerous for tasting at

that time and not quite as easy to get a read on as the wines in the cellars where things were in an optimal point in their evolutions for tasting. It will be interesting when I get back here in late March for my second pass through the vintage to see if I still have this same impression of a bit less homogeneity in terms of overall quality and success with the 2014 reds, or if this was simply a reflection of the varied paces of evolution amongst various wines and cellars. As I noted above, the malolactic fermentations were generally fairly early in their completion in 2014, with most cellars finishing up in the spring or early summer of 2015, but as the must was so clean, not everyone hustled to rack soon after the malos were completed, so that in November, some cellars had been racked fairly recently, whereas some had been racked several months earlier and others were still sitting on their fine lees and not yet racked. Each *vigneron* has their own timetable for their 2014 reds, and happily, most producers in Burgundy continue to make their decisions regarding things like racking times and *assemblage* based on what they perceive as best for the long-term quality of the wines in question, rather than trying to make them as flattering to taste when the journalists, merchants and private collectors converge on the region in late October and early November to taste the upcoming vintage prior to bottling. So it is not surprising to find the wines in varying stages of evolution at this time of year.

So what is the shape and character of the red wines of 2014? Looking first at the wines that were completely unaffected by the big hailstorm of June 28<sup>th</sup>, the wines are very pure, extremely reflective of their underlying *terroir* and many are utterly seductive already. The acidity levels in the 2014 reds are good, but not quite as high as other recent vintages such as 2013 or 2010 for instance. The tannins are amazingly velvety out of the blocks- very 2012-like in the Côte de Nuits in many cases- and the fruit is some of the most vivid and beautiful young fruit tones that I have seen in decades in a young vintage of red Burgundy. This is saying a lot, as there have been some absolutely beautiful and classically pure vintages in the last fifteen years here, but the best 2014 reds have a succulent, sappy generosity and pristine quality to their fruit that really recalls the stunningly gorgeous fruit of the 1985 red Burgundies when they were first released. And 2014 has far superior transparency to the 1985s out of the blocks, better acidity and even more sophisticated tannins, so one gets the idea just how stunning some of these 2014 reds are going to be down the road. They do not generally possess the same bottomless depth as a vintage like 2005, but this is not to say that they are ephemeral wines that are all surface fruit and no mid-palate concentration, as these wines do have very lovely depth in their own right, good structures and especially fine balances for extended aging- not to mention exemplary expressions of *terroir*. Bertrand Chevillon of Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils noted that “the 2013s probably have just a touch more concentration than the 2014s, but they will need a bit more time in the cellar to mature and the 2014s will probably be the better vintage to drink first” of these two most recent red Burgundy years. But, when the wines start to arrive in the autumn in export markets, Burgundy lovers are going to be thrilled with the style and quality of the very top red wines of 2014 and my gut instinct is that they will age far longer than some *vignerons* are currently expecting, as so many of the wines are just brilliantly balanced. Fans of vintages such as 2010 or 2012 Côte de Nuits wines are going to love the top 2014 reds as well.

Where there was some issues with hail in red wine villages in 2014, the effect of the storm is felt differently in the wines depending on whether the vineyards are in the Côte de Beaune or the Côte de Nuits. In the latter sector of Burgundy, where there has not been an almost yearly battering of hail in recent times (only 2011 was not a hail vintage in the last five in the

south), the effect of the hail is mostly concerned with a diminution in the crop load, not in the quality or personalities of the wines. The tannins are still every bit as refined in villages like Chambolle-Musigny or Vosne-Romanée where there was some hail, as they are in villages like Morey St. Denis or Nuits St. Georges, which were both spared from hail on June 28<sup>th</sup>. In the Côte de Beaune, the cumulative effects of four hail years out of the last five has taken just a bit of elegance out of the tannic structures of some the wines this year, but as I mentioned earlier, this is nowhere near as strikingly evident in the textures of the tannins in 2014 as was the case in the 2012 vintage. And, of course, this varies from cellar to cellar as well. The 2014 reds here are still very, very good wines in the making, but the slightly chewier aspects of the tannins in the Côte de Beaune in 2014 probably will result in the wines not being quite as tempting to drink out of the blocks as will be the case with the reds from the Côte de Nuits, but with six to ten years of bottle age, they are likely to be every bit as refined, perfumed and transparent as their counterparts from villages unaffected by the hail of 2014. No one could probably give a better read on the 2014 vintage in the Côte de Beaune than Michel Lafarge, who has been making wines in Volnay since the 1946 vintage, and who feels that “the 2014 vintage combines the elegance and purity of the 1966s with the balance and structure of the 1978s.” Not too bad of a combination!

I should mention that a handful of Côte de Beaune reds that I tasted- particularly from the southern end of Beaune- seemed to share a bit of the “lower energy levels” found in some white wines from Meursault in 2014. Perhaps it was just the moment that I caught a particular wine in during its evolution, but the cumulative damage accrued over the last five years in some of these vineyards from annual bouts of hail is serious and the plants really need a few years without hail to start to get back their mojo. As I did not visit anyone in Pommard on this trip (but will do so in the spring), this may also be the case with the 2014s in this village, and the only domaine in Volnay that I managed to get an appointment at during this trip was Domaine Lafarge, so I am not sure if the lower energy levels are typical of 2014s in Volnay as well at other estates. Certainly, the beautiful potential of the 2014 Domaine Lafarge lineup is not short on energy (or any other element for that matter!), but I am not sure how emblematic the Lafarge family’s wines are of the village of Volnay in general in this vintage. A bit further north in Savigny-lès-Beaune, the hailstorm’s direction meant that the slope of premier crus on the Beaune side of the village felt far more of the brunt of the storm than most of the slope on the Pernand side of the village, and the premier crus on the Pernand side of the valley that splits the commune down the middle are probably just a bit more refined in the 2014 vintage than their counterparts on the southern slopes that abut the vineyards of Beaune.

I was in Burgundy tasting daily from November 9<sup>th</sup> until the 21<sup>st</sup> on this trip, and had a very densely packed schedule during each day, so I was able to get around to a great many domaines during this visit. However, as Burgundy gets more and more crowded each year in November, due to the continued popularity of the new public access to the Hospices de Beaune auction, it is increasingly difficult to put together a coherent schedule and see everyone in an efficient manner during a trip at this time of year, as the *vignerons* are simply inundated with requests for tastings during this peak of the tasting season. So several of my favorite producers who I normally see during my autumn trip to the region were not able to be squeezed into my schedule this year and I will have to wait until my March trip to have a look at their 2014s. It was far easier visiting in December last year, as the largest crush of visitors had already passed

through the region, but it is not a highly practical time to visit for a couple of reasons, as the temperatures in the cellars can start to drop and the wines can shut down pretty dramatically if the weather does not cooperate, and also, the continued acceleration of the Burgundy futures campaigns by many merchants means that the notes on the next vintage need to get published early enough in the new year to be useful for those chasing futures options on the 2014s.

I must say that the Burgundy market has become a far less civilized place since the release and subsequent gouging on prices with the 2005 vintage (the responsibility for the huge price spikes upwards for this vintage must solely be laid at the doorstep of the merchants, as domaines did not participate in this with the '05s), and what would have been considered completely unscrupulous behavior on the part of merchants fifteen years ago is now rather commonplace today. The limited quantities in which top Burgundy cuvées are produced, particularly in comparison to regions such as Bordeaux or Champagne, has always made it a challenge to find access to the most desirable wines (which have always been relatively expensive, due to their scarcity), but the old distribution agreements seem to have almost completely disappeared since the 2005 vintage free for all in the market. Prior to the 2005 boom, the distribution system was pretty straightforward, where one would start out asking for wines from particular domaines and start with a small allocation of the less exalted wines from the producer (often after a few years on a waiting list), and slowly see the allocation grow as people ahead of you on the list might pass on something and a bit more quantity become available down the line. It was a relatively slow process that required patience and perseverance, but it was the same general system for those buying at the cellar door directly from *vignerons* (such as private clients or importers), or for Burgundy lovers buying from their own market's importers, distributors and merchants. One took their place in line, once they knew what domaines they were interested in, and waited until someone ahead of them dropped out or passed on a vintage, so as to move up and increase one's annual allocation. It was expected that clients bought each vintage and loyalty was rewarded eventually with more bottles of the rarest and most highly sought after wines. It was a distribution system that very much reflected the traditional Burgundian way of how to properly do things.

Things have changed completely in the marketplace since the release of the 2005s. It is not just the extreme increases in price for the very top wines since that time that is of concern, though of course, one can hear from many *vignerons* their worries that today's prices will prove to be unsustainable at some point in the future and end up being a very disruptive market force—particularly if an undesirable vintage comes along that the speculators and investors have no interest in purchasing. If one is selling Chambertin for \$500 a bottle out the cellar door today, what happens to the price if we see another rainy, washed-out vintage like 1984 that is of no interest to investor types? Where does the domaine price that vintage and will anyone in the market these days even bother to buy it at any price? Are we going to see a future where less desirable vintages of Burgundy are just flushed through the French supermarket chains in the same manner as Bordeaux these days? Is that even a viable option at today's Burgundy prices for the most expensive domaines? One of the more evident changes in the Burgundy market since the 2005s is that allocations are now routinely pulled from long-time customers for the top wines, if the merchant can find someone else who is willing to pay double or triple for the same wines. The merchants will still pay lip service to the old concept of “we really appreciate your business and sticking with us in the 2007 and 2008 vintages” (when the speculators were

nowhere to be found), but “sorry, there will be no grand crus for you in 2009 or 2010, as we have found someone willing to pay a lot more than we could in good conscience charge you for the same wines.” The loyalty aspect of the Burgundian mercantile equation seems now to be pretty much dead.

Another aspect of the profound change in the market can be seen in the vintage assessments we have seen from wine professionals since the 2005 vintage. It has been a very good run of vintages in general since that time- at least if one is not a *vigneron* based in Volnay and battered on a nearly annual basis by hail- but the new market’s perceptions of the vintages in question has really been misinformed as it is now seems to be seen primarily through the prism of potential profit. The very good 2006 vintage was largely overlooked in the post-orgy spending dissipation of the 2005s, the lovely and inherently elegant 2007 vintage was misunderstood and under-appreciated, the classic 2008 vintage was also generally missed early on and only saw a bit of a market renaissance after the style of the buxom 2009s came more properly into focus. Conversely, most elements in the market hyped the 2009s shamelessly and plenty of merchants gouged on prices, looking to pillage as if it were the 2005 vintage all over again, despite the vintage’s quality being no more than perfectly pleasant in a plump and rather simple manner. But it was remorselessly sold as the second coming of 2005 and *caveat emptor* to the clients who actually believed the excessive hype and bought the wines, as the merchants had already moved on to the truly exceptional 2010s. There has been a decided cold front blowing through the Burgundy market since 2005 and one has to ask where it is all ultimately headed in the end?

In all likelihood, we are bound to see the next chapter in this era, for better or worse, when the very ripe 2015s start to get closer to the market over the coming year. There was already a lot of hot and heavy breathing on the part of merchants and speculators in the region in November of this year, and one has to really question whether they are tasting with their palates or their wallets these days? As I said at the outset, the possibility certainly does exist that the 2015 vintage will prove to be exceptionally good for the red wines, but it is still far too early to tell. The odds are at least as strong, at this point in time, that they will prove to be overripe, alcoholic and atypical red Burgundies that are indeed, as many *vignerons* will already privately tell you, hypothetical crosses of the 2003 and 2009 vintages. It is just far too soon in their evolutions to tell for certain and today, the 2015s are most attractive to gamblers, rather than connoisseurs. But, rest assured, the historically high prices paid for the 2015s at the Hospices de Beaune auction has been duly noted by merchants in the pipeline, and expect a heavy dose of propaganda to be served with your 2015s a year down the road. One will probably not be reminded that a very major element in the prices paid for the 2015s at the Hospices this year was engendered by the very real sympathy that bidders felt in the immediate wake of the tragic events that occurred in Paris only two days before the auction. But, this is the world that we live in today. Terrorist attacks on rock concerts and football matches and corner tourist bistros in the city of light, and a serious and remorseless detachment of reality from market maneuvering if a large enough windfall is blowing on the breeze. One cannot help but see irony in the awareness that such a short-term mentality has become so pervasive in certain circles of the Burgundy market mechanism for a region that has always been such an important cultural bastion for the inherent and unassailable value of the long haul. But before the storm surrounding the 2015s finds shore, there will still be the truly stunning 2014s to take note of and if you are smart, tuck away in the cellar in appropriate quantity.

## **Chablis**

### **Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin (La Chapelle Vaupelteigne)**

*Usually, visiting Jean-Claude Bessin is amongst the highlights of my visit to Chablis, but when I made my appointment for the third week of November to come see the 2014s, Monsieur Bessin cautioned that he would just be assembling the wines in the middle of the month and they would most likely be out of sorts at the time of my visit. Which of course, they were! I will retaste these wines in March, after they are bottled and have scored them within a range this time around (where applicable) from my November visit, as they were still in the throes of grumpiness after having been racked and assembled and none too happy about being tasted. Given the exceptional quality of the 2014 vintage in Chablis and Monsieur Bessin's consistent excellence, I expect that this is a great vintage here, but the wines were all quite grumpy at the time of my visit and it will be a great pleasure to revisit them in proper spirits in the spring.*

### **2014 Chablis "Vieilles Vignes"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The 2014 Vieilles Vignes cuvée had been filtered a week before my visit and was destined to be bottled in December. Consequently, it was cranky, but showed lovely purity to its fruit component, with notes of lemon, apple, chalky minerality, spring flowers and citrus zest all evident on the nose. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very long, but jumbled up and not showing any delineation from its recent filtration. I am sure this will be very good. 2016-2030+. **89-91.**

### **2014 Chablis "Montmains"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The 2014 Montmains had not yet been filtered, but was showing a bit of backend CO2 and was also not entirely on form, but again, the potential here was quite easy to read. The nose is pure and complex, with notes of lemon, pear, a touch of sweet grapefruit, wet stones and dried flowers wafting from the glass. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and solid at the core, with bright acids, lovely cut and grip and a long, zesty and quite transparent finish. This is again, not entirely on form, but it will be very good indeed. 2017-2035+. **91-92.**

### **2014 Chablis "Fourchaume"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The Fourchaume 2014 was a bit reductive at the time of my visit, but with some extended swirling opens up nicely to reveal a complex bouquet of apple, pear, ocean breeze and a lovely stony soil signature, as well as a bit of the "woody" signature topnote of Fourchaume. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very pure, with a fine core, excellent focus and balance and a long, bright and nascently complex finish. 2017-2035+. **92-93.**

### **2014 Chablis "La Forêt"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The 2014 La Forêt from Monsieur Bessin was probably the happiest wine of the set to be tasted in the second half of November and the wine is going to be lovely. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a classic mix of apple, pear, flinty minerality, white flowers and a classic topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with bright acids, lovely focus and grip and a long, very well-balanced and classy finish. This seems a tad more structured out of the blocks than the Fourchaume, but this could just be the relative stages of evolution of the two wines after their *assemblage*. 2018-2035+. **92-93.**

### **2014 Chablis "La Pièce au Comte"- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The 2014 La Pièce au Comte was also showing relatively well at the time of my visit and seemed to have outstanding potential. The impressively complex bouquet delivers scents of apple, pear, a touch of tangerine, complex minerality, beeswax, white flowers and orange zest.



On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nascently complex, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent minerality, fine focus and a long, poised and vibrant finish. Again, this is not one hundred percent snapped into place after its *assemblage*, but it is quite evident this will be outstanding wine. 2018-2040. **92-94.**

**2014 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Jean-Claude Bessin**

The 2014 Valmur was one of the more agitated wines in the cellar after its racking into tank, but there are some really lovely raw materials on display here as well. The nose offers up notes of apple, lemon, pear, chalky minerality, beeswax, citrus zest and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and is rock solid at the core, with excellent cut and backend energy on the very long finish. I cannot wait to taste this with all of its constituent components in place! 2019-2050. **93-95+.**



*Michel Vignaud's marvelous Hostellerie des Clos in the heart of Chablis.*

**Domaine Vincent Dauvissat (Chablis)**

*I was sad last year when the Dauvissat family was away during my visit to Chablis, so I did not get a chance to visit and taste the 2013s. But, the family loves to ski and what are you going to do if the snow is excellent? Happily, Vincent was in town to show me his stunning 2014s, but as was the case with Jean-Claude Bessin's wines, the first assemblage here was already under way and I did not taste the Séchet or Vaillons on this visit, as they had just been racked into tank for bottling in the spring and were agitated from their change of domicile. The*

*2014 Petit Chablis had already been bottled at the time of my visit, as is the custom here, and Vincent Dauvissat commented that “it is easy to remember the date for the mise of the Petit Chablis ’14, as it was the day of the hail on September 1<sup>st</sup> (of 2015).” Monsieur Dauvissat is very happy with the quality and style of the 2014s here, which he compares “to a cross between 2008 and 2002, with the generosity and amplitude of 2002 and the good mineral structure and acidity of 2008.” He began picking on September 15<sup>th</sup> of 2014 and brought in grapes in marvelous condition, with good, solid yields to allow for some bottles to go around this year, in notable contrast to the very, very short crop of 2013. I was very surprised to be served the new addition to the domaine’s portfolio of premier crus this year- a Montée de Tonnerre bottling, which is produced from a small parcel of forty-five to fifty year-old vines that Vincent’s children have begun renting. This wine was first produced in the 2013 vintage, but as I did not visit last year, it was a very pleasant surprise to taste the lovely 2014 in November. I would guess that this cuvée is going to get better and better as the years go by and the Dauvissats farm the parcel, as Vincent very gently intimated that the viticulture here was not the best prior to their renting the vines. There were only two barrels produced in the very short crop of 2013, and I am not sure what the situation was in 2014, but I would suspect that there are not more than four casks this year, as the plot is very small. This is an absolutely brilliant range of 2014s.*

#### **2014 Petit Chablis- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

The Dauvissat family’s parcel of Petit Chablis lies up on the slope above Les Clos and like all of the domaine’s vines, it is harvested by hand. The wine is really excellent in 2014 and will be a great value, as the bouquet jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of apple, pear, beeswax, wet stones and a lovely floral topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and complex, with a wide open personality, zesty acids and lovely length and grip on the impressively complex finish. Really a lovely example of Petit Chablis. 2015-2025. **88.**

#### **2014 Chablis- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

The 2014 Chablis *villages* from Vincent Dauvissat and his children is outstanding, offering up a bright and very elegant bouquet of green apple, pear, oyster shell, a touch of wet stones, lemon and a topnote of straw. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and generous on the attack, with a fine core, lovely backend cut and mineral drive and a long, complex and vibrant finish. Like the Petit Chablis, this will drink beautifully from the moment of its release, but is nicely balanced and will also age very well indeed. 2015-2030+. **90.**

#### **2014 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

The new cuvée of Montée de Tonnerre *chez* Dauvissat is outstanding in 2014, offering up a very mineral nose of apple, lime peel, complex, flinty minerality, a touch of anise and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and focused, with a lovely core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, tensile and energetic finish. This is a very fine new addition to the firmament of Domaine Dauvissat premier crus and I look forward to following it over the coming years. 2018-2040. **93+.**

#### **2014 Chablis “La Forest”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

The 2014 La Forest from the Dauvissat family is simply stunning and one of the finest young vintages of this exceptional wine that I have had the pleasure to taste from the domaine (and I have been visiting here for many years now). The brilliant nose soars from the glass in a very Les Clos-like blend of pear, apple, anise, dried flowers, flinty minerality, citrus peel and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off great cut and

grip, with a superb core of fruit, stunning mineral drive and a very, very long, zesty finish that soars with backend energy and precision this year. Great wine. 2018-2045. **94.**

**2014 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

I love the Dauvissat family’s les Preuses and the 2014 version is going to be a legendary vintage for this wine. The stunning bouquet delivers a fine, complex constellation of pear, Tart orange, lemon, a touch of oyster shell, beautiful chalkiness, white flowers and a bit of citrus zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and totally mineral in personality, with a rock solid core, great focus and grip and enormous vibrancy and poised and rocketing finish. A brilliant, brilliant vintage of les Preuses *chez* Dauvissat. 2021-2060. **96+.**

**2014 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine Vincent Dauvissat**

The 2014 les Clos from Vincent Dauvissat is an equally magical young wine. The deep, pure and very complex nose offers up a blend of apple, lemon, pear, flinty minerality, a bit of smokiness, orange zest, a touch of hay and an esthery topnote of bee pollen. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and bottomless, with electric acidity, gorgeous fruit, stunningly complex transparency and great focus and grip on the very long, very mineral and snappy finish. Another absolutely stunning wine in the making. 2023-2060. **97.**

**Domaine Drouhin Vaudon (Chablis)**

*Domaine Drouhin Vaudon is the Chablis estate of the Maison Joseph Drouhin, and I have typically written up these wines along with their Côte d’Or bottlings in the past. However, I get the sense that the notes on the superb lineup of Drouhin Chablis bottlings gets a bit lost amongst all that Montrachet and Musigny, and it is probably more fitting to place these notes in amongst the other top domaines in Chablis, rather than with all the wines tasted in Beaune. Robert Drouhin was one of the first négociants in Beaune to realize the potential of Chablis and he began acquiring prime vineyard parcels here in the region back in the 1980s, when most Burgundy lovers did not pay anywhere near enough attention to the beautiful wines being produced in Chablis. It turned out to be a very foresighted decision on the part of Monsieur Drouhin, as prices for vineyard land were far more reasonable back in the day than is the case today (though parcels in top premier crus in Chablis remain priced far more reasonably today than is the case for their counterparts in the Côte de Beaune) and over the years, Domaine Drouhin Vaudon has become the largest owner of vineyard land in the region. In characteristic Drouhin style, the wines are classically reflective of their underlying terroir and very pure and elegant renditions of their appellations. The wines flirted with a bit of new oak back in the early 1990s, but have become classically more mineral in the last twenty years, with the grand crus still seeing a fair bit of barrel fermentation and élevage in cask, but always older barrels now, and most of the premier crus and the lovely villages level bottling called “Réserve de Vaudon” raised entirely in stainless steel. The lineup of 2014s is excellent and very typical of the vintage here in Chablis, coupling beautifully ripe and pure fruit with excellent transparency and minerality. The wines, at least up to the grand crus, are fairly forward in style, but perfectly balanced and very zesty, and they will both drink well young and also age quite well. The grand crus show a bit more reserve out of the blocks, quite naturally, and will want a few years in the cellar to really blossom. A very, very impressive and consistent range from Domaine Drouhin Vaudon this year.*

**2014 Chablis “Réserve de Vaudon”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Réserve de Vaudon is a lovely bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in a refined and minerally blend of lemon, green apple, a touch of hay, flinty minerality and a nice topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, lovely cut and backend bounce and a long, vibrant and succulent finish. Lovely juice that will drink well right out of the blocks, but also keep nicely. 2015-2030. **89+**.

**2014 Chablis “Séchet”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Chablis “Séchet” from Domaine Drouhin Vaudon is a lovely wine that shows off all of the pure and juicy fruit of the vintage, coupled to a lovely base of soil tones. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a ripe and pure blend of pear, apple, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a touch of citrus zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a very good core, fine focus and cut and a long, wide open and vibrant finish. Lovely juice. 2015-2030. **90**.

**2014 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

Of the lineup of Drouhin Vaudon premier crus, the Vaillons is often one of my favorites and this is again the case with their lovely 2014 version. The excellent nose delivers a vibrant constellation of lemon, grapefruit, oyster shell, dried flowers and a lovely base of limestone minerality. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a fine core, excellent focus and grip and a long, racy and utterly classic finish. Lovely juice. 2016-2035. **91**.

**2014 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Montmains from Domaine Drouhin Vaudon has also turned out very well this year, offering up a fine bouquet of lemon, grapefruit, lovely minerality, dried flowers and a topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nascently complex, with fine cut and grip, very good balance and a long, bouncy finish. 2015-2030. **90+**.

**2014 Chablis “Mont de Milieu”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon bottling of Mont de Milieu is excellent, with a very pretty personality and plenty of depth and soil signature on both the nose and palate. The fine bouquet delivers scents of green apple, lemon, flinty minerality, dried flowers and a topnote of lemongrass. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very elegant in profile, with a good core, bright acids and a long, complex and zesty finish. Very classy juice. 2015-2030+. **90+**.

**2014 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Vaudésir from the Drouhin family is excellent, with the refined elegance of this vineyard very much in evidence on both the nose and palate. These days about fifteen percent of the cuvée is fermented and aged in stainless steel, with all the rest in older barrels. The superb bouquet offers up a blend of green apple, lemon, beeswax, dried flowers, chalky soil tones and a topnote of orange peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and light on its feet, with a superb core, bright acids and a long, focused and properly reserved finish, as befits a young grand cru Chablis in a top flight vintage. Lovely juice in the making. 2018-2040. **93+**.

**2014 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Drouhin Vaudon**

The 2014 Drouhin Les Clos is outstanding, offering up a beautifully mineral and nascently complex bouquet of apple, tart orange, chalky, flinty minerality, white flowers, just a whisper of vanillin oak and a discreet, exotic topnote of green tea. On the palate the wine is deep, pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a rock solid core, brisk acids and fine focus and grip on the very long and youthful finish. Like the Vaudésir and all the other grand crus here

these days, this is more than seventy-five percent barrel-fermented and raised in older casks, with only a small percentage produced in stainless steel. High class example. 2018-2040. **94.**

### **Domaine William Fèvre (Chablis)**

*Didier Séguier has fashioned another exceptional range of wines at Domaine William Fèvre in the 2014 vintage. There vines were out of the blocks very early, and March was very warm and sunny to presage an early harvest, but the season went up and down in temperature and ended up being a mid-September harvest, with the domaine starting their picking on September 15<sup>th</sup> and bringing in their last grapes on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Natural alcohols ranged from eleven percent in some of the villages parcels all the way up to 12.6 and various cuvées were chapitalized with discretion. The malos started fairly late in the cool Fèvre cellars this year, with most of them starting around the end of the year and generally finishing up by the end of April of 2015, though with a few cuvées still bubbling along into the early summer. As is customary when visiting here in November, the wines are in varying stages of their elevage, with some already bottled, others racked and awaiting bottling, while others are still either in tank or cask but not yet assembled. A great lineup of 2014s from Domaine William Fèvre this year.*

### **2014 Petit Chablis- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Petit Chablis was bottled in April of 2015 and was showing very nicely in November, as it wafts from the glass in a bright bouquet of lemon, grapefruit, chalky soil tones and a touch of grassiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, crisp and nicely complex, with bright acids, lovely focus and grip and really quite good cut on the backend. A fine example. 2015-2023. **87.**

### **2014 Chablis “Champs Royaux”- Maison William Fèvre**

The 2014 Champs Royaux, which is the domaine’s *villages* bottling produced from purchased grapes, was bottled at the end of June and also showing very well in November. The nose is a fine mélange of lime, green apple, oyster shell and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bdoied, crisp and really shows the amplitude of the vintage in its core of pure fruit, with vibrant acids and lovely length and grip. Another fine example of its level. 2015-2025. **88+.**

### **2014 Chablis- Domaine William Fèvre**

The Domaine Fèvre Chablis AC from their own parcels of vines is always a step up, as Didier explained that “William Fèvre bought the best parcels of *villages*- all close to the premier crus- during the 1940s and 1950s” when Chablis prices were very weak and *vignerons* were often happy to sell. The 2014 version is a superb AC, offering up a far more reserved bouquet of lime, green apple, flinty minerality, citrus peel and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and very precise on the attack, with a lovely core, bright acids and excellent grip and nascent complexity on the long and snappy finish. 2017-2035. **90.**

### **2014 Chablis “Beauroy”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Beauroy has been bottled the week before my visit and was a bit agitated as a result. Thirty percent of the blend was barrel-fermented this year in old casks and the wine offers up a vibrant and generous nose of apple, tangerine, flinty minerality, a touch of citrus peel and a fine topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and quite soil-driven in personality, with a succulent core and good length and grip on the juicy finish. I wonder how much this wine will firm up as it has a chance to recover from its *mise*. It may

always be a more forward example of the vintage, but I would not be surprised for it to show more cut and reserve a couple more months out from the bottling. 2016-2030+? **89-90+?**

**2014 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine William Fèvre**

In contrast to the just bottled Beauroy, the 2014 Montmains was still in *cuve* and showing very nicely. The bouquet is bright and complex, wafting from the glass in a blend of green apple, a touch of fresh pineapple, chalky minerality, lemon zest and white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy in personality, with a fine core, excellent mineral drive and a very long, racy and beautifully focused finish. Fine juice. 2017-2040. **91+**.

**2014 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine William Fèvre**

As Didier observed, “Vaillons is a solar *terroir* and always ripens very early.” In the fine 2014 vintage, this has given the wine a really flashy, albeit very pure, nose, that jumps from the glass in a wide open blaze of tangerine, sweet grapefruit, fresh lime, chalky , beeswax and a touch of oyster shell. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really succulent on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent soil signature and a very long, focused and vibrant finish. This will wear its heart on its sleeve from the moment it is released, but it has the balance and acid chassis to also age quite gracefully. A lovely Vaillons. 2015-2035. **91+**.



*The sun blinking over the grand cru vineyard of Vaudésir (courtesy Domaine William Fèvre).*

**2014 Chablis “Les Lys”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Les Lys from Domaine William Fèvre had also been bottled the week before my visit and was even grumpier than the Beauroy right after its *mise*. The wine is very long, tensile and rock solid at the core and should be outstanding, but it was really bounced around from its bottling and not in a good stage to take a precise note. This is one of my favorite premier crus in the domaine’s unparalleled lineup and I will look forward to tasting it during Les Grands Jours in the spring (and hope Didier will bring it to the tasting)!

#### **2014 Chablis “Mont de Milieu”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The parcel of Mont de Milieu that Domaine Fèvre makes this wine from is planted with very, very old vines, which only produced twenty hectoliters per hectare in 2014. The domaine used to buy the grapes from this parcel and were finally given the opportunity to purchase the vines in 2010. The wine in 2014 was still in tank and was showing superbly well, jumping from the glass in a blend of lime, green apple, wet stones, citrus zest, flinty overtones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, racy and rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and grip and a very long, complex and mineral finish. A really superb vintage for the Mont de Milieu this year. 2016-2035+. **92+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Fourchaume”- Domaine William Fèvre**

It is interesting that all of the vines for this bottling also lie in Vaurel, but the domaine decides to bottle these as Fourchaume and keep the very finest parcel in the vineyard to be bottled as Vaurel. This is really superb this year, as the purity and bounce of the vintage really give this fine mineral drive on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is fine blend of green apple, lemon, a touch of pink grapefruit, chalky soil tones, a bit of petrol and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely succulent on the attack, with a fine core and great cut and grip on the long, transparent and racy finish. There is nothing overly generous about this example of Fourchaume, which beautifully synthesizes the pure and ripe fruit of 2014 with excellent minerality and grip. 2016-2035+. **93**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Montée de Tonnerre is outstanding from Domaine Fèvre, as it soars from the glass in a nascently complex and vibrant constellation of lime, pear, kaleidoscopic minerality, citrus blossoms and orange zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with great cut and structure, laser-like focus and huge energy on the very racy and mineral finish. Stellar Montée de Tonnerre! 2020-2050. **94**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Vaurel”- Domaine William Fèvre**

Both the Vaurel and the Montée de Tonnerre were fifty to sixty percent barrel-fermented in 2014, and both wines have turned out stunningly well in this superb vintage. The 2014 Vaurel is my favorite premier cru from Didier Séguier this year, wafting from the glass in a very refined and properly reserved blend of green apple, pink grapefruit, flinty minerality, white flowers, a touch of wild fennel and a youthful topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and bottomless at the core, with great focus and grip, marvelously complex soil tones and a very, very long, vibrant and superbly delineated finish. 2021-2050. **94+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Bougros from the domaine is really stellar this year and when I commented on this, Didier observed “that in the last ten years, we have made more progress with Bougros than with any other cru, as the changeover to biodynamics has really brought out the minerality in this wine.” The 2014 offers up a gorgeous nose of apple, pear, lime zest, a complex base of limestone minerality, gentle smokiness and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very racy, with a rock solid core, snappy acids and a very long, very soil-driven and precise finish. Excellent wine. 2019-2050. **94+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine William Fèvre**

Out of the blocks, the 2014 Domaine Fèvre Vaudésir seems just a touch more accessible than the top couple of structured premier crus and the Bougros. The beautiful, zesty bouquet delivers scents of pear, fresh pineapple, lemon, beeswax, chalky soil tones, a touch of licorice and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and a bit more tensile



than the wide open nose suggest, with fine mid-palate depth, bright acids and really superb cut and grip on the long, vibrant finish. Another superb wine, which I may be underrating a tad, but I had to leave room for what was to follow! 2017-2050+. **94+**.

**2014 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Fèvre Valmur is a brilliant example of this great vineyard. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a young and properly reserved blend of green apple, lemon, pink grapefruit, beeswax, chalky minerality, just a touch of dried flowers and a topnote of lemon zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very long and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and grip, a snappy girdle of acidity and a very, very long, energetic finish. Great Valmur. 2021-2055+. **95.**

**2014 Chablis “les Preuses”- Domaine William Fèvre**

Didier Séguier has fashioned an utterly classic and beautiful bottle of les Preuses in the 2014 vintage. The wine offers up all of the kaleidoscopic complexity of this magical *terroir* in its bouquet of lemon, green apple, just a touch of tangerine, complex minerality that shows both chalky and oyster shell facets, white flowers and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very, very racy, with superb mid-palate depth, a stunningly complex soil signature and a very, very long, seamless and electric finish. 2020-2055+. **95+**.

**2014 Chablis “Bougros- Côte de Bouguerots”- Domaine William Fèvre**

The 2014 Côte de Bouguerots is a stunning young wine. The nose soars from the glass in a constellation of pear, green apple, fresh lime, stunningly complex, very chalky minerality, beeswax, lime zest and plenty of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and bottomless at the core, with a very refined and racy personality, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the still quite youthful finish. A great wine in the making. 2020-2055+. **96.**

**2014 Chablis “les Clos”- Domaine William Fèvre**

There can be no doubt that I tasted some absolutely monumental and historical examples of 2014 Les Clos during my November trip, and the Domaine William Fèvre version is right up there with the very finest. The totally refined and still quite primary nose delivers a superb constellation of apple, a touch of pear, just a bit of tangerine, chalky, flinty minerality, orange blossoms and a bit of beeswax in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with great acids, laser-like focus and a profoundly promising, long and vibrant finish. A brilliant wine. 2021-2055+. **96+**.

**Domaine Louis Michel et Fils (Chablis)**

*Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel has another absolutely stellar lineup of wines in the cellars from the 2014 vintage, and in happy contrast to the last two exceptional vintages here (2010 and 2012), the yields are far more normal in 2014 and there is going to be a reasonable supply of bottles available of these excellent 2014s. As Guillaume notes, “2014 is a classic Chablis vintage, with very good minerality and tension in the wines.” The budbreak here was early this year and the flowering was quick in the heat of early June, with many vineyards already in full flower by the eight of the month. As Monsieur Gicqueau-Michel noted, “there was lots of rain in July and August, but September was perfect and were able to take our time picking this year and we could maximize maturity in each parcel.” The harvest started on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the wines have been very easy in the cellar and were showing beautifully at the time of my visit. As is customary here, many of the premier crus, as well as the villages and Petit Chablis were already bottled, with the other wines now assembled and resting comfortably prior to their spring bottling. The entire range is excellent, with a couple of the premier crus promising fine drinking right out of the blocks, whereas others (such as the Butteaux or Montée de Tonnerre looking to*

*spend some time in the cellar prior to really blossoming). The grand crus are superb and the Les Clos in 2014 is really very, very special and destined to be long-lived and a reference point example of this great terroir for decades to come.*

#### **2014 Petit Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Petit Chablis from Domaine Michel was showing very nicely, wafting from the glass in a blend of lime, grapefruit, chalky minerality and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely mineral in personality, with a good core, fine focus and impressive length and grip on the zesty finish. A lovely example. 2015-2023. **87+**.

#### **2014 Chablis- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Chablis *villages* is also a really fine example of its appellation, delivering a bright and classy bouquet of green apple, lemon, chalky minerality, a touch of oyster shell and a bit of hay in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and really shows a lovely core for a *villages*, with fine focus and grip, bright acids and lovely minerality permeating the long finish. Fine juice. 2015-2035. **89+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Montmains”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Montmains was still in tank and had not yet been bottled on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November and was showing very nicely indeed. The wine offers up a very refined nose of grapefruit, lemon, spring flowers, limestone minerality and a topnote of lemon zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, bright and very precise, with a fine core of fruit, lovely cut and grip and a very long, minerally and precise finish. Lovely juice that will want a couple of years in the cellar to really start to hit on all cylinders. 2017-2035+. **91**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The Butteaux 2014 had already been bottled and was showing a nicely reserved personality, as it wafts from the glass in a very pure, but still quite primary combination of green apple, lemon, deep, chalky soil tones and plenty of white flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit out of the blocks, with a superb core of fruit, bright acids and excellent backend mineral drive on the long and perfectly balanced finish. A lovely bottle in the making. 2018-2035+. **91**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Butteaux” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

This year we followed up the bottled “regular” Butteaux with the un-bottled Vieilles Vignes bottling from this fine vineyard, and the 2014 VV was showing the same sense of reserve on the palate. The bouquet is deeper and much more minerally in profile, as it delivers a youthful blend of grapefruit, lime, loads of chalky and wet stone minerality and just a bit of spring flowers as a closing topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with brisk acids, excellent focus and grip and a very long, very mineral and racy finish. A superb bottle in the making, and given its rather primary personality right now, I would not be surprised to see its score move up a bit as the wine matures. 2020-2040+. **92+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Forêts”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Forêts from Domaine Michel is another very lovely wine, with a personality that is far more forward and accessible out of the blocks than the two Butteaux bottlings. The bouquet offers up a very pretty blend of green apple, lemon, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a nice touch of beeswax in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with bright acids, fine focus and a long, snappy and complex finish. Fine juice and a premier cru that will drink very well from the outset. 2016-2035. **92**.

**2014 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Vaillons is another really lovely wine from the Michel family, offering up the vintage's lovely combination of succulent generosity of fruit and impeccable minerality. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a blend of lemon, grapefruit, chalky soil tones, beeswax and white flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a fine core, good focus and bounce and a long, complex and quite wide open finish. The Forêts is just a touch longer than the Vaillons this year, but this too is a lovely example of the vintage. 2015-2030. **91+**.

**2014 Chablis “Séchet”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Séchet is really superb this year from the domaine, offering up a gorgeous bouquet of green apple, lemon, chalky soil tones, a touch of wild fennel and a topnote of white lilies. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very racy in personality, with a lovely core, bright acids, fine focus and grip and absolutely marvelous backend energy on the complex finish. A beautiful bottle of Séchet. 2017-2035. **92+**.

**2014 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

Guillaume's 2014 Montée de Tonnerre is a brilliant example of this vineyard in a top flight vintage. The stellar nose delivers a youthfully complex mélange of green apple, pink grapefruit, very complex minerality, white flowers, incipient notes of beeswax and a nice touch of flintiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a fine sense of reserve, excellent focus and grip and superb mineral drive on the very long and impeccably well-balanced finish. 2019-2045+. **94**.

**2014 Chablis “Vaudésir”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Vaudésir from Domaine Michel is utterly classic, offering up a deep and properly reserved bouquet of green apple, pink grapefruit, a very complex base of limestone minerality, beeswax and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and very racy in personality, with a fine core, lovely cut and grip and exceptional focus and balance on the very long finish. This is just a tad deeper and a longer than the superb Montée de Tonnerre this year, though the top Domaine Michel premier cru this year is clearly of grand cru quality as well. 2020-2060. **94+**.

**2014 Chablis “Grenouilles”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 Louis Michel Grenouilles is a beautiful wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a very precise blend of Granny Smith apple, fresh lime, flinty soil tones, orange zest, wet stones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and a bit more primary in profile than the Vaudésir, with a superb core of fruit, great transparency, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the nascently complex finish. High class juice. 2021-2060. **94+**.

**2014 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Louis Michel et Fils**

The 2014 les Clos from Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel is brilliant. The stunning nose offers up a youthful blend of green apple, lemon, kaleidoscopic flinty minerality, citrus zest, spring flowers and a touch of anise in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, great cut and grip and a very, very long, very mineral and laser-like finish. To my palate, this is almost always the finest of the three grand crus in the Michel cellars, but this year, the distance between this and the other two is just a touch greater. A brilliant vintage for the Michel family's Les Clos. 2020-2060. **96**.

### **Domaine Patrick Piuze (Chablis)**

*Patrick Piuze and his fine assistant winemaker, Sylvie Quittot, have made an absolutely brilliant range of 2014s from their fine contacts in the top vineyards of Chablis. This is a model, new era négociant house, where Patrick finds parcels in top terroirs that are farmed in exemplary fashion and then offers the owners a premium to buy their grapes. The growers have the added satisfaction of knowing that their grapes will go into a single outstanding example of the respective cru, rather than being blended into a large cuvée with a bunch of more anonymous juice and lost at one of the big firms in the region. Patrick and Sylvie are very involved (where the vigneron wants company!) in the viticultural side of the equation, sometimes taking care of all the farming if a grower is older, and then they do all of the picking when harvest time comes. The 2014 wines chez Piuze were all bottled at the time of my visit, as is the custom here, and in fact, most of the vintage had already been shipped out to the domaine's importers around the globe. The natural alcohols all came in around twelve percent in 2014 and Patrick and Sylvie chose to chapitalize up a few tenths of a percent to keep the fermentations going in many of the cuvées, but the wines have stayed low octane, mineral and very svelte across the board in this vintage. The depth of complexity, the purity of expression of each terroir and the really beautiful fruit tones here make this one of the finest vintages yet chez Piuze, but both Patrick and Sylvie were quick to point out that this was more a reflection of the really exceptional vintage in Chablis in 2014, rather than anything that they had done. As Sylvie Quittot commented, "for sure, we try to do good work in the vineyards and in the cellar, but sometimes, like in 2014, we reach this level of quality because of the contributions of Mother Nature." The 2014 wines from Domaine Piuze will compete favorably with the great range of 2012s here, and these two vintages are probably the very finest produced to date at this outstanding domaine!*

### **2014 Petit Chablis- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

Patrick's Petit Chablis hails from the *lieu à dit* of La Petite Preuses, which lies up above les Preuses and Bougros at the top of the slope, and is the only example of Petit Chablis planted on Kimmeridgian limestone soils. The 2014 is a lovely wine, wafting from the glass in a vibrant blend of lemon, apple, really striking chalky soil tones and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and very pure, with impressive complexity, good intensity of flavor and lovely length and grip on the crisp and classy finish. Really a lovely middleweight. 2015-2025. **88.**

### **2014 Chablis "Terroir de Chichée"- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The vineyard for the Terroir de Chichée bottling is quite flat, so it has fared far better in the glorious Indian Summer conditions of 2014 than in the rain of the year before. The wine is superb on both the nose and palate, delivering a complex blend of pink grapefruit, lemon, chalky soil tones, a hint of the pear to come and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and rock solid at the core (particularly for a *villages*), with lovely cut and grip and a long, classy finish. Fine juice. 2015-2035. **90.**

### **2014 Chablis "Terroir de Decouverte"- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 version of Terroir de Decouverte (which hails from a parcel of vines up above Vaulorent) shows lovely inner tension on the palate, with the filigree of minerality, acidity and pure fruit really attractive. The bouquet is a blend of grapefruit, lemon, oyster shell, a touch of hay and a lovely base of chalkiness. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite deep at

the core, with lovely focus and grip and a bit more of a reserved personality than the Terroir de Chichée this year. 2017-2035. **90.**

**2014 Chablis “Terroir de Chablis”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The Terroir de Chablis hails from a parcel of vines that are on the north-facing slope that houses La Forest, and this wine has turned out beautifully in 2014. The bouquet offers up a superb constellation of pear, lemon, flinty minerality, white flowers and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very soil-driven in personality, with fine cut and grip, a rock solid core and lovely length on the vibrant finish. A very classy AC. 2016-2035. **91.**

**2014 Chablis “Terroir de Courgis”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The Terroir de Courgis hails from a vineyard with more clay than pure chalk, and this gives the wine a bit more mid-palate amplitude, which couples beautifully with the racy elegance inherent in the 2014 vintage. The wine wafts from the glass in an excellent blend of pink grapefruit, apple, a lovely base of deep soil tones, lemon peel and a topnote of hay. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with a superb core of fruit, lovely focus and grip and a long, racy and succulent finish. Another very tasty AC. 2015-2030. **90.**

**2014 Chablis “Terroir de Fyé”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 Terroir de Fyé was the only village wine from Patrick Piuze that was fermented in a fifty-fifty blend of barrels and stainless steel, as all the other AC bottlings were raised entirely in tank. The resulting wine is a bit more reserved in personality out of the blocks than these other fine *villages* bottling, delivering a pure and youthful bouquet of pear, lemon, chalky soil tones, lemongrass and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy in personality, with a good core, a fine girdle of acidity and lovely length and grip on the still fairly primary finish. Give this wine at least a year or two in the cellar to really blossom. 2017-2030+. **90+.**

**2014 Chablis “La Grande Vallée”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The new Chablis *villages* bottling of La Grande Vallée from Patrick Piuze hails from the *lieu à dit* of la Pargues, which prior to the adaption of the AOC system in the 1930s, was routinely ranked at the same level as the very top premier crus of today, but was left behind when the Appellation Contrôlée was put into place. Patrick commented “that I have been pestering the owner of these vines for more than a decade to sell me some of his production here, and in 2014 he finally relented and said if I would stop coming around and bothering him, I could buy the grapes!” The wine is truly a stunning *villages*, offering up a deep and beautifully complex nose of apple, pear, stunningly complex, flinty minerality, lemon zest and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and racy, with a lovely core of fruit, bright acids and outstanding focus and grip on the long and classy finish. 2015-2030+. **92.**

**2014 Chablis “Vaillons” Les Minots- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The subsection of les Minots in Vaillons is the warmest area of the vineyard and this has given the 2014 *chez* Piuze an almost exotic touch on the nose, as it wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet grapefruit, passion fruit, chalky soil tones, orange zest and acacia blossoms in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a lovely, ripe core, bright acids and a long, focused and succulent finish. This will be delicious right out of the blocks! 2015-2035. **92.**

### **2014 Chablis “La Forêt”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 la Forêt from Patrick Piuze is an utterly classic example of this great *terroir*, delivering a superb bouquet of apple, pear, flinty minerality, spring flowers and just a touch of beeswax in the upper register that is destined to become more pronounced with bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure, with a fine core, lovely focus and cut, impeccable balance and outstanding mineral drive on the long and complex finish. A beautiful bottle. 2015-2035. **93+**.



*Patrick Piuze in his cellars in Chablis, with a fine range of 2014 samples on the barrelhead in front of him.*

### **2014 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 Butteaux here is equally outstanding, soaring from the glass in a complex blend of pear, apple, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a lovely topnote of lime zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with exceptional focus, bright acids and a very long, precise and classy finish. Great juice. 2018-2040. **93+**.

### **2014 Chablis “Vaulorent”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

I love great Vaulorent and that is exactly what the 2014 from Domaine Piuze is this year! The superb nose offers up an exotic constellation of passion fruit, pink grapefruit, apple, a very complex base of minerality, citrus oils and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very intensely flavored at the core, with bright acids, great cut and grip and a very long, youthfully complex and tensile finish. Stunning wine. 2018-2040+. **94.**

#### **2014 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 Montée de Tonnerre from Patrick Piuze is also an absolutely stunning example of this great Chablis vintage, jumping from the glass in a nascently complex and very pure blend of apple, pear, a touch of tangerine, a great base of chalky minerality, orange zest, beeswax and white flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with superb mineral drive, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the very long and racy finish. A classic Montée de Tonnerre. 2018-2040+. **94+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Bougros”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

Patrick Piuze and Sylvie Quittot both commented on the raciness and precision on display in their 2014 Bougros, as this is the one grand cru that can sometimes be a bit fat and easy-going out of the blocks, but not this year! The superb bouquet offers up a blend of pear, apple, beeswax, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off outstanding mid-palate concentration, with bright acids, excellent focus and lift and a very long, racy and laser-like finish. Terrific Bougros. 2020-2050. **93+**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Côte de Bouquereaux”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 Côte de Bouquereaux is also exceptional, with more cut and mineral drive than the regular Bougros. The classic nose wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of pear, lemon, spring flowers, a very complex base of chalky minerality and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a rock solid core, a fine girdle of acidity, outstanding focus and grip and a very, very long, transparent and electric finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2021-2050. **95**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Blanchots”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

Patrick and Sylvie have fashioned a brilliant example of Blanchots in 2014. The bouquet is a deep, pure and complex mélange of lemon, sweet grapefruit, green apple, chalky minerality, a hint of the lemon oil to come and a potpourri of white flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off outstanding mid-palate depth, with a superb core of fruit, great mineral drive, racy acids and outstanding focus and grip on the perfectly balanced, long and racy finish. 2019-2050. **95**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Les Clos”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

The 2014 Les Clos from Patrick Piuze is a brilliant example of this great *terroir*. The deep, complex and utterly refined nose wafts from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, chalky, flinty minerality, dried flowers, just a bit of vanillin oak and a lovely topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with racy acids, great backend mineral drive and a very long, nascently complex and laser-like finish. Stunning Clos. 2022-2060. **96**.

#### **2014 Chablis “Les Preuses”- Domaine Patrick Piuze**

Like a couple of other cuvées in the cellar this year, the Domaine Piuze 2014 les Preuses has an exotic touch on the nose, as it offers up a superb blend of passion fruit, pear, kaleidoscopic limestone minerality, a hint of oyster shell, musky floral tones and a vibrant blast of citrus zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and bottomless at the core, with a great girdle of acidity, great precision and nascent complexity and a long, racy and energetic finish. Stunning juice. 2021-2060. **96+**.



### **Domaine Raveneau (Chablis)**

*The Raveneau family's 2014s are absolutely stunning young wines, with the purity of fruit and very complex minerality making them one of the finest recent vintages for this great domaine. Given the extreme difficulties of the 2013 vintage in Chablis, which Bernard Raveneau pronounced "the worst growing season of my career," it was only just that nature gave such a beautiful and easy growing season in 2014. Isabelle Raveneau noted that they started picking this year on September 17<sup>th</sup> and brought in absolutely pristine quality fruit. Of course, this being Chablis, Mother Nature was not inclined to provide two good and easy growing seasons in a row, and much of our conversation during my visit centered around the brutal late season hailstorm of September 2015, which caused widespread damage in the vineyards that were hit, not to mention Isabelle's home. She talked of hailstones the size of tennis balls (and had pictures on her phone), that absolutely devastated everything in their pathway, but that will be the story for next year in Chablis, and happily, we can focus on the brilliant 2014s chez Raveneau this year. Yields were quite "correct" here in 2014, which has allowed the family to bottle their lovely example of Chapelots this year, which in vintages with very short croploads, such as 2013, gets combined into the Montée de Tonnerre cuvée. Across the board, the typicité of each cuvée is very exciting, as the lovely, succulent fruit is embedded in classic expressions of minerality. The wines will drink with relative generosity out of the blocks, but the balance and snap for long-term aging is also very much in evidence. 2014 is just a very, very beautiful vintage for the wines from Domaine Raveneau.*

### **2014 Chablis- Domaine Raveneau**

The Chablis *villages* bottling, which is the newest in the lineup here, is really a marvelous addition and the 2014 is outstanding. I used to drink my bottles of Montmains and Forêt on the young side from Domaine Raveneau back in the day, as these were the two most forward premier crus, but it is nice to know that there is now an exceptional *villages* here to open when the temptation to drink a bottle on the young side strikes, and allow those premier crus to age properly! This particular parcel lies right alongside Montmains and is actually continuous with the domaine's plot in that premier cru. The 2014 is excellent, offering up a beautiful bouquet of apple, lemon, white flowers, chalky minerality and a touch of lemon zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish and shows a gorgeous combination of fresh fruit, minerality and zesty acids. The wine is deep at the core, quite open and pure on the attack and delivers lovely cut and grip on the long finish. This is a very, very high class and tasty bottle of AC. 2016-2035. **90+.**

### **2014 Chablis "Forêt"- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Forêt from Domaine Raveneau is a beautiful wine in the making, with the superb elegance of the vintage very much in evidence on both the nose and palate. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a refined blend of green apple, lemon, beeswax, chalky soil tones, dried flowers and the first signs of the anise to come with a bit of bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a lovely core, bright acids and lovely focus and grip on the racy and seamless finish. Lovely juice. 2018-2035+. **92.**

### **2014 Chablis "Montmains"- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Montmains from the Raveneau family is also really lovely and showing very well out of the blocks this year. This is far more yellow fruit in personality than the Forêt, offering up a pure and vibrant nose of lemon, grapefruit, wet stone minerality, dried flowers, citrus peel and a touch of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied

and beautifully balanced, with lovely accessibility coupled to fine mineral drive and bright acids. The core is deep and the fruit is pure and complex, with fine structural grip and bounce on the long finish. This is such a strikingly classic expression of the *terroir* of Montmains. 2017-2035+. **92.**

**2014 Chablis “Vaillons”- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Domaine Raveneau Vaillons is really a stunning beauty in the making. The bouquet soars from the glass in a complex blend of apple, pear, lemon, chalky minerality, a touch of beeswax, white flowers and the first vestiges of the candied lemon peel to come with further bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very pure and succulent at the core, with stunning transparency and mineral drive on the backend, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the very long and vibrant finish. A great bottle of Vaillons. 2017-2040. **93.**

**2014 Chablis “Butteaux”- Domaine Raveneau**

Butteaux tends to have a lot of clay in its topsoil, but the striking base of minerality in the 2014 version from Isabelle Raveneau is truly exceptional. The absolutely beautiful nose delivers a superb constellation of apple, pear, incipient notes of anise, beeswax, complex, minerally soil tones, a bit of lemon and an exotic, delicate topnote of mint. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with laser-like focus, superb balance and a very, very long, complex finish that closes with outstanding mineral drive. This is a great vintage of Butteaux. 2002-2050. **94.**

**2014 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Montée de Tonnerre is even better *chez* Raveneau! The bouquet offers up marvelous, kaleidoscopic minerality, to go along with notes of lemon zest, pear, apple, gentle floral tones and a touch of licorice in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and bottomless at the core, with great cut and grip, stunning mineral signature and a very, very long, vibrant and racy finish. Brilliant juice. 2020-2050. **94+.**

**2014 Chablis “Chapelot”- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Chapelot from the Raveneau family is not quite as profoundly deep and mineral as the Montée de Tonnerre, but it is a supremely elegant and complex bottle of premier cru. The gorgeous nose wafts from the glass in a blend of lemon, apple, beeswax, chalky soil tones and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and almost silky in texture, with a lovely core of fruit, superb soil signature, bright acids and laser-like focus on the very long and refined finish. This will drink sooner than the Montée de Tonnerre and will probably not be quite as long-lived, but it is an absolutely beautiful bottle of wine. 2017-2040+. **94.**

**2014 Chablis “Blanchot”- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Blanchot is also absolutely stellar in this vintage and an utterly classic expression of this great grand cru *terroir*. The bouquet delivers a fine and complex constellation of pear, apple, hints of the candied lemon peel to come, a beautiful base of chalky soil tones, a touch of anise and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and racy, with great elegance on the attack, a superb core of fruit, marvelous mineral drive and stunning length and grip on the perfectly balanced finish. A great wine. 2021-2060. **95+.**

**2014 Chablis “Valmur”- Domaine Raveneau**

The 2014 Valmur from the Raveneau family is much more reserved out of the blocks than the Blanchot, but also a bit deeper at the core and very soil-driven in personality this year. The classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, very complex limestone soil tones, beeswax, dried flowers and lemon oil in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure,

full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with classic transparency down to its minerality, bright acids and great focus and grip on the very, very long, youthful and racy finish. 2022-2065. **96.**

**2014 Chablis “Clos”- Domaine Raveneau**

In many years, I have a hard time deciding whether I prefer the Valmur or the Clos in the Raveneau cellars, but in 2014, the Clos is clearly my favorite. This is a legendary bottle of Chablis in the making in this vintage, as it soars in its aromatic constellation of gorgeously complex, kaleidoscopic minerality, apples, pears, lemon zest, white flowers and a touch of anise as a topnote for the aromatic fireworks. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and seamlessly delineated, with a great core, stunning focus and grip and a very, very long, racy and very mineral finish. This is just a brilliant young bottle of Chablis. 2022-2060+. **97+.**



*Isabelle Raveneau in the family's new section of expanded cellars in Chablis.*

***Chenôve***

**Closierie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

**2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Closierie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc from Closierie des Alisiers offers up a clean and vibrant nose of apple, lemon, chalky soil tones, dried flowers and a touch of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, zesty and quite soil-driven finish. A very tasty example. 2015-2020. **88.**

**2014 Chablis “Vieilles Vignes”- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

The 2014 Chablis “Vieilles Vignes” from Stéphane Brocard is a good solid wine, but given his family origins in this region, I was hoping for just a bit more mid-palate stuffing in this fine Chablis vintage. The bouquet is clean and correct, offering up scents of lemon, hay, wet stone minerality and white flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, rather easy-going and juicy, with good bounce and focus on the backend, but not much in reserve at the core and rather moderate complexity. 2015-2020. **87.**

**2014 Chablis “Montmains”- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

Stéphane Brocard’s 2014 Montmains is a good, solid example of the cru, offering up depth and complex on both the nose and palate, if not a ton of refinement. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of grapefruit, lemon peel, straw, wet stones and gentle smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and wide open, with good soil signature, fairly gentle acids for the vintage and good length and grip on the finish. This dips a bit in the mid-palate, which keeps its score down a bit, but there is length and complexity here. 2015-2025. **88.**

**2014 Cote de Nuits Villages- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard- Domaine Rossignol)**

The 2014 Cote de Nuits Villages from Closserie des Alisiers is a very good, solid example of its appellation, with fine depth of fruit and soil signature and enough tannic backbone to ask for a couple of years in the cellar to fully blossom. The young and promising bouquet offers up scents of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, a bit of gamebird, fresh herb tones and a fine base of dark soil. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and primary, with a good core and transparency and a long, chewy and still quite youthful finish. This is buttoned up behind its structural elements today, but should blossom into a good, solid example with a bit of bottle age. 2018-2030. **87+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

The 2014 Gevrey V.V. from Stéphane Brocard showed lovely aromatics, but seemed just a touch pinched still on the palate from its recent bottling. The bouquet is really pretty, offering up scents of cherries, strawberries, a touch of grilled meat, dark soil tones, coffee and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tightly-knit and sappy at the core, with lovely transparency, good focus and length and a bit of ripe tannin perking up the finish. I have to assume that this wine will flesh out a bit on the backend as it gets a bit more distance from its *mise*. 2018-2040. **89+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

There is a bit more new oak showing on the nose of the 2014 Chambolle V.V. from Stéphane Brocard than is the case with his fine Gevrey, but this too is a very nicely balanced and classy village wine. The fine bouquet offers up scents of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, woodsmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already quite velvety on the attack, with a fine sappy core, good soil signature and very good length and grip on the ripely tannic finish. Good juice. 2018-2040. **90.**

**2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Closserie des Alisiers (Stéphane Brocard)**

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from Stéphane Brocard is really a very good example, but it too has a bit of backend tannin that needs to be resolved before the wine starts to drink with generosity. The bouquet is very fine, jumping from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, fresh thyme, a good base of soil and coffee. On the palate the wine is medium-full, tangy and still a bit tannic, with a solid core, good transparency and a long, tangy and currently, reserved finish. Give this a couple of years to soften more completely. 2017-2030. **87.**

### **Gevrey-Chambertin:**

#### **Domaine Denis Bachelet (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*Denis Bachelet seemed as ready for November to be over as I was at the time of my visit, as where I was doing five domaine visits per day during my trip, he was seeing six delegations of tasters each day for most of the month! He commented that “we seem to get more visitors each year and they are coming earlier and earlier these days, with some of our visitors making appointments now for October and the month of November is amazingly busy with tastings.” Denis was one of Philippe Roty’s dearest and oldest friends and I am sure that the passing of Philippe in late October was a very sad moment for him and one could still feel the sense of loss that Philippe’s untimely passing has left in the Bachelet cellars. Both these gentlemen are Burgundians of the old school, with values that run as deep as their old vines in Charmes-Chambertin and it is not surprising that they had been very close since their school days. The harvest at Domaine Bachelet started on September 17<sup>th</sup> in 2014 and the malos were all completed by the late spring, so that the cellar was able to be racked during the month of June. The wines were showing beautifully in the middle of November and this will be an excellent range of 2014s when they are released in the fall of 2016. Most of the wines finished off in the 12.5 percent range for alcohol after a touch of chapitalization and show beautifully pure, black fruity personalities, great signatures of soil and plenty of sappiness at the core. I am old enough to remember Monsieur Bachelet’s 1985s when they were young, and the 2014s show some of that same beautiful sappiness to their fruit tones, though the 2014 vintage has produced a far more black fruity set of wines than the 1985s were at a similar stage of development.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

The 2014 Domaine Bachelet Bourgogne rouge is a very fine example, offering up a stylish nose of black cherries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones and just a touch of cedar in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very suave on the attack, with a good core, nice soil signature and very good balance and length on the focused finish. There is a bit of tannin here which will require a few years in the cellar, but this is a Bourgogne rouge that will show plenty of the vintage’s elegance when it is ready to drink. 2019-2035+. **88.**

#### **2014 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

The 2014 Côte de Nuits Villages from Denis Bachelet is a lovely wine, with the bouquet jumping from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, a bit of grilled meats, dark soil tones and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and already quite silky on the attack, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a nice touch of backend tannin perking up the long and classy finish. This will be a bargain. 2020-2045+. **90.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

The 2014 Gevrey Vieilles Vignes *chez* Bachelet is an excellent wine in the making. The bouquet is deep, elegant and nascently complex, as it offers up scents of black plums and black cherries, raw cocoa, gamebirds, violets, lovely soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is suave, full-bodied and will prove to be very velvety at maturity, with a fine core, fine soil inflection and a very long, moderately tannic and tangy finish. The elegance of the vintage is already very apparent here. 2020-2050. **91+.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Evocelles”- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

There are only three barrels of les Evocelles in the Bachelet cellars this year, so two of the casks were new. These vines are between fifty-five and sixty years of age, so not particularly old for Denis, but really at a fine age. The 2014 offers up a superb nose of sweet dark berries,

black cherries, dark soil tones, cocoa, grilled meats and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and suave on the attack, with a sappy core, lovely transparency and superb length and grip on the fine-grained and classy finish. This was a touch riper than many in the cellar this year and finished off at an even thirteen percent alcohol. A beautiful wine in the making. 2020-2050. **92.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Corbeaux” V.V.- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

The 2014 Corbeaux *chez* Bachelet is really special this year, as the wine displays superb backend energy on its very pure palate and superb, youthful aromatic complexity. The outstanding bouquet delivers a blend of black cherries, cassis, bitter chocolate, black minerality, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and already shows signs of just how velvety it will be at maturity, with a great core of pure fruit, stunning minerality, impeccable focus and grip and a very, very long, fine-grained and very refined finish. Utterly classic, black fruity Corbeaux. 2023-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Charmes-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Denis Bachelet**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin from Denis Bachelet is a brilliant wine in the making, but that seems to always be the case these days here. The simply superb bouquet offers up scents of black plums, sweet dark berries, raw cocoa, grilled meats, woodsmoke, a gorgeous base of soil and a fine base of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with great focus and nascent complexity, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, suave and soil-driven finish. A great vintage for this iconic bottling. 2024-2075. **96+.**

**Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*The Burguet brothers, Éric and Jean-Luc, were excited to add to their domaine’s lineup in time for the harvest of 2014, as the family has purchased the production from their uncle’s vineyards in Gevrey in this vintage. The deal was closed to buy the vineyards at the end of 2014, so they bought the fruit farmed by their uncle in anticipation of starting with the new parcels, which they farmed beginning with the growing season of 2015. Alain Burguet and his brother had split the small family domaine back when they came into their adulthood, so this reunited their father’s domaine that had been separated for a generation. It was not a large increase in vineyard holdings, as Alain Burguet’s father never had a large domaine to begin with, but it brought enough new parcels to increase the production of the Gevrey “Cuvée Symphonie” by twenty percent, the old vine Mes Favorites by ten percent and also added a new premier cru to the Domaine Burguet lineup, Lavaux St. Jacques, of which there are two casks in the 2014 vintage. Éric and Jean-Luc Burguet began picking in 2014 on September 13<sup>th</sup> this year, and the malolactic fermentations were quite brisk for all but a couple of wines, with most casks finishing up by the start of the new year. The only sluggards in the cellar with their malos were the Chambolle-Musigny and the premier cru Vosne “Rouge Dessus”, both of which bubbled along well into the summer of 2015. The cellar had not yet been racked at the time of my visit in November, as the wines were simply resting on their fine lees under a bit of remaining CO<sub>2</sub> from the malos and were showing very well. The 2014s from the Burguet brothers are an extremely transparent and red fruity set of wines, with each underlying terroir front and center in the wine’s personality, and with the balance and sappy cores of fruit to carry them far into the future, without ever demanding long cellaring to start to drink well. The structures here on the 2014s are quite apparent in the young wines, but they are seamlessly woven into the other*

*elements and these wines are going to be tempting to drink early on, due to their beautiful sense of balance. A classic range of 2014s chez Burguet.*

**2014 Bourgogne “les Pincés Vin”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The 2014 Bourgogne from the Burguet family is a very pretty and red fruity example this year. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of strawberries, cherries, a touch of cocoa, a nice touch of Gevrey soil tones and a delicate topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and nicely structured, with a good core and a bit of backend tannin adding grip and a good chassis for medium-term aging. Good juice. 2018-2030+. **88.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cuvée Symphonie”- Domaine Alain Burguet**

The 2014 Cuvée Symphonie is also very red fruity and pretty in this vintage, offering up a lovely bouquet of cherries, raspberries, a touch of meatiness, an excellent signature of soil and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and youthful in personality, with a good core, fine transparency, refined tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and tangy finish. This will need a handful of years to blossom, but it is going to drink extremely well from a fairly young age. 2020-2045+. **90.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Mes Favorites”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

It was nice to see a few more casks of the old vine bottling of Mes Favorites in the Burguet cellars this year. The wine was raised in 2014 in about a third new oak and offers up a lovely aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, violets, grilled meat, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on the attack and quite soil-driven, with a fine, sappy core, bright acids and a very long, suavely tannic and tangy finish. This is really a superb bottle in the making. 2022-2055. **92.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The 2014 Champeaux *chez* Burguet was really singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a beautifully complex and elegant blend of cherries, sappy strawberries, a gorgeous base of soil tones, gamebirds, roses, a touch of spice and a gentle framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very refined, with a sappy core of red fruit, a fine sense of reserve on the backend, bright acids and lovely focus and grip on the ripely tannic and transparent finish. This is a very, very classy example of this outstanding and rather underrated premier cru *terroir*. 2022-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The new premier cru in the Burguet cellars is excellent in 2014 and it is a shame that there are only two casks. These are sixty-plus year-old vines and the wine was raised in one new barrel and one older cask. The wine really shows the inherent elegance of the 2014 vintage in its superb bouquet of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, gentle meatiness, a fine base of soil and a refined framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with lovely focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the properly reserved finish. This is a very, very elegant rendition of Lavaux St. Jacques and a most auspicious first vintage for this bottling from the Burguet brothers. 2022-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Echézeaux”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

As the 2014 Chambolle *villages* bottling was a bit later to finish up its malo, it was a tad more unsettled at the time of my visit, but not dramatically so. The fine, sappy nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, strawberries, a touch of cocoa, rose petals, chalky soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and showing its structural elements a bit more than some of the others in the range (due to the late malo), with a sappy core, ripe tannins and



lovely transparency on the long, focused and vibrant finish. This will be a lovely bottle of Chambolle with a bit of bottle age. 2021-2045+. **90.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The Vosne *villages* 2014 is an absolutely quintessential example of the commune, offering up a vibrant nose of raspberries, cherries, cinnamon, a fine base of soil, roses and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tangy, with lovely mid-palate depth, excellent transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very long, focused and classy finish. All three village wines in the Burguet cellars this year (I rank the Mes Favorites as a premier cru in quality and do not refer to it here) are simply outstanding and each is classically reflective of its commune. 2020-2045. **90.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “Rouge Dessus”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The 2014 Rouge Dessus was showing beautifully in November and it was not readily apparent that this had been the last to finish up its malo in the cellars this year. The classic nose delivers a fine constellation of red and black raspberries, lovely minerality, Vosne spices, gamebirds, woodsmoke, violets and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with excellent transparency and mid-palate intensity. The finish is long, vibrant and soil-driven, with refined tannins, tangy acids and lovely length and grip. A fine example. 2022-2055. **92+.**

**2014 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Alain Burguet et Fils**

The 2014 Clos de Bèze from the Burguet brothers is a superb wine in the making. The wine is fairly (and properly) reserved out of the blocks, offering up a nascently complex bouquet of red plums, cherries, a mélange of spice tones, incipient notes of grilled meat, a complex base of minerality, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with great mineral drive, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the pure and still quite primary finish. A classic in the making. 2024-2070. **95.**

**Domaine Fourrier (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*Jean-Marie Fourrier was away at the time of my visit, so I had the pleasure to taste with his sister for the first time, who is one of the chief viticulturists at the domaine. As Jean-Marie was away, she did not feel comfortable showing any of the négociant cuvées and we contented ourselves with working through most of the traditional domaine bottlings of 2014. The cellar had been racked in early October into tank in preparation for bottling in the spring, but the wines were showing very well across the board at the time of my visit. As is typical of the top wines of the vintage in 2014, each and every cuvée was really a classic expression of its underlying terroir this year, with a fine serving of very pure and potentially sappy fruit layered over the striking transparency of each wine. This is a very red fruity vintage chez Fourrier, and these types of vintages are often my favorites from Jean-Marie Fourrier.*

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Fourrier**

The old vine Chambolle AC is a lovely middleweight in the making in the 2014 vintage, wafting from the glass in a red fruity mix of cherries, strawberries, chalky soil tones, roses and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and succulent on the attack, with a nice core and lovely backend tension on the tangy and focused finish. Good juice. 2020-2045. **89+.**

**2014 Morey St. Denis “Clos Solon”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Clos Solon is a lovely wine in the making as well, offering up a very pure and transparent nose of cherries, beetroot, mustard seed, coffee, spices and a fine signature of soil.

On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with a nice core, just a bit of backend tannin and lovely bounce on the long finish. A very stylish Morey AC. 2019-2045. **89.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Aux Echézeaux”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 aux Echézeaux from Domaine Fourrier is another stylish village wine, but this is a bit more reserved in profile than the previous two wines. The youthful nose offers up scents of cherries, beetroot, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke, soil and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with a good core of fruit, a bit of backend tannin and sneaky length and grip on the still fairly primary finish. This too will be quite good, but it will need a few years in the cellar to blossom. 2021-2045. **89+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Fourrier**

Of the four 2014 village wines that I tasted, the Gevrey “Vieilles Vignes” bottling was my favorite this year. The bouquet is bright and potentially sappy, as it jumps from the glass in a mix of red plums, cherries, gamebirds, raw cocoa, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke and a nice touch of spices in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with fine-grained tannins, lovely transparency and lovely length and grip on the very elegant finish. A lovely *villages* in the making. 2021-2050. **90+.**

**2014 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Petits Vougeots from Domaine Fourrier is excellent and, once again, a dead-ringer for a fine Chambolle premier cru. The lovely nose delivers a refined blend of strawberries, cherries, roses, coffee, chalky soil tones and a touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and nascent complexity and a long, vibrant and elegant finish. One of the great sleepers of the vintage. 2022-2060. **91+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Fourrier Gruenchers is also excellent, offering up a pure and perfumed bouquet of blood orange, cherries, spice tones, a touch of orange zest, a fine base of soil, cedar and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is fullish, tight and intensely flavored, with a good core of red fruit, moderate tannins and fine length and grip on the focused and still fairly primary finish. 2022-2060. **91+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cherbaudes”- Domaine Fourrier**

The Cherbaudes *chez* Fourrier is usually one of the more reserved premier crus in the lineup and this is again the case in 2014. The bouquet offers up a youthful blend of cherries, beetroot, fresh herb tones, coffee, game and a fine base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with a fine signature of soil, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the youthful and promising finish. Good juice. 2024-2065+. **91.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux”- Domaine Fourrier**

The Champeaux 2014 is really a beautiful wine in the making, with plenty of musky floral tones to go along with great fruit and soil nuances. The first class nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, *fraises du bois*, red plums, a touch of cocoa, gamebird, marvelous soil tones and a spicy topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with a sappy core of fruit, marvelous transparency, fine-grained tannins and excellent backend energy on the vibrant and complex finish. A superb young Champeaux. 2024-2065. **93+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Goulots”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 les Goulots was showing more reserved out of the blocks than the excellent Champeaux in the Fourrier cellars, but this is likely to be every bit as fine with sufficient bottle age. The bouquet is very red fruity in its mélange of blood orange, cherries, limestone soil tones,

woodsmoke, raw cocoa and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and quite tangy, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, primary and moderately tannic finish. Lovely juice in the making, but it will need a full decade's worth of bottle age to really start to drink well. 2024-2065. **93+**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combes aux Moines”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Combes aux Moines is again very red fruity this year, offering up a superb aromatic constellation of cherries, blood orange, wild strawberries, grilled meats, black minerality, mustard seed and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and tangy, with a fine core of fruit, lovely backend energy and a very long, soil-driven and tangy finish. Fine juice. 2024-2065+. **93+**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Clos St. Jacques from Domaine Fourrier is also fairly young and unevolved at the present time, but it will be a very pure and musky vintage for this great wine with sufficient bottle age. The very promising and sappy nose delivers a blend of red plums, cherries, cocoa, a beautifully complex base of soil, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, reserved in profile and very sappy at the core, with great soil inflection, suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the perfectly balanced and focused finish. 2025-2075. **94+**.

**2014 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Fourrier**

The 2014 Griotte-Chambertin from Domaine Fourrier is a great wine in the making. The deep, pure and utterly refined nose delivers scents of cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, gamebirds, beautifully complex, chalky soil tones, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a sappy core, impeccable balance, fine-grained tannins and outstanding backend energy on the very long, vibrant and transparent finish. Great juice. 2027-2075+. **96**.

**Domaine Joseph Roty (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*This was a very hard visit for me to make this year, as Philippe Roty, who had stoically battled cancer for the past three and a half years passed away only a few weeks before my appointment to taste the new vintage here. I was not sure if the Roty family would want to keep the rendez-vous after such a sad moment, but was very happy to arrive at the domaine and have a bit of time to reminisce with the family about my past visits with Philippe, as he was truly one of the nicest people I had a chance to meet over my years of visiting the region. It was wonderful to hear how Philippe was in contact with the domaine during the harvest of 2015 from his hospital room and his spirit was very much part of this vintage, which ended up being his last at Domaine Roty, as he passed away on October 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. As is typical on my annual visits to Domaine Joseph Roty, the vintage to be tasted on this occasion was the finished lineup of 2013s, rather than the 2014s still in cask, as the Roty family always prefers to show the wines once they are completely finished, rather than as works in progress. I really like this arrangement, as it allows another look back on the vintage that I had tasted primarily the year before and helps to confirm or call into question some of my impressions on a given year. Domaine Roty began picking their 2013s on October 6<sup>th</sup> of that year, bringing in high quality grapes after the arduous growing season that saw hundreds and hundreds of hours logged on the tractor fighting off all of the pestilence that the summer of 2013 though at the vines. The wines have turned out beautifully across the board and 2013 is clearly a very strong vintage for the Roty family.*

### **2013 Bourgogne Aligoté- Domaine Philippe Roty**

The 2013 Aligoté from Philippe Roty's parcel of vines is a lovely example of this underrated grape, offering up a bright and complex nose of apple, lime, chalky soil tones and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and impressively long on the backend, with a good core and fine balance. This is really a very pretty bottle of Aligoté. 2015-2020. **87.**

### **2013 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The domaine's 2013 Bourgogne Blanc is also quite tasty out of the blocks, offering up a bright aromatic mix of apple, pear, beeswax, a nice base of soil tones and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and quite juicy on the attack, with a good core, fine focus and a long, vibrant finish that closes with very good grip and cut. 2015-2020. **88.**

### **2013 Marsannay Blanc- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Marsannay Blanc from Domaine Roty is really stylish this year, wafting from the glass in a mélange of pear, green apple, a complex base of soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and quite transparent, with bright acids and very good cut and grip on the long and zesty finish. A really lovely example. 2015-2022. **89.**

### **2013 Marsannay Rosé- Domaine Joseph Roty**

It is always fun to taste the long-lived Marsannay Rosé from the Roty family, as most examples of the 2014 vintage had already been drunk up already and the domaine here is just releasing their 2013 version! This is really good Rosé, offering up a bright and serious nose of strawberries, melon, a touch of beeswax and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and has a fine core, with bright acids and fine balance on the long and bouncy finish. 2015-2020. **88.**

### **2013 Coteaux Bourguignons- Domaine Joseph Roty**

Coteaux Bourguignons is of course, the new name for Bourgogne Grande Ordinaire, and the Rotys' version has always been made entirely from pinot noir. The 2013 Coteaux Bourguignons is a very pretty middleweight, offering up a lovely bouquet of red and black cherries, cocoa, a touch of meatiness and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, juicy and fairly complex, with a nice touch of soil and good length and grip on the wide open finish. A very good basic bottle. 2015-2022+. **87.**

### **2013 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge *chez* Roty shows just a bit more structure on the backend than the Coteaux Bourguignons, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, plums, a nice dollop of soil, woodsmoke and a faint whisper of oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, pure and tangy, with a bit of tannin on the long and focused finish. Good juice. 2015-2022. **87.**

### **2013 Bourgogne "Pressoniers"- Domaine Joseph Roty**

As readers may recall, prior to the adoption of the Appellation Contrôlée laws in the 1930s, the production from the vineyard of Pressoniers used to be sold as Gevrey-Chambertin, so this has to be one of the finest *terroirs* in the firmament of Bourgogne bottlings. The Rotys' version always ages very well and the 2013 seems likely to follow that tradition, as it offers up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, grilled meat, coffee, a fine base of dark soil tones and a touch of fresh thyme in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a fine core, some backend tannin and lovely balance on the long and tangy finish. A fine bottle. 2018-2030+. **89.**

### **2013 Marsannay- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Marsannay *villages* bottling is very strong this year, delivering a complex bouquet of red and black cherries, coffee bean, dark soil tones, grilled meats and a bit of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and moderately tannic, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long finish. Really a classy AC that will drink well from early on in its lifetime. 2016-2030. **89+**.

### **2013 Marsannay “Ouzeloy”- Domaine Joseph Roty**

I have drunk cases of the Roty family’s Ouzeloy in the ’93, ’96 and ’99 vintages and can happily report that this is one of the most consistently fine, red Burgundy bargains to be found in the market. The wine ages very well and always drinks above its price tag. The 2013 is no exception, as it offers up a superb nose of plums, black cherries, grilled meat, raw cocoa, a fine base of soil and a touch of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely structured out of the blocks, with fine mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and a long, tangy finish. Really a lovey wine, year in and year out! 2020-2040. **90**.

### **2013 Marsannay “Boivin” - Domaine Joseph Roty**

The Rotys have more than seventy year-old vines in Boivin and the 2013 version has turned out very well indeed. The bouquet delivers a deep and black fruity nose of dark berries, black cherries, grilled meat, a touch of coffee bean, dark soil tones and a bit of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and shows off lovely old vine creaminess at the core, with moderate tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Another stellar value. 2020-2045. **90+**.

### **2013 Marsannay “Clos de Jeu”- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The Clos de Jeu is widely considered one of the very best *climats* in Marsannay and this will be one of the premier crus in the village when the elevation of certain parcels is completed by the INAO. The Rotys’ sixty year-old vines here have turned out a really exceptional young Marsannay, as the wine offers up a pure and complex bouquet of cassis, black cherries, grilled meats, espresso, a complex base of dark soil tones and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with an excellent core of fruit, fine focus and grip, ripe tannins and a very long, impressively complex finish. The best of a very, very strong range of Marsannays *chez* Roty in 2013. 2021-2050. **92**.

### **2013 Côte de Nuits Villages “Queue de Hareng”- Domaine Philippe Roty**

As I have noted in the past, this parcel of vines lies in the village of Brochon, right on the border of the fine vineyard of Evocelles (which is, of course, entitled to be sold as Gevrey *villages*). The 2013 is a very pretty wine, with a more high-toned personality than the Marsannays, but no shortage of intensity in its nose of black cherries, cassis, grilled meats, dark chocolate and just a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite open in personality, with fine transparency, modest tannins and a long, tangy and well-balanced finish. This will drink beautifully right out of the blocks and would be a terrific wine for restaurants. 2015-2025. **89**.

### **2013 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Gevrey *villages* from Domaine Roty is a lovely wine, wafting from the glass in a bright and classic aromatic blend of red and black cherries, sweet dark berries, grilled meat, dark soil tones and a bit of cocoa powder in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and pretty forward in personality, with a nice core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, modestly tannic and quite soil-driven finish. This will be accessible out of the blocks, but

my inclination would be to give it a few years' worth of bottle age and allow some secondary layers of complexity to emerge. A very stylish AC. 2018-2045. **89+**.

**2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champs Chenys"- Domaine Joseph Roty**

This is always one of the more elegant examples of Gevrey AC to be found in the commune and the 2013 is very stylish. The bouquet delivers a lovely mix of dark berries, cassis, grilled meat, espresso, dark soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and vibrant, with a fine core, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the poised and very well-balanced finish. Classy juice. 2021-2050+. **90+**.

**2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champs Chenys" V.V.- Domaine Philippe Roty**

The even older vines in the parcel of Champs Chenys farmed by Philippe Roty have added an extra element of refinement to the expression of *terroir* here in 2013. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a black fruity blend of sweet dark berries, French roast, woodsmoke, grilled meat, a complex base of dark soil tones and a bit of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe tannins and a very long and focused finish. This is first class Gevrey. 2022-2055+. **91**.

**2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "la Brunelle"- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 La Brunelle from Domaine Roty is also an outstanding *villages*, offering up the depth and nascent complexity of a premier cru in its bouquet of black cherries, cassis, dark chocolate, grilled meats, woodsmoke and a lovely framing of nutty oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary in personality, with a fine core, excellent balance and grip and a very long, suavely-tannic and transparent finish. 2022-2055. **91+**.

**2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur"- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Clos Prieur is also excellent, offering up a black fruity and quite youthful nose of dark berries, espresso, gentle notes of venison, black minerality, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with excellent mid-palate depth, fine soil signature and impeccable balance on the long, young and ripely tannic finish. Another Domaine Roty Gevrey AC bottling that is premier cru quality without a doubt! 2021-2050+. **91+**.

**2013 Gevrey-Chambertin "Fontenys"- Domaine Joseph Roty**

These very old vines have produced a classically deep and powerful young wine in the 2013 vintage. The bouquet is very black fruity in its blend of black cherries, ark berries, espresso, game, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a fine framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with broad shoulders, ripe tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long, very young and beautifully balanced finish. This will take a good ten to twelve years to come around, but it will a superb wine in the fullness of time. 2025-2075. **92+**.

**2013 Mazy-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Mazy-Chambertin from Domaine Roty is a superb wine in the making. The bouquet is deep, pure and still quite primary in its mélange of cassis, dark berries, grilled meat, a complex base of black minerality, Mazis herb tones and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a superb core of black fruit, great mineral drive, ripe tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very, very long, chewy finish. An exceptional 2013 in the making. 2025-2075+. **94+**.

**2013 Griottes-Chambertin- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The 2013 Griottes-Chambertin from Domaine Joseph Roty is a stunning young wine. The brilliantly complex bouquet offers up a sappy blend of red and black cherries, sweet cassis,

grilled meats, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke, mustard seed, espresso and cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a bottomless core of sappy fruit, great soil signature, ripe, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the perfectly balanced and very young finish. All this needs is time in the cellar! 2025-2085. **96.**

**2013 Charmes-Chambertin “Trés Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Roty**

The Roty family’s 2013 Charmes-Chambertin “Trés Vieilles Vignes”, which is made from what are probably the very oldest vines in all of Burgundy, is also brilliant in this vintage. The bouquet is young, pure and black fruity, wafting from the glass in a blend of cassis, dark berries, grilled meats, espresso, a fine base of dark soil tones, cedary, plenty of smokiness and an exotic touch of eucalyptus in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite youthful, with a rock solid core, excellent transparency, ripe, well-integrated tannins and great focus and grip on the very long finish. 2025-2085. **95+.**

**Domaine Armand Rousseau (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*I tasted some absolutely brilliant young red Burgundies from the 2014 vintage over the course of my two and a half weeks in the region in November, but none finer than the range fashioned by Éric Rousseau of Domaine Armand Rousseau. Do you wish to know just how good the wines could be in this vintage, then just wade into any of the amazing 2014s chez Rousseau! There is a new village wine bottling this year at the domaine, called Clos du Château, from the vineyards that immediately surround the Château de Gevrey-Chambertin. The Château was purchased by a Chinese businessman to use as a vacation house back in 2012 and he has asked Domaine Rousseau to tend the vineyard and produce the wine from these sixty to ninety year-old vines. The 2014 Clos du Château is excellent and I can only imagine that it will continue to improve as the Rousseau team starts to sink their teeth into the viticulture here. Éric Rousseau started picking on September 12<sup>th</sup> in 2014 and reported that the malos were early here, with all of them finishing up between the month of April and the end of July. The cellar had been racked before the harvest of 2015 and the wines were absolutely stunning at the time of my visit, with such a beautiful combination of ravishing fruit tones and magical transparency that it is hard to imagine a better set of 2014 reds!*

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos du Château”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The new village bottling of the Clos du Château is really a lovely wine in 2014, offering up a pure and classy nose of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, a touch of gamebird and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with lovely focus and grip, soft, silky tannins and fine length and complexity on the already quite delicious finish. This is a bit broader-shouldered than the domaine’s other *villages* bottling, as well as a bit more black fruity, but it is equally fine. I am sure that the 2014 Clos du Château will age quite gracefully, but good luck keeping your hands off of it in its youth! 2016-2035+. **90.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The “other” 2014 Domaine Rousseau Gevrey *villages* is also excellent in this vintage, offering up a more red fruity and elegant profile in its aromatic constellation of strawberries, cherries, incipient notes of grilled meat, dark soil tones, mustard seed and a pungent topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and a tad more reserved in personality than the Clos du Château, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and transparent finish. Lovely juice. 2019-2040. **90+.**





*Winter pruning in the vineyards of Gevrey-Chambertin.*

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaux St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Lavaux St. Jacques and Cazetiers were really showing well at the time of my visit and these may well be the finest renditions I have tasted of these two premier crus *chez* Rousseau. The 2014 Lavaux offers up a simply gorgeous bouquet of sappy red and black cherries, raw cocoa, black minerality, woodsmoke, gamebird and just a whisper of vanillin oak (from its one and two wine casks, as it saw no new wood). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully sappy at the core, with lovely mineral drive on the backend, fine-grained tannins and outstanding focus and balance on the complex, creamy and vibrant finish. A beautiful wine. 2022-2055+. **92.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The Cazetiers vines here are between fifty and sixty years of age now and the wine has really succeeded in 2014. The beautiful nose jumps from the glass in another sappy mélange of red plums, red and black cherries, grilled meat, dark chocolate, black minerality and just a whisper of nutty oak (again, this wine saw no new wood during its *elevage*). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, really sappy at the core, with great depth and focus, a lovely signature of soil to go with all this beautiful fruit, suave tannins and excellent focus and the long and complex finish. Truly stunning as well. 2022-2055+. **92.**

#### **2014 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Rousseau may compete favorably with the 2005 and 2010 versions here, which remain the single finest young vintages of this bottling I have ever tasted from the domaine. The 2014 is a stunning young example, delivering a superb constellation of sappy black cherries, plums, *fraises du bois*, mustard seed, espresso, beautiful

soil tones and just a touch of cedar in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and of course, sappy at the core (this is a 2014 Rousseau wine after all!), with exceptional focus and grip, lovely complexity, ripe tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and very, very soil-driven finish. A brilliant bottle of Charmes. 2025-2075. **94.**

#### **2014 Mazy-Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Rousseau version of Mazy-Chambertin is an absolutely quintessential expression of this fine *terroir*, wafting from the glass in a black fruity blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, coffee bean, black minerality, a touch of currant leaf, roasted game and a discreet topnote of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with great transparency, a lovely core of fruit, ripe tannins and a very, very long, tangy and laser-like finish. 2025-2075. **93+.**

#### **2014 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Clos de la Roche *chez* Rousseau was raised in ten percent new oak this year. The wine is stunning, offering up a great combination of complexity and purity in its bouquet of sappy red and black cherries, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, gamebird, a very classy base of soil, fresh thyme and a whisper of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure, full-bodied and very, very transparent. The wine is absolutely loaded with fruit at the core and yet is completely soil-driven on the backend, with suave tannins, bright acids and great focus and balance on the utterly seamless and complex finish. Again, have I ever tasted a better young vintage of Clos de la Roche from the domaine? 2024-2075. **94+.**

#### **2014 Ruchottes-Chambertin “Clos des Ruchottes”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Clos des Ruchottes was aged in twenty percent new oak this year and the wine absolutely shines in its expression of *terroir* as a result, yet this wine has some of the most beautiful young fruit tones I have ever tasted in a red Burgundy out of cask! The stunningly pure and sappy nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of red plums, cherries, cocoa powder, a very complex base of dark soil tones, gamebird, a hint of cedar and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a marvelously reserved personality that is absolutely bursting at the seams with sappy fruit! The finish is very, very long, focused and suavely tannic, with stunning soil signature and boatloads of energy. Domaine Rousseau’s greatest young vintage of Clos des Ruchottes? 2025-2075. **96.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Clos St. Jacques from Domaine Rousseau is also a great young wine in the making, but this wine was raised in seventy percent new oak and it really seemed subdued after the blazing display of *terroir* found in the Clos des Ruchottes! The bouquet is deep and complex, offering up scents of red and black cherries, grilled meats, cocoa, coffee, a complex base of minerality and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, lovely structure and balance, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and still quite primary finish. This will be terrific wine in the fullness of time, but I could just not help thinking what it might have looked like if treated like the Clos des Ruchottes and raised in only twenty percent new wood. 2025-2075. **95.**

#### **2014 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

By the time I arrived at the Clos de Bèze and Chambertin here, I was emotionally spent from the symphony of 2014 brilliance that had preceded them. However, both these wines are so profound that there is no doubt that they are the two red wines of the vintage this year! The 2014 Clos de Bèze soars from the glass in a brilliantly expressive nose of red and black plums, red and black cherries, gorgeous minerality, raw cocoa, gamebirds, violets and cedary new wood. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with magical soil inflection, laser-like focus, enormous nascent complexity and a very, very long, tangy and fine-grained finish of enormous energy and seamless balance. Stunning juice. 2027-2090. **99+**.

#### **2014 Chambertin- Domaine Armand Rousseau**

The 2014 Domaine Rousseau Chambertin is every bit as magical as the Clos de Bèze this year, offering up a pure and utterly refined bouquet of black cherries, plums, black raspberries, grilled meats, cocoa, a gorgeous base of soil, woodsmoke, violets and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very pure on the attack and quite primary on the backend, with a sappy core of fruit, great transparency, ripe, suave tannins and simply stunning length and grip on the youthful and very, very complex finish. Brilliant wine. 2025-2090. **99+**.

#### **Domaine Trapet Père et Fils (Gevrey-Chambertin)**

*Jean-Louis Trapet was very, very happy with the quality of his 2014s and he was one of the few vigneronns that I visited this past November who was even more excited about the possibility of his 2015s that were percolating away in cask as well. We even tasted a couple of his 2015s that were not yet in malo to see their size and shape, but the only impression I was able to glean from them was that they seemed really very low in terms of malic acids. But, I am happy to defer to Jean-Louis' expertise and wait to see the wines in a more complete state next year. In the meantime, there were the absolutely superb 2014s chez Trapet to focus upon for this visit and the wines were showing superb potential, with the pure and sappy fruit of 2014 coupled to great transparency and velvety textures that are going to make these wines very, very popular with Burgundy connoisseurs in the coming decades. The wines typically came in with potential alcohols around 12.4 or 12.5 percent this year and Jean-Louis reported "chaptalizing them just two or three-tenths of a percent solely to keep the fermentations going a bit longer." He chose to retain stems in a few of the cuvées that had the finest quality stems, but there was probably just a touch less whole clusters used here this year than in the past few vintages. The wines are absolutely stunning across the board and quintessential examples of just how good the 2014 vintage is at the best addresses this year.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc *chez* Trapet is a nice pretty wine, wafting from the glass in a mélange of apple, ripe peach, a touch of white soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, round and juicy on the attack, with bright acids and sneaky length and grip on the finish. A tasty example. 2015-2020. **86**.

#### **2014 Marsannay Blanc- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The Domaine Trapet Marsannay Blanc is a cuvée of eighty-five percent chardonnay the rest made up of a field blend of pinot blanc and pinot beurot. The 2014 is lovely, offering up a bright constellation of apple, white peach, floral tones and a lovely base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with a good core, fine transparency and impressive backend energy on the long and focused finish. Good juice. 2015-2023. **89**.

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge "à Minima"- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The Minima bottling from the Trapet family is a fifty-fifty blend of pinot noir and gamay, with the vines for this parcel both planted in 1965 by Jean Trapet. The 2014 version is bright and tasty, offering up scents of cherries, sweet cranberries, fresh herb tones, soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, vibrant and juicy on the attack, with solid depth, modest tannins and a long, balanced and tangy finish. 2015-2020. **87**.

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The Bourgogne Rouge 2014 had already been bottled just before the harvest of 2015 and was still a bit agitated from its recent *mise*. This is from vineyards in Gevrey-Chambertin and Gilly and the wine offers up a promising bouquet of red and black cherries, cocoa, a nice dollop of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full and succulent on the attack, with solid depth at the core, just a bit of tannin and a long finish. I am sure the focus here will snap back into place nicely with a bit more recovery time and this should ultimately place at the high end of the range of scores. 2016-2025+. **86-88.**

#### **2014 Marsannay- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Marsannay was still in cask and was really singing at the time of my visit. The first rate bouquet delivers a very red fruity blend this year of cherries, a touch of pomegranate, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and raw cocoa. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and very transparent, with a fine core, modest tannins and a long, focused and nascently complex finish. This is going to be a very lovely bottle of Marsannay. The wine will be delicious to drink right out of the blocks, but a couple of years in the cellar will allow more secondary complexity to emerge. 2015-2030. **89+.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Gevrey AC from Domaine Trapet is also excellent, albeit a more reserved than the Marsannay out of the blocks. The wine delivers a fine nose of red and black cherries, a touch of nutskin, dark soil tones, bitter chocolate and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very suave on the attack, with fine intensity of flavor, tangy acids and excellent focus and grip on the beautifully balanced and classy finish. 2018-2040. **90.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Ostrea”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The Ostrea bottling of Gevrey *villages* from Jean-Louis Trapet hails from the four oldest parcels of *lieux à dits* parcels that the family has in Gevrey-Chambertin, with the oldest plot having been planted in 1913. This is always an excellent old vine bottling of Gevrey and the 2014 is outstanding, wafting from the glass in a blaze of plums, red and black cherries, raw cocoa, black minerality, woodsmoke, gamebirds and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved on the attack, but with a very sappy core, lovely soil signature and fine length and grip on the moderately tannic and utterly seamless finish. High class *villages*. 2021-2050+. **91.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Petite Chapelle”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

Jean-Louis Trapet decided to use fifty percent whole clusters for his Petite Chapelle this year and the wine is outstanding. The superb nose delivers a vibrant and fairly red fruity constellation of red plums, red and black cherries, cocoa powder, a very elegant base of soil, gamebirds, a touch of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and silky on the attack, with a superb core, a very refined personality, suave tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. Petite Chapelle is always one of the most refined premier crus in the village and this quality has perfectly dovetailed with the style of the 2014 vintage. 2021-2060. **92+.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Prieur”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

Where the style of the *terroir* of Petite Chapelle is a perfect fit with the elegance of the 2014 vintage, here, the more rustic nature of young Clos Prieur is perfectly tamed by the vintage and the wine has turned out impressively refined right out of the blocks this year. The very red fruity bouquet is flat out stunning, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of blood orange, cocoa, dark soil tones, smoke and a deft framing of nutty new wood. On

the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and beautifully transparent, with a sappy core, suave tannins, fine length and outstanding elegance for Clos Prieur out of the blocks. This is another excellent premier cru *chez* Trapet in 2014. Like the Petite Chapelle, this is fifty percent whole clusters as well this year. 2021-2060. **92+**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Capita”- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The premier cru bottling of Capita is made from three small parcels of vines in the vineyards of Combottes, Corbeaux and Ergot. The 2014 version was made entirely with whole clusters and has turned out beautifully, wafting from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, dark plums, grilled meat, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, fresh herbs and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a superb core of fruit, ripe tannins and outstanding focus and balance on the very long, ripely tannic finish. Excellent juice. 2024-2065. **93**.

**2014 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Domaine Trapet Chapelle-Chambertin is a superb bottle in the making. The bouquet is deep, pure and nascently complex, as it offers up scents of red and black plums, black cherries, cocoa powder, a great base of soil, gamebirds, a touch of nutskin and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and fairly reserved in profile, with a sappy core of black fruit, great soil signature, fine-grained tannins and magical length and grip on the seamless and utterly refined finish. 2025-2075+. **95**.

**2014 Latricières-Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Latricières-Chambertin from Jean-Louis Trapet is every bit as brilliant as the Chapelle, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, sweet dark berries, a complex base of soil, gamebird, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with marvelous nascent complexity, a rock solid core, excellent transparency, suave tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the long, youthful and utterly classic finish. 2025-2075+. **95**.

**2014 Chambertin- Domaine Trapet Père et Fils**

The 2014 Chambertin from Domaine Trapet was the youngest wine in the cellar and was still a bit adolescent in profile, as it was in the midst of absorbing its new wood and slower in its evolution in cask than the other two grand crus. However, it is also very easy to see that this is going to be a brilliant wine, as it offers up scents of red plums, red and black cherries, grilled meat, kaleidoscopic black minerality, woodsmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with stunning purity, fine-grained tannins and excellent grip and focus on the very, very long finish. A great, great example of Chambertin in the making. 2026-2100. **97**.

***Morey St. Denis***

**Domaine Dujac (Morey St. Denis)**

*As is typical in November, the 2014s at Domaine Dujac were in varying stages of development at the time of my visit, with some wines already having been racked and assembled in tank for bottling early in the new year, others racked from cask to cask and other still sitting on their fine lees and not yet racked. That is Burgundy’s November rhythm. Jeremy Seysses was in good spirits and very content with the quality of the 2014s here, though he was fighting off the same cold that everyone seemed to have or just have had in November here, and which I was also pushing through at the time of my visit. That’s also part of Burgundy’s November rhythm these days, as it seems a very significant portion of the world descends upon the Côte d’Or in*

*advance of the Hospices de Beaune auctions, and this was especially true this year with all the early hype surrounding the 2015s. Jeremy Seysses had two new Puligny-Montrachet cuvées in the cellar this year, as starting with the 2014 vintage, the domaine will be producing bottlings of Folatières and Combettes, which made for a very pleasant surprise for the end of the tasting. Most of the malolactic fermentations for Domaine Dujac's 2014s finished up in July of 2015, but there were a few stragglers that waited until well into September to finally wrap up their secondary fermentations, so the Echézeaux and Charmes-Chambertin were a bit behind their siblings in the cellar this year. Others were a touch reduced and ready for a racking, which was scheduled for a couple of days after my visit, so every wine was on its own schedule. I also tasted occasionally out of a new cask, as it was showing at a more representative point in its evolution in Jeremy's mind than the older casks of the same wine, so my notes occasionally will not a touch more new oak than the wine will ultimately possess down the road. Normally I prefer not to taste out of new wood, but am always happy to defer to Jeremy's familiarity with a given wine. Despite some wines being a bit cranky from their recent rackings or from late malo termination, enough of the range was singing to see that 2014 is a brilliant vintage at Domaine Dujac and Jeremy, Diana and Alec Seysses have not missed the opportunity the vintage presented to them and have fashioned a simply stunning lineup of wines in 2014. As were joined by a few other tasters on this visit, with some bringing unannounced guests with them, we were a pretty big group in the cellar and consequently did not taste the 2014 Chambertin or Romanée-St.-Vivant on this day.*

### **Domaine Dujac Vins Rouges**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père**

The Dujac Fils et Père wines are always the most difficult to taste in November, as they are the first to be assembled in tank in preparation for bottling in the new year, and this November they had only been racked three days ahead of my visit. Despite this, the 2014 Morey village was showing pretty well, offering up a pure nose of black cherries, plums, cocoa, a touch of forest floor and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a good, solid core, gentle tannins and lovely shape and bounce on the elegant finish. Good juice in the making. 2015-2035. **89.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Dujac Fils et Père**

The 2014 Gevrey-Chambertin from Dujac Fils et Père was a bit grumpier in the wake of its recent racking than the Morey, but shows lovely, black fruity notes on the nose of cassis, black cherries, dark soil, woodsmoke and gentle meatiness. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and tangy, but also fairly agitated from just having been moved out of the comfort of the cellar to the cool stainless steel tanks in the cuverie. I am sure this will be quite fine, but it was a bit too out of sorts to give it a precise score. 2018-2035+. **89-90.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père**

The 2014 Fils et Père Chambolle was even more cranky from its racking. The nose shows notes of dark berries, black cherries, woodsmoke, espresso and a nice base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and quite long, but also agitated from the racking. 2018-2035. **88-90.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Damodes”- Dujac Fils et Père**

The 2014 les Damodes was completely out of rack from its racking three days prior to my visit and I did not attempt to take a precise note. The wine is deep and long, and I would assume quite pure and soil-driven, but the 13<sup>th</sup> of November was not the day to be disturbing it!

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Domaine Dujac version of Morey *villages* had not yet been racked and was showing very nicely at the time of my visit, offering up a bright and pure nose of dark berries, cassis, bitter chocolate, woodsmoke and the first hints of the venison to come. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and tangy, with lovely soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a long, very well-balanced finish. A lovely AC in the making. 2019-2045. **89+**.

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Chambolle AC from the domaine's own vines had also not yet been racked and still had just a touch of CO2 on the backend from its malo. The wine is quite black fruity this year, offering up scents of black cherries, dark berries, gamebirds, a lovely signature of soil and a touch of chocolate. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite pure on the attack, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a bit of backend tannin perking up the long finish. This will be lovely, but is quite black fruity for this cuvée in the 2014 vintage. 2020-2045. **90**.

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis "Premier Cru"- Domaine Dujac**

The Morey Premier Cru was ready for its racking and a touch reductive at the time of my visit, but was acquiescent to being coaxed out of its shell with a bit of swirling. The bouquet offers up a mix of sweet dark berries, black cherries, espresso, gamebird, dark soil tones, a touch of cedar and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very long on the backend, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. This seems likely to be a very elegant vintage for this bottling, but it will need some cellaring to start to really drink with generosity. 2022-2065+. **91+**.

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny "Gruenchers"- Domaine Dujac**

The Gruenchers was one of the 2014s I tasted out of a new cask and the wine was showing very well indeed. The bouquet offers up a lovely blend of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, gamebird, a superb base of soil, a touch of mustard seed and a generous serving of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with a sappy core, suave tannins, bright acids and lovely transparency on the long and vibrant finish. A beautiful Gruenchers in the making. 2024-2065. **93**.

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin "aux Combottes"- Domaine Dujac**

The old vines in the Domaine Dujac parcel of Combottes have really produced a magical wine in 2014, and happily, this wine was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The deep, pure and utterly superb nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, gamebird, woodsmoke, coffee, vanillin oak and a stunningly precise base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very transparent this year, with a great sappy core of fruit, exceptionally suave structural elements, bright acids and a very, very long, nascently complex and energetic finish. A great, great vintage for Combottes! 2024-2065. **94**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée "Beaumonts"- Domaine Dujac**

The Beaumonts was also tasted out of a new cask on this visit and was a bit marked by its new wood as a result. Underneath is a lovely wine, offering up scents of cassis, dark berries, bitter chocolate, venison, woodsmoke and dark soil, to go along with spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and pure, with a fine signature of soil, a good core, ripe tannins and very fine length and grip on the finish. A very elegant young Beaumonts in the making. 2024-2065. **92+**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts"- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Malconsorts from Domaine Dujac was in very good form at the time of my visit and is a stunning young wine as well. The perfumed bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend



of red and black raspberries, cherries, duck, raw cocoa, a beautiful base of soil, fresh nutmeg and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with great focus and grip, a sappy core, stunning transparency and a very, very long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. A great wine. 2024-2065. **94.**

#### **2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac**

Despite this being one of the last wines to finish up its malolactic fermentation in the Dujac cellars this year, the wine was really showing beautifully. The bouquet is deep, pure and very vibrant, offering up a complex constellation of cassis, sweet dark berries, bonfire, venison, a complex base of dark soil tones, cocoa and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is very deep, full-bodied and soil-driven in personality, with a great core of fruit, impeccable focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and a long, seamless and tangy finish of great breed and promise. 2027-2080. **95.**

#### **2014 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin was also late finishing up its malo, and unlike the Echézeaux, it was not all that happy about being tasted. This wine had not yet absorbed all its new wood and was showing a bit chewy, but all the constituent components are in place for this wine to snap into place with a bit more *elevage*. The nose is a promising blend of black cherries, cassis, grilled meat, espresso, dark soil tones and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, chewy and adolescent finish. 2025-2075. **93-94+.**

#### **2014 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac**

In contrast to the Charmes, the 2014 Dujac Clos de la Roche was in fine spirits and showing enormous potential. The brilliant bouquet offers up scents of cherries, red plums, pomegranate, gamebirds, superb soil tones, woodsmoke, raw cocoa and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a sappy core, fine transparency and a very, very long, fine-grained and elegant finish. A great vintage of Clos de la Roche from the Seysses family this year! 2025-2080. **96.**

#### **2014 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac**

The style of the 2014 vintage perfectly dovetails with the great elegance inherent in this *terroir*, so it is not surprising that the Domaine Dujac version is utterly stunning this year. The wine soars from the glass in a blaze of cherries, red plums, cocoa powder, fresh nutmeg, a fabulous base of soil tones, woodsmoke, lovely spice tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with a velvety attack, a sappy core of red fruit, stunning transparency and a supremely elegant, fine-grained and tangy finish. Hauntingly beautiful Clos St. Denis in 2014! 2025-2075+. **97.**

#### **2014 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Domaine Dujac Bonnes-Mares is every bit as brilliant as the Clos de la Roche and Clos St. Denis, offering up a deep, pure and nascently complex nose of sappy red and black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, gamebirds, a beautifully complex signature of soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and very refined out of the blocks for young Bonnes-Mares, with a great core, ripe tannins, excellent transparency and a proper sense of reserve on the very long finish. A classic in the making. 2025-2080. **97.**



*A dusting of snow coating the rooftops of Morey St. Denis.*

### ***Domaine Dujac Vins Blancs***

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis Blanc- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Morey Blanc from Domaine Dujac is a very pretty village wine, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, quince, white flowers, beeswax and a fine base of soil tones. The wine was raised in fifteen percent new wood this year, but has completely eaten up its wood and shows virtually no oak influence at the present time. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and soil-driven, with vibrant acids, lovely focus and very good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. Good juice. 2017-2030. **89.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Monts Luisants” Blanc- Domaine Dujac**

The 2014 Monts Luisants Blanc is really beautiful this year, offering up a pure and complex nose of apple, a touch of tangerine, chalky soil tones, lime peel, a touch of fresh almond, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a lovely core, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the elegant and tangy finish. A lovely bottle. 2017-2035+. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Dujac Fils et Père**

There are nine casks of Folatières in the Dujac cellars in its inaugural vintage, with two of the nine barrels being new wood. The wine is really a stylish example of this cru, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, white peach, chalky minerality, a touch of iodine, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit out of the

blocks, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil signature and a long, crisp and promising finish. A fine new addition. 2017-2040. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Dujac Fils et Père**

The new Dujac Combettes hails from slightly older vines than the Folatières and it too is excellent in 2014. The bouquet offers up an excellent constellation of apple, white peach, incipient notes of lemon oil, limestone, white flowers, bee pollen and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and quite reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, lovely focus and grip and a very classy, vibrant and youthful finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2018-2040. **93.**

#### **Domaine des Lambrays (Morey St. Denis)**

*Thierry Brouin and his team at Domaine des Lambrays started picking a bit later than some of their neighbors in 2014, with the teams going out into the vines for the first time on September 20<sup>th</sup> in this year. The wines had been racked once and the premier cru bottling from Morey St. Denis had already been bottled, four weeks prior to my visit on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, as the wine was ready according to Monsieur Brouin and there was no reason not to keep all that beautiful fruit fresh and vibrant. Though there was no hail in 2014 in their parcels in the two outstanding premier crus of Folatières and Caillerets in Puligny-Montrachet, Monsieur Brouin noted that the yields were once again very short for both wines, as they had decided to prune the canes very short in the winter of 2014, so that the plants could retain more energy to devote to regeneration of their material after all of the hail damage in recent vintages. Consequently, the canes were cut with only four “eyes” on them this year, keeping the number of bunches of grapes down and letting the plants build up their wood a bit after all the pummeling. Thierry Brouin has done an absolutely remarkable job over the course of his tenure at Domaine des Lambrays, and while I am sure that he would simply give credit to the superb terroir of the Clos des Lambrays, there is little doubt that the great work he has done over the course of his career is the reason that the Domaine des Lambrays is today one of the crown jewels in the LVMH portfolio.*

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis- Domaine des Lambrays**

The 2014 Morey villages from Domaine des Lambrays is going to be a really refined AC with a bit of bottle age, as it shares the inherent elegance of the finest 2014 reds. The bouquet offers up a quite classic blend of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of currant leaf, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced finish. A classy villages. 2020-2045+. **90.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine des Lambrays**

I was very impressed with how well the 2014 Premier Cru bottling was showing, given that it had been bottled four weeks prior to my visit. There is always a small window after the bottling when the wine is still open and not agitated, and I was lucky to catch this fine bottle in that stage, as it wafts from the glass in a pure and complex nose of black cherries, dark berries, fresh thyme, espresso, a touch of gamebird, smoke and dark soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent in personality, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip and a long, suavely tannic finish. Fine juice. 2022-2050+. **92+.**

#### **2014 Clos des Lambrays- Domaine des Lambrays**

The 2014 Clos des Lambrays is a great wine in the making. The stunning bouquet delivers a pure and sappy constellation of sweet dark berries, black cherries, woodsmoke, currant

leaf, dark chocolate, a very complex base of soil, fresh herbs and just a whisper of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with great mineral drive, refined tannins and impeccable focus and balance on the long, ripely tannic and seamless finish. 2025-2075. **95.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine des Lambrays**

The 2014 Folatières was also bottled four weeks prior to my visit, but still showing beautifully. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a lovely blend of white peach, apple, fresh almond, chalky soil tones, white flowers and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and almost silky on the attack, with a fine core, excellent soil signature, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the focused finish. 2015-2035. **92+.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine des Lambrays**

The sixty-eight year-old vines in Caillerets have really excelled in this exceptional Puligny vintage, offering up decidedly more mineral drive than the lovely Folatières in 2014. The superb nose offers up a youthful blend of apple, pear, spring flowers, kaleidoscopic limestone minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and laser-like, with bright acids, lovely grip and a very long, electric and mineral finish. Great premier cru Puligny! 2016-2035. **94.**

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

*I had the pleasure to taste with Laurent Lignier this year with Steve Tanzer, who way back in the day I used to taste with quite often when we both lived in the same neighborhood in Manhattan. I like tasting with Steve, as he is always focused and the tasting moves along at a fine pace, but I had forgotten that he also likes to see the entire range of the previous vintage as well out of bottle to follow up on his notes out of cask, so the tasting was quite a bit longer than I had anticipated! But, it was a pleasure to revisit Laurent Lignier’s fine 2013s as well, which were showing beautifully and quite consistently with my recollections of them a year ago. The 2014s here are classic beauties from the family’s parcels in the Côte de Nuits, but once again, in their handful of plots in the Côte de Beaune, the yields are very, very short due to the hail at the end of June. None of the 2014s at Domaine Lignier had been racked yet, which made them very easy to read and the wines were absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The wines all came in around twelve percent natural alcohol and were chapitalized by Monsieur Lignier anywhere from three-tenths to half a point, primarily just to keep the fermentations going just a bit longer. Most of the malos finished up in the spring or early summer of 2015 here, but there were a couple of cuvées that were decidedly later to complete and one or two were just finishing up their malos in November. Conversely, the Gevrey-Chambertin “la Justice” this year was in a hurry to finish the malo and was done by the middle of January of 2015! There is a new AC level bottling in the Lignier cellars beginning with the 2014 vintage, which is a second fine lieu à dit bottling in Pommard from the climat of En Brescul. This parcel is owned by friends of Laurent Lignier and the vines were planted eighteen years ago, so it is not as old as the vines he works with in the villages section of Chaulins. There was one more surprise in the lineup of 2014s when Monsieur Lignier pulled out the sample bottles of the grand crus, as there were three examples, rather than the customary two this year, with the domaine now having added the production from a very small plot of vines in the vineyard of Griotte-Chambertin to augment their traditional grand cru lineup of Charmes-Chambertin and Clos de la Roche! The domaine purchases enough grapes to make two barrels of Griotte-Chambertin and the 2014 is a very auspicious beginning for this most welcome new addition to the portfolio!*

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “la Bussière”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 Chambolle-Musigny “la Bussière” from Domaine Lignier hails from a *lieu à dit* that lies on the northern end of the village, right across the communal boundary from Christophe Roumier’s Clos de la Bussière in Morey. The 2014 here is showing lovely quality, wafting from the glass in a classic red fruity Chambolle blend of cherries, strawberries, fresh thyme, cocoa, a fine base of soil tones and just a bit of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very transparent, with a nice kernel of fruit in the mid-palate, gentle backend tannins and excellent focus and bounce on the vibrant finish. Just a lovely bottle of Chambolle in the making. 2020-2040+. **89.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The parcel of Morey *villages* that the Ligniers buy grapes from for this cuvée lies in the same *climat* of Trés Girard as Cécile Tremblay’s vines, and this seems to be one of the best parcels in the village at the AC level. 2009 was the first vintage for this bottling and the 2014 version from Laurent Lignier is excellent, offering up a very pretty and red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, mustard seed, coffee, a lovely base of soil and a topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and already quite velvety on the attack, with a sappy core, excellent transparency and fine length and grip on the gently tannic finish. A lovely *villages*. 2019-2040+. **90.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Trilogy”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The Lignier family’s own bottling of Morey AC, which hails from three different *lieux à dits* in the village, has been renamed “Trilogy” to differentiate it better from the Trés Girard cuvée made from purchased grapes. In 2014, this was one of the wines that was latest to finish up its malo, but was on form and offering up a lovely, quite black fruity nose of black cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebird, dark soil tones, a bit of mustard seed and notes of bitter chocolate. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, nascently complex and quite sappy at the core, with good focus and grip and a nice dollop of backend tannin on the long and very well-balanced finish. This will need a year or two more in the cellar to start to drink as well as the Trés Girard, but it too will be an excellent village wine. 2020-2045. **90+.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 Gevrey “la Justice” from Laurent Lignier is a very suave and red fruity example of the village, offering up a pure and sappy nose of cherries, red plums, cocoa, nutskins, a lovely base of dark soil tones and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very sappy at the core, with suave tannins, lovely balance and grip and a long, focused and very classy finish. Another very good AC. 2018-2040. **89+.**

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 Gevrey AC from the Lignier family’s own parcel of vines was one of the last of the wines from this vintage to finish up its malo and may not have quite completed it when I was visiting. Aromatically, there is very good depth of fruit here (mostly red and black cherries), to go along with plenty of dark soil tones, and notes of venison, smoke, cocoa and fresh herb tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and reserved in personality, with a fine core, moderate tannins and very good length and grip. I am sure that this is going to be a very good village Gevrey, but it was not really in proper form for scoring.

#### **2014 Pommard “Chanlins”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

As the section of Chanlins that is not ranked as premier cru is up higher on the slope, it was fortunate to miss the brunt of the hailstorm on June 28<sup>th</sup>, so it was not hit as hard as the lower section of the vineyard. Still, Laurent Lignier only cropped this parcel at seventeen

hectoliters per hectare, so the yields here are once again draconian in 2014. The wine is going to be excellent, as it delivers a fine bouquet of cherries, quince, herb tones, coffee and a lovely base of stony soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still showing a touch of CO2 from its completed malo, with a very good core, tangy acids and a long, moderately chewy and well-balanced finish. The slightly coarser aspect of the tannins here in comparison to the very supple Côte de Nuits *villages* bottlings in the cellars is evident, but this very soil-driven and promising wine is just going to need a year or two longer in the cellar to blossom. 2021-2045. **89+**.

**2014 Pommard “En Brescul”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The new Pommard *villages* bottling from Domaine Lignier hails from the vineyard of En Brescul, which sits up high on the slope above Pézerolles and close to the Beaune border. As these vines are substantially younger than those in Chanlins (planted between 1937 and 1947), the wine is quite a bit more fruit-driven in personality on both the nose and palate. The bouquet jumps from the glass in a fine blend of black cherries, black plums, gamebirds, woodsmoke, mustard seed, espresso and soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and already quite velvety on the attack, with a fine core of pure fruit, moderate tannins and fine length and grip on the well-balanced and quite sappy finish. Fine juice. 2018-2035+. **89**.

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Poisets”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

I have really liked this bottling of Nuits St. Georges since Laurent Lignier began producing it a few years ago and the 2014 version is excellent. The nose jumps from the glass in a very refined (particularly for young Nuits!) blend of sweet dark berries, French roast, gamebird, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a lovely base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance and a long, suavely tannic and nascently complex finish. A really stellar village wine in the making! 2022-2050. **90+**.

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Chabiots”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 Domaine Lignier Chabiots is a classic Chambolle in the making, offering up a pure and red fruity bouquet of cherries, red plums, nutskin, coffee, roses and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, suave and silky, with a fine core of fruit, lovely transparency, fine grained tannins and excellent length and grip. This will need seven or eight years to really blossom completely, but it is going to be accessible earlier than that and hard to resist drinking in its youth. 2012-2050+. **91+**.

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The parcel of vines that the Lignier family owns in les Baudes were planted in 1958 and lie in the extreme northern end of this fine premier cru, sandwiched between Bonnes-Mares above it on the slope and les Sentiers below. This is a small triangular section of the vineyard and the Lignier vines are planted here north-south because of the shape of this section, rather than with the customary east-west orientation. The 2014 version is a lovely wine, offering up a more black fruity personality on both the nose and palate, with the bouquet a mix of plums, black cherries, dark chocolate, gamebird, dark soil tones, smoke and fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine structure and balance, moderate tannins and lovely focus and grip on the vibrant and long finish. Good juice, but this will need a bit longer in the cellar than the Chabiots to blossom. 2024-2055. **91+**.

**2014 Morey St. Denis “la Riotte”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 la Riotte still had a touch of CO2 from the malo dissolved in it, but was in pretty good form for tasting beyond this bit of gas. The nose jumps from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, gamebird, cocoa, woodsmoke, lovely soil tones and a topnote of Morey

mustard seed. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a fine core, moderate tannins, excellent grip and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. I really like this wine this year! 2022-2050. **91.**

**2014 Morey St. Denis “les Chaffots”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The les Chaffots was one of the 2014s *chez* Lignier with a late-finishing malo, but the wine was in excellent shape for tasting at the time of my visit. The superb nose delivers a blend of black cherries, cassis, dark soil tones, espresso, raw cocoa, hints of fresh herbs and incipient notes of the *pigeon* to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in profile, with a fine core and soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and very well-balanced finish. Fine juice. 2024-2060. **92+.**

**2014 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The old vine bottling of Morey Premier Cru is stellar in 2014 and shows plenty of Clos de la Roche-like qualities in its aromatic constellation of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, venison, black minerality and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off a superb core of sappy fruit, with excellent transparency, ripe tannins and a long, focused and utterly seamless finish. Gorgeous wine in the making. 2024-2065+. **93.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “la Perrière”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 la Perrière was another wine with a later completion date for its malo, but it too was showing extremely well in early November. The beautifully pure and classic nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of sweet dark berries, red and black cherries, espresso, black minerality, woodsmoke, a gentle touch of fresh herbs and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with great focus and mineral drive, a sappy core, suave ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the vibrant and energetic finish. 2024-2065. **93.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

Laurent Lignier’s 2014 Combottes was also one of the last wines in the cellar to finish up its malolactic fermentation, but it too was on form in November. This will be a terrific vintage for this wine, as it delivers a lovely nose of red and black cherries, gamebird, coffee, mustard seed and an absolutely superb signature of soil. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a fine core, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the nascently complex finish. Very promising juice. 2024-2065. **93.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Cuvée Didiers”- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

Laurent Lignier has been purchasing the Cuvée Didiers from the Hospices de Nuits for ten years now and the wine is always very good in quality, but it is a bit of an outlier stylistically, as it starts out its life entirely in new oak, which Monsieur Lignier racks into two wine barrels. As a result of its starting out life in new wood, it is always quite a bit more forward in personality than the other top premier crus in the Lignier lineup, and this is again the case with the lovely 2014 version. The bouquet is a fine blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, nutskins, woodsmoke, roasted game and a bit of toasty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and displays a fine core of fruit, with ripe tannins, very good focus and grip and a long, velvety finish. Good juice. 2020-2050. **91+.**

**2014 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

There are two casks of Griotte-Chambertin *chez* Lignier in 2014, with one of the barrels new and the other a three wine barrel in this vintage. The wine is really very lovely, wafting from the glass in a complex and red fruity blend of raspberries, cherries, coffee, grilled meats, excellent chalky minerality and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very



transparent, with a great core of fruit, ripe, suave tannins and excellent focus and grip on the very long and very classy finish. A fine example of Griotte! 2025-2075. **94.**

**2014 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin from Laurent Lignier is deeper and sappier on the nose than the Griotte, jumping from the glass in a very fine blend of red and black cherries, gamebird, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, and excellent base of soil, a touch of nutskin and a gentle framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, but with a sappy core of fruit, suave tannins and lovely refinement on the very long, tangy and complex finish. 2025-2075. **94+.**

**2014 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Hubert Lignier Père et Fils**

There was a bit of hail damage in the Clos de la Roche this year for Monsieur Lignier (an isolated storm around the tenth of July), so between ten and fifteen percent of the crop was lost. This is too bad, as the 2014 Lignier Clos de la Roche is a stunning young wine! The bouquet is stellar, offering up scents of red and black cherries, plums, venison, cocoa, a very complex base of soil, mustard seed, woodsmoke and a gentle framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite primary, with a great core of ripe fruit, superb soil inflection, ripe, seamless tannins and stunning length and grip on the energetic and perfectly balanced finish. A great, great wine. 2026-2075. **96+.**

**Domaine Ponsot (Morey St. Denis)**

*As is customary chez Ponsot, Laurent Ponsot started picking in 2014 quite a bit later than most of his neighbors, as the harvest started here on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The entire lineup of 2014s here is absolutely stellar, and I am old enough to remember just how brilliantly Laurent Ponsot's lineup of 1985s showed out of the blocks, and there are loads of similarities here between the two vintages. My gut instinct is that the 2014s here are even better defined by their underlying signatures of terroir than the 1985s were thirty years ago, but the purity and beauty of the fruit elements in the two vintages are very much in accord and the 2014 vintage is destined to go down in history as one of the legendary vintages in the career of Laurent Ponsot. In addition, lest we forget, the only cru that Laurent Ponsot has stopped making since 1985 was the bottling of Latricières-Chambertin, but he has added such an amazing array of new wines through his "joint ventures" over the intervening years, that the breadth and depth of great wines produced in the cellars here is really second to none and what we are probably looking at with the lineup of 2014s here are wines that will edge out the stunning 1985s here, and also offer a far wider range of different, great terroirs with which to interpret this great vintage. There was not a wine in the lineup of 2014s that I tasted in November that I would not want in my own cellar, and this is clearly a vintage chez Ponsot where one should not worry if they cannot find the Clos de la Roche or Clos St. Denis to add to the cellar, as a cache of 2014 Ponsot wines focused around the Clos Vougeot, Clos de Bèze and Chambolle "Charmes" would also be fit for a king!*

**2014 St. Romain Blanc "les Massanges"- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 St. Romain Blanc is a really lovely wine from Domaine Ponsot this year, wafting from the glass in a bright and pure blend of apple, peach, citrus zest and a stylish base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plump on the attack, with a fine core of perfectly ripe fruit, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the focused and classy finish. Fine juice. 2015-2020. **88+.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Clos du Monts Luisants” Blanc- Domaine Ponsot**

The very old vine Aligoté planted here has really excelled in the 2014 vintage and this is one of the best recent vintages of this wine that I can recall tasting at the domaine. The superb nose offers up a deep and nascently complex mix of apple, fresh almond, beautiful chalky minerality, fruit skins and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with superb soil signature, bright acids and a very long, complex and vibrant finish. This will drink very well out of the blocks, but also age very gracefully. 2015-2030. **92.**

#### **2014 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Ponsot**

It is always such a rare treat to taste the two top grand cru white wines *chez* Ponsot, as I cannot think of anywhere else in the Côte d’Or where one can sample these wines without any new wood in the equation. The 2015 Domaine Ponsot Corton-Charlemagne is a great wine in the making, jumping from the glass in a superb blend of apple, pear, chalky minerality, buttercups, a very refined base of limestone minerality and a fair bit of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a great core of fruit, impeccable focus and balance, bright acids and outstanding grip on the very long and complex finish. Stellar juice. 2015-2045. **95.**

#### **2014 Montrachet- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Montrachet from Laurent Ponsot is magical wine in the making, with stunning depth, complexity and breed in evidence on both the nose and palate. The gorgeous bouquet delivers a refined constellation of apple, pear, orange zest, truly stunningly complex, chalky soil tones, again, a fair bit of smokiness and a distinct topnote of vanilla bean (despite the wine seeing absolutely no new wood). On the palate the wine is dreamlike in its depth and beauty, with a full-bodied format, bottomless depth, crisp acids and a very, very long, dancing and very soil-driven finish. A great, great example of Montrachet. 2018-2040+. **98.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Cuvée des Cigales”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Cuvée des Cigales is really a stellar bottle of Chambolle AC, wafting from the glass in a vibrant blend of cherries, strawberries, chalky soil tones, mustard seed and coffee. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with fine mid-palate depth, modest tannins and a long, tangy and very well-balanced finish. This will drink beautifully from the outset. 2015-2035. **89+.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes” from Domaine Ponsot is outstanding, delivering a deep and pure bouquet of sappy red and black cherries, beetroot, mustard seed, a beautiful base of minerality and a bit of coffee in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very mineral in personality, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip, moderate tannins and a very long, suave and classy finish. A quintessential example of this lovely premier cru. 2020-2060. **93.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis Premier Cru “Cuvée des Alouettes”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Cuvée des Alouettes from Monsieur Ponsot is very, very red fruity in personality this year, as it offers up a superb nose of cherries, beetroot, mustard seed, a complex base of soil, gamebird and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, transparent and very complex, with a sappy core of red fruit, fine soil signature and superb focus and grip on the long finish. Excellent juice. 2021-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Corton “Cuvée du Bourdon”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Corton “Cuvée du Bourdon” is another excellent young wine in the making, but, in proper Corton fashion, it will want a bit of extended time in the cellar to really start to sing. The fine nose offers up a promising blend of cherries, red currants, venison, woodsmoke, dried herbs and a fine base of stony soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent, with a rock solid core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and fine length and grip on the very pure and still quite primary finish. 2024-2075. **93+**.

**2014 Charmes-Chambertin “Cuvée de Merle”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin “Cuvée de Merle” from Domaine Ponsot shows off a nicely reserved personality as well out of the blocks, but with plenty of depth and dimension lying in wait. The bouquet is a classic blend of cherries, beetroot, grilled meats, mustard seed, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a fine core, very good balance and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, reserved and classy finish. This will be a lovely example. 2022-2060. **93+**.

**2014 Griotte-Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Griotte-Chambertin from Laurent Ponsot is a stunning wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a very red fruity mélange of cherries, beetroot, a touch of red plum, gentle notes of grilled meat, a superb base of limestone, mustard seed and woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, lovely focus and grip, suave tannins and a very, very long, tangy and impeccably balanced finish. Great Griotte in the making. 2025-2075. **95**.

**2014 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Ponsot**

Laurent Ponsot makes one of the most beautiful examples of this very, very underrated Gevrey grand cru and the 2014 Chapelle looks likely to be one of his finest vintages ever from this *terroir*. The stunning nose delivers a sappy constellation of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, a touch of meatiness, mustard seed, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already quite velvety on the attack, with a sappy core, great soil inflection, suave, ripe tannins and stunning backend energy on the focused and very, very pure long finish. 2025-2075. **95**.

**2014 Chambertin “Vieilles Cuvée Vignes”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Chambertin “Vieilles Vignes” is also outstanding, offering up a very red fruity personality this year in its bouquet of cherries, red plums, fresh herb tones, coffee, woodsmoke and a marvelously complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe, refined tannins, outstanding focus and grip and a very long, focused and still quite primary finish. 2025-2075. **94+**.

**2014 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Domaine Ponsot**

As much as I like the 2014 Chambertin *chez* Ponsot, there is an extra element of depth and nascent complexity already in evidence in this gorgeous Clos de Bèze. The stunning nose wafts from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, plenty of smokiness, a touch of the grilled meats to come, an exotic dollop of eucalyptus, coffee, fresh herbs and a faint echo of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and loaded with pure fruit at the core, with great transparency, ripe tannins and a very, very long, tangy and simply magical finish. A great vintage of Clos de Bèze. 2025-2075. **96+**.

**2014 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Clos Vougeot from Laurent Ponsot is also a stellar wine, and after the amazing lineup of grand crus in Gevrey, it is very impressive that this wine has no difficulties following

suit. The pure and youthful nose soars from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, dark berries, venison, woodsmoke, mustard seed and a great base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a gorgeous core of sappy black fruit, impeccably refined structure, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the seamless finish. This is a great example of Clos Vougeot and it will be every bit as complex and profound at its apogee as the top Gevres *chez* Ponsot in 2014. 2025-2075. **95.**

**2014 Clos St. Denis “Trés Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Ponsot**

These very, very old vines in Clos St. Denis will celebrate their one hundred and tenth birthday in 2015, as they were planted all the way back in 1905! A lot has changed in the world since these vines were young. The 2014 version of this iconic wine is utterly brilliant, offering up a deep and vibrant nose of red and black cherries, gamebird, fresh thyme, complex minerality, woodsmoke and a distinct touch of cedar in the upper register (despite the wine being raised entirely in venerable casks). On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with great precision and balance, ripe tannins and a very, very long, tangy and still quite primary finish. 2025-2075. **96+.**

**2014 Clos de la Roche “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Ponsot**

The 2014 Clos de la Roche from Laurent Ponsot is a fittingly beautiful conclusion to this *tour de force* of wines in this vintage, as it offers up a pure and brilliant nose of cherries, pomegranate, beetroot, mustard seed, a stunningly complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke and gamebirds. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, loaded with sappy fruit at the core, with outstanding focus and complexity, ripe tannins and superb balance and grip on the very soil-driven and aristocratic finish. A brilliant example of Clos de la Roche. 2025-2075+. **97.**

**Domaine Cécile Tremblay (Morey St. Denis)**

*As I commented last year, with Cécile Tremblay's son having been born in 2014, this was destined to be a great vintage for her and indeed, that is exactly what it has turned out to be. As her daughter was born in 2012, both her children seem to have a penchant for arriving only in the very finest vintages! Cécile was in a reflective mood at the time of my November visit, as she compared the non-stop work of the 2013 growing season with the smooth sailing of 2014: “All we did was rent a refrigerated truck for the incoming grapes at harvest, and let them cool down overnight before we pressed them, and after that, we simply did nothing- nothing at all until now.” She continued, “in my earlier years, I might have been tempted to do things in the cellar to try and help make the wines, but the reality was that the grapes were just perfect in 2014 and there was really nothing that could be done during the winemaking to improve upon what came in from the vineyard!” The wines had not yet been racked and were simply resting comfortably in cask on their fine lees, with racking planned for early next year to assemble the wines in preparation for spring bottling. Madame Tremblay has made gorgeous wines every year since she first began in 2003, but I got the sense that her 2014s are going to compete favorably with her beautiful lineup of wines in both 2010 and 2012 as the finest she has yet made in her career. If I were forced to choose only one of these three vintages for my cellar, I think I would go with the 2014s! There is a purity and transparency to these beautifully elegant and seductive wines in this vintage that is the stuff of legend, and anyone lucky enough to secure some of the domaine's 2014s is going to count themselves very lucky a decade down the road! She began picking on September 7<sup>th</sup> and brought in grapes of perfect ripeness, so that she only chapitalized one or two-tenths of a degree just to keep the alcoholic fermentations going a bit longer. The malos finished between late spring and mid-summer of 2015, and the entire range is emblematic of the*

*very finest attributes of the red wines of the 2014 vintage, with stunningly pure and generous fruit tones, very precise and transparent expressions of terroir and suave, fine-grained tannins that already give the wines a seamless feel on the palate. This is a simply stunning lineup of young Burgundies!*

#### **2014 Bourgogne “la Croix Blanche” Rouge- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The vines for the domaine’s Bourgogne are situated primarily in Vosne-Romanée (and the cuvée takes its name from this *lieu à dit*), augmented with a small parcel of vines in Chambolle-Musigny. The nose is flat out gorgeous already, jumping from the glass in a mix of black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, a nice touch of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and very elegant in profile (particularly for a young Bourgogne), with a sappy core and a long, tangy and velvety finish. This will drink beautifully from release and has the balance to age gracefully for a dozen years or more. Along with the Mugneret sisters example of Bourgogne, this was the finest example I tasted on my November trip! 2016-2030+.

**88.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Trés Girard”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The 2014 vintage of Trés Girard is a really beautiful village wine in the making, offering up a pure and sappy nose of black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, a beautiful base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with a fine signature of soil, just a bit of suave tannin and lovely length and grip on the focused and elegant young finish. This too will drink very well with only a few years’ worth of bottle age, but will also be quite long-lived. 2018-2040. **91.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cabottes”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The les Cabottes bottling of Chambolle AC hails from three different *lieux à dits*, Premiers, aux Echanges and Maladières, with many of the vines in these parcels quite venerable. The 2014 is another outstanding village wine, offering up a sappy bouquet of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, a touch of nuttiness, lovely soil tones, a bit of new wood and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite voluptuous in style, with fine mid-palate depth, refined tannins, superb focus and grip and a very long, bouncy and vibrant finish. This is really a very, very fine village Chambolle, and another 2014 that will combine beautiful early accessibility with the possibility of longer-term aging. 2018-2040. **91.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The old vine bottling of Vosne *villages* will be raised in thirty percent new wood in 2014. The wine is another stellar AC in this vintage, jumping from the glass in a classy constellation of plums, black cherries, woodsmoke, duck, a really lovely base of soil and a nice framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very sappy at the core, with great transparency, seamless tannins, tangy acids and a very long, graceful and almost effortless finish. At this point in the tasting this had already been a real *tour de force*, and we had not even gotten to any of the premier crus! 2014 is just a great, great vintage for Cécile Tremblay! 2020-2045. **91+.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

Cécile Tremblay’s 2014 Feusselottes is a stunning wine in the making, soaring from the glass in a magical blend of black cherries, black plums, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, raw cocoa, violets and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy, with great transparency, fine-grained tannins, impeccable focus and balance and a very, very

long, energetic and tangy finish. These vines are between sixty and seventy years of age and have really excelled in this vintage. 2022-2060. **93+**.

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Beaumonts”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The 2014 Beaumonts here was a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but was likely to be one of the first wines raked in the coming weeks. With a bit of swirling the wine emerges beautifully, offering up a lovely bouquet of dark berries, black plums, espresso, dark soil, gamebirds, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and very soil-driven in personality, with a great sappy core, ripe, suave tannins, good acids and perfect balance on the long, refined and succulent finish. A marvelous Beaumonts in the making. 2024-2060. **93**.

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Rouges Dessus”- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

This parcel is always the last to be picked by Madame Tremblay, as it sits up above Echézeaux with a northeasterly exposition and ripeness arrives here quite a bit later than in most of the other premier crus in Vosne. As Cécile notes, “my parcel of Echézeaux is only a few hundred meters below this in the *climat* of Du Dessus (Echézeaux “Rouge du Bas” lies between these two *climats*), but I typically pick my grapes in Echézeaux at least ten days earlier than in this premier cru because of the elevation.” The 2014 version of les Rouges Dessus is clearly the finest example of this premier cru I have ever tasted from anyone, including Cécile, as the perfect Indian Summer weather has allowed this wine to reach a gorgeous apex of ripe purity. The celestial nose wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, black plums, woodsmoke, a superb base of dark soil tones, a dollop of hazelnut-like nutty overtones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off beautiful mineral drive, with a great core of black fruit, suave tannins and a nice sense of reserve on the very, very long, vibrant and extremely precise finish. Beaumonts is the more famous of the two Vosne premier crus in Cécile’s portfolio, but this is the one I would be searching out most energetically in 2014! 2024-2060. **94**.

**2014 Chapelle-Chambertin- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The Domaine Tremblay parcel of fifty year-old vines in Chapelle-Chambertin lie in the subsection known as Gémeaux, which traditionally is the finest part of the vineyard of Chapelle, with the Rossignol brothers of Domaine Rossignol-Trapet to one side and Claude Dugat on the other of Cécile’s plot of vines. The 2014 version here is brilliant, soaring from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, black plums, grilled meat, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a hint of cocoa powder, violets and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and sappy on the attack, with stunning soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, youthful and vibrant finish. A brilliant example of this most underrated of Gevrey grand crus. 2025-2075. **95+**.

**2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Cécile Tremblay**

The 2014 Echézeaux from Domaine Cécile Tremblay is destined to be one of the reference point wines of the vintage. The bouquet is deep, youthful and flat out great, as it offers up a blend of cassis, sweet dark berries, venison, smoke, dark soil tones, a touch of fresh herbs, bitter chocolate and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and laser-like in its focus, with a plush core of pure fruit, marvelous *typicité*, ripe tannins and a very, very long, complex, soil-driven and utterly seamless finish. There have not been too many examples of Echézeaux made like this since Henri Jayer retired! 2025-2075. **96+**.



*The vineyard of Feusselottes in Chambolle-Musigny, as the winter sun tries to break through the clouds.*

### **Chambolle-Musigny**

#### **Domaine Ghislaine Barthod (Chambolle-Musigny)**

*Ghislaine Barthod has made really lovely wines in 2014, though she noted during my November visit that “the cellar is starting to cool a touch and the wines were showing more silky a few weeks ago, but now they are showing more structure.” Madame Barthod began harvesting on September 15<sup>th</sup> in 2014, with the malos finishing up in the late spring and early summer and the entire cellar was racked before the harvest of 2015. Natural alcohol levels came in for vintage 2014 between twelve and 12.3 percent and most wines were chapitalized about a half degree. There was no hail damage in the Barthod parcels in 2014, as the hail in Chambolle was centered on the southern vineyards and most of Ghislaine’s plots of vines are on the northern side of the village. The 2014s are classic expressions of the vintage, with very pure and potentially velvety fruit tones coupled to great transparency. The structures are suave, but most of these wines are going to age very well and want some time in the cellar to really start to stir and blossom properly. A fine, fine range chez Barthod in 2014!*

#### **2014 Bourgogne “Bons Batons”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Bon Batons was showing very nicely in November, offering up a pretty nose of cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine



is full-bodied, focused and nicely transparent, with a good core of ripe fruit, lovely balance and just a touch of backend tannin perking up the long finish. A lovely example. 2017-2030. **88.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Chambolle *villages* from Ghislaine Barthod had hunkered down quite a bit as the cellar cooled and was showing nicely reserved in profile in mid-November. The bouquet is bright and classy, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, pomegranate, bitter chocolate, vinesmoke, chalky soil tones and a touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite soil-driven in personality, with suave tannins, a lovely core and very good length and grip on the poised and very well-balanced finish. This will need a few years to really blossom, but will still drink very well from an early age. 2020-2050. **89+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Combottes *chez* Barthod is a very classically red fruity young Chambolle this year, offering up a vibrant nose of cherries, strawberries, roses, a fine base of soil, nutskin and just a touch of mustard seed on top. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and tangy, with a fine signature of soil, lovely red fruit at the core, bright acids and lovely bounce and grip on the focused and classy finish. A very pretty bottle in the making. 2021-2050+. **90+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Chatelots”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Chatelots was really showing lovely sappiness on both the nose and palate at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, a touch of gamebird, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely transparent, with a sappy core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and a long, poised and beautifully balanced finish. This too will drink really well from a young age, but has the balance to also age very gracefully. Fine, fine juice. 2020-2055. **91.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Beaux Bruns”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Beaux Bruns had closed down a bit more than the Chatelots in Madame Barthod’s cellars and was showing a more reserved profile at the time of my visit. The bouquet offers up a fine constellation of red plums, black cherries, fresh herbs, a complex base of soil and vinesmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on the attack and rock solid at the core, with ripe tannins, fine focus and very good balance on the long and fairly primary finish. This will be very good indeed. 2022-2055+. **91+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

One could sense that the 2014 les Baudes was starting to shut down at the time of my visit, but that it had to be all silk and velvet on the palate only a few weeks earlier, as there is still really lovely sappiness at the core and utterly refined structural elements on display here. The nose is really lovely, offering up scents of red and black cherries, pomegranate, woodsmoke, gamebird, dark soil tones and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very pure again on the attack, with a sappy core, fine transparency and a long, focused and ripely tannic finish. Baudes is often like a baby Bonnes-Mares and quite broad-shouldered in its youth, but the inherent elegance of the 2014 vintage has given this a veneer of refinement right out of the blocks that is very exciting. 2022-2060. **92.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Barthod Gruenchers was really singing at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a red fruity blaze of strawberries, cherries, a touch of blood orange, chalky soil tones, roses and mustard seed. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly suave, with excellent mid-palate depth, bright acids, very fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip

on the transparent and sappy finish. Gruenchers is such a beautiful *terroir* and the 2014 version *chez Barthod* is really a stunning wine in the making. 2021-2060. **93.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 Charmes from Domaine Barthod is another absolutely classic example in the making, delivering a fine bouquet of cherries, a touch of beetroot, lovely minerality, a touch of cocoa, mustard seed and peonies in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and fairly reserved in profile at the present time, with fine mid-palate depth, lovely transparency and a very long, focused and ripely tannic finish. The balance here is outstanding and all this really superb example of Charmes needs is some bottle age to allow it to blossom fully. 2021-2060. **92+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées” - Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The seventy year-old vines here in les Fuées produced a very small crop in 2014, with Madame Barthod only producing four *pièces* this year, rather than her customary five and a half. The wine is really gorgeous on both the nose and palate in 2014, jumping from the glass in a blend of red plums, black cherries, cocoa, gamebird, mustard seed, violets and a marvelously complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with great focus and grip, suave tannins and outstanding length and transparency on the long and properly reserved finish. This will be a terrific bottle. 2023-2065. **93+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Veroilles”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

Veroilles, which is located up above Bonnes-Mares on the slope, can often be a bit four-square and quite reserved in personality when young, but the style of the 2014 vintage has really given this a lot of charm out of the blocks this year. The really pure and sappy nose delivers scents of blood orange, pomegranate, cherries, fine minerality, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a touch of violet in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely sappiness in the mid-palate, with suave tannins, impressive soil signature and a very long, bouncy and almost saline finish. Really a fine vintage for the Barthod Veroilles. 2023-2060. **92+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Ghislaine Barthod**

The 2014 les Cras was the most shut down wine in the range at Domaine Barthod this year, but Ghislaine observed “that the more mineral wines are always the first to close when the cellar starts to cool.” This is going to be a terrific wine with sufficient bottle age, as it offers up a pure and refined bouquet of cherries, red berries, fresh herb tones, a superb base of chalky minerality, nutskin and a topnote of roses. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on the attack and reserved in profile, with a great core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and impeccable focus and balance on the very long, transparent and vibrant finish. A terrific wine in the making. 2024-2060+. **94.**

**Domaine Louis Boillot (Chambolle-Musigny)**

*Louis Boillot is making just outstanding wines these days, and given that half of his vineyards lie right in the path of the nearly annual hailstorms that have plagued the Côte de Beaune in the last five years, it is pretty remarkable how refined his wines have remained from his southern vineyards despite all of the yearly battering. He began picking in 2014 on September 11<sup>th</sup> in his premier cru Volnay vineyard of les Angles, with the rest of his vineyards in the Côte de Beaune commencing on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and then moving north to his Côte de Nuits holdings a few days later. As his parcels in the south are spread out a bit, the loss of crop from the hail on June 28<sup>th</sup> varied quite a bit from vineyard to vineyard, with for instance his parcel in the Beaune premier cru of Epenottes down fully fifty percent, as it was right in the path of the*

*storm, whereas his Pommard villages parcel was nearly untouched by the hail. As he observed, “the hail was less as one descended down the slope from the premier crus towards the plain and the villages parcels.” In the vineyards hit by the hail, Monsieur Boillot practiced no “pigeages” for these wines, but simply pumped over twice a day to keep the cap moist during the fermentations, as he wanted to keep the extraction very gentle for these wines in 2014. The entire cellar had been racked between August 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of the arrival of the 2015 harvest, and most of the wines were really showing well at the time of my visit, though one or two were a tad reductive and looking forward to their assemblage. The entire range is very fine this year, but I had a slight preference for the more vibrant personalities of the Pommards vis à vis the Volnays in 2014, and of course, the lineup of Côte de Nuits bottlings is excellent. Louis Boillot is a vigneron at the absolute top of his game these days and his 2014s are ringing successes.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The vines for the Domaine Boillot Bourgogne are situated in Gevrey-Chambertin, so at least there was no major hail issue here in 2014. The wine is very pretty, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, woodsmoke, dark soil tones, a touch of cocoa and a discreet topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and shows off a nice core of red fruit, with fine focus and grip and just a bit of backend tannin on the fairly long finish. Good juice. 2017-2030. **87.**

#### **2014 Beaune “Epenottes”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Beaune “Epenottes” is a bit chewy and structured in this vintage, as the vines were right in the path of the hail and yields were knocked down by half as a result. The wine offers up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebird, fresh herbs and a nice touch of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and grip, chewy tannins and a long, well-balanced and youthful finish. This will need some extended bottle age to fully blossom, but as I mentioned in the introduction, the tannins here in 2014 are far more refined than was the case with the vast majority of 2012s from the Côte de Beaune. 2022-2050+. **89+.**

#### **2014 Pommard- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Pommard *villages* bottling from Monsieur Boillot shows excellent potential. The offers up a pure and classy nose of red and black cherries, venison, dark chocolate, a superb base of soil, a touch of herb, woodsmoke and a very gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with lovely transparency, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the youthful and classy finish. This is an excellent *villages* in the making. 2023-2055+. **90.**

#### **2014 Volnay “les Grands Poisots”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

While the domaine’s parcel of *villages* level Volnay in les Grands Poisots was not affected by the hail, there was *millerandage* here during the flowering and the yields were consequently off by thirty percent in 2014, though as Monsieur Boillot noted, “at least the berries remaining were small and really exceptional in quality this year.” The wine is another excellent AC in the making, delivering a fine nose of dark berries, cassis, woodsmoke, dark soil, espresso and gamebirds. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the bouncy finish. This is really good. 2023-2055. **90.**

**2014 Volnay “les Angles”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 les Angles from Louis Boillot is a very good bottle of Volnay in the making, but it seems to lack just a touch of its customary energy and dimension this year. The bouquet is young and classic in its mix of cassis, dark berries, a touch of currant leaf, espresso, dark soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and has a fine core of fruit, with good soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, focused and well-balanced finish. A very good middleweight in the making that will be long on transparency and complexity. 2025-2060. **90+**.

**2014 Volnay “les Brouillards”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 version of les Brouillards is also a very good bottle, with lovely purity and soil inflection coupled to a ripe and firm chassis of tannin for extended aging. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of dark berries, black currant, gamebirds, dark soil tones, a bit of French roast, currant leaf and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows very good mid-palate depth, with ripe, chewy tannins, very good focus and balance and a long, youthful finish. Good juice in the making. 2025-2060. **91**.

**2014 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

As there are only two barrels of Caillerets this year *chez* Boillot, Louis has decided to raise the wine entirely in one wine casks, rather than hit the wine with fifty percent new wood. The wine is going to be outstanding and there is a pity that there will be only fifty cases of it this year, as it offers up a fine nose of red and black cherries, cassis, a touch of venison, woodsmoke, complex soil tones and still a hint of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, lovely soil signature and a long, fine-grained and vibrant young finish. The tannins here are a touch more polished than in either the les Angles or Brouillards this year. 2024-2060. **92**.

**2014 Pommard “les Fremiers”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 les Fremiers from Domaine Boillot is an excellent wine and shows more vibrancy on both the nose and palate than the Volnay premier crus this year. The first rate nose delivers a blend of pomegranate, black cherries, *sous bois*, gamebird, coffee and lovely soil complexities. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and excellent bounce and grip on the long and focused finish. Really a suave Pommard in the making, but this will need time to fully blossom. 2025-2065. **92+**.

**2014 Pommard “la Croix Noire”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The la Croix Noire is outstanding in 2014 and the inherent elegance of the vintage is front and center in this lovely wine. The bouquet is a blend of cherries, quince, gamebird, vinesmoke, sweet nutskin, a touch of raw cocoa, gentle notes of vanillin oak and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a fine sense of reserve, a sappy core, lovely transparency and a very long, primary and ripely tannic finish. This will be outstanding. 2025-2060+. **93**.

**2014 Côte de Nuits Villages- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Côte de Nuits Villages *chez* Boillot was one of the wines that was a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but with a bit of swirling offers up a bouquet of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, espresso and a hint of cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and nicely black fruity at the core, with a good base of soil, moderate tannins and fine length and grip on the focused finish. Good juice and a fine value. 2020-2040. **89**.

**2014 Fixin- Domaine Louis Boillot**

Monsieur Boillot has a single parcel in Fixin, near the premier cru of Clos Chapitre and planted with fifty year-old vines. The 2014 has turned out very elegantly this year, wafting from

the glass in a mix of cherries, woodsmoke, venison, coffee, a lovely base of soil and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite elegant for young Fixin, with a good core, suave tannins and very good grip and balance on the long finish. A fine example. 2020-2045+. **89+**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Gevrey AC is also decidedly elegant this year, offering up a fine bouquet of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, espresso, woodsmoke and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, refined tannins and lovely length and grip on the vibrant and quite soil-driven finish. A lovely *villages*. 2019-2050. **90+**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Evocelles”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

Monsieur Boillot makes one of the finest examples of les Evocelles in Gevrey (or more accurately, Brochon, which is actually where the vineyard lies) and his 2014 is excellent. The classy nose wafts from the glass in a blend of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, black minerality, a touch of grilled meats, a bit of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and sappy at the core, with lovely transparency and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. Really lovely wine in the making. 2021-2055. **91**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Champonnets”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

Domaine Boillot’s 2014 Champonnets, which lies alongside of Fontenys, is really a fine bottle this year. As Monsieur Boillot notes, “Champonnets is a cool *climat* and always the wine is red fruity and shows the elegant side of Gevrey.” This is certainly the case in 2014, as the wine wafts from the glass in a refined blend of cherries, red plums, a stylish base of soil, roses, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already velvety on the attack, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. These are forty year-old vines, so not particularly old by the domaine’s standards, but they are in their prime and the 2014 is excellent. 2023-2065. **93**.

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “les Cherbaudes”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

Cherbaudes is often a more rustic seeming *terroir* in its youth and in vintages with the elegance of 2014, this wine often takes on a polite sheen out of the blocks that is very enjoyable, and this is certainly the case this year *chez* Boillot. Of, course, it does not hurt to have one hundred and two year-old vines in the parcel, which this year offer up a pure and very sappy nose of red plums, cherries, a touch of nutskin, cocoa, fresh herb tones, gamebirds, a very complex base of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, lovely transparency, a fairly reserved profile out of the blocks and a very, very long, fine-grained and stellar finish. Stunning juice and one of the best Gevrey premier crus I tasted on this trip. 2025-2075. **94+**.

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Pruliers is another very sappy and refined young example, wafting from the glass in a pure and black fruity blend of black plums, sweet dark berries, gamebird, a complex base of dark soil tones, nutskin, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very sappy at the core, with outstanding focus and grip, suave tannins and excellent balance on the long, youthful and soil-driven finish. I love the combination of minerality and sappy, pure and very deep fruit tones, which are woven together seamlessly in this stellar young Nuits St. Georges. 2025-2075. **94**.



*The winter sun slanting down on the Barthod-Boillot maison in Chambolle-Musigny.*

### **Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier (Chambolle-Musigny)**

*Timing is everything, and mine was not ideal in the second week of November at Domaine Mugnier, as the entire cellar had been racked less than three weeks prior to my visit, and while the wines' quality was quite apparent in their modestly agitated state, the silky precision that they will deliver once they have snapped fully back completely into place was not yet in abundance. Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier has been on an absolute roll in the last five years and I have little doubt that the 2014s are another absolutely stellar vintage for him and his very talented team at the Château de Chambolle-Musigny, but the wines were just a tad out of sorts at the time of my tasting. Monsieur Mugnier began picking on September 15<sup>th</sup> in this vintage, bringing in wines with natural alcohol levels between twelve and twelve and a half percent. He decided to chapitalize "a tiny bit", but as he commented, "do not ask me why I did it, as the wines are probably no different as a result." As was the case at so many estates in 2014, picking brought in absolutely beautiful grapes and fermentations were facile and smooth, with the wines showing really beautiful red fruit tones, laser-like expressions of their underlying terroir and plenty of length and bounce on the refined finishes. My guess is that there will also be that beautiful, creamy, 1985-like texture to the fruit components here with a bit more distance out from their respective rackings, but it was not front and center at the time of my tasting. During my visit to the region, much of the casual talk I heard around dinner tables had to do with Monsieur Mugnier's decision to begin holding back his Musigny for five years prior to release,*

*so that it could have just a touch of bottle age prior to being led slaughter on wine lists around the globe. As he related, “ five years is still ridiculously young for a Musigny, but after seeing my 2012 being drunk at a restaurant only a couple of weeks after I released it, I decided that I had to at least try to do something, as this is Musigny after all- one of the longest-lived wines in Burgundy!” No doubt the decision to hold back the Musigny here has not been popular with Monsieur Mugnier’s importers, but it seems like a very logical decision on the part of the domaine to at least try and slow the extinction of each vintage of Musigny in the first couple of years of release, as the reality is that with the huge uptick in prices for wines such as this (and dozens of other of the very finest red Burgundy cuvées in the Côte de Nuits), they are now being sold to a completely different clientele than was the case a dozen years ago, and the likelihood that these wines are going to be tucked away in cellars for twenty or thirty years so that they can properly matured is much less than it was in the past. Kudos to Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier for recognizing this and attempting to do something to at least slow the consumption of all of his Musigny decades before it is ready to drink!*

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

I love Monsieur Mugnier’s Chambolle *villages* and the 2014 is going to be excellent. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a refined blend of red and black cherries, a touch of nutskin, lovely minerality, raw cocoa, violets, woodsmoke and just a hint of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and very transparent, with a lovely core of fruit, moderate tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. A lovely AC in the making. 2021-2050. **91.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Fuées”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The 2014 les Fuées from Domaine Mugnier has a gorgeous nose today, offering up a vibrant and sappy red fruity mix of cherries, strawberries, dusty rose, lovely minerality, a hint of mustard seed, vanillin oak and a topnote of nutskin. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and tangy, with plenty of sappiness at the core, fine mineral drive and a very long, suavely tannic and still quite youthful finish. Add a touch of the vintage’s velvety texture to the fruit component here and this will be stunning. 2024-2065. **93.**

**2014 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The inherent elegance of the 2014 vintage really works well with a *terroir* like Bonnes-Mares, which can be a bit muscle-bound out of the blocks in some vintages, but this is most emphatically not the case with the Mugnier Bonnes-Mares this year! The lovely bouquet offers up a pure and sappy mélange of red and black cherries, red plums, just a touch of blood orange, a beautiful base of soil, mustard seed, woodsmoke and gentle new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, excellent focus and balance, fine-grained tannins and a very long, soil-driven and refined finish. This will be a superb bottle of Bonnes-Mares. 2025-2075. **94.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The 2014 les Amoureuses from the Château de Chambolle-Musigny is a very refined and still quite primary example of the vintage. The gorgeous nose gently wafts from the glass in a complex blend of red plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, plenty of blood orange, roses, mustard seed, just a whisper of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and utterly seamless, with a sappy core of fruit, a gorgeous signature of soil and a very long, suavely tannic and perfectly balanced finish. All this stunning wine needs is a good home and some patience. 2025-2065+. **95.**



### **2014 Musigny- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The 2014 Musigny from Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier is going to be one of the wines of the vintage this year. It does not possess the surreal creaminess of the Rousseau Chambertin or Clos de Bèze out of the blocks, but it shares that same bottomless intensity of flavor and magical complexity and it will be a brilliant wine in the fullness of time. The beautiful bouquet offers up scents of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, mustard seed, incipient notes of gamebird, a magically complex base of soil, woodsmoke, roses and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deeper and fuller than the Amoureuuses, but every bit as elegant, with a sappy core, stunning transparency, fine-grained tannins and absolutely perfect balance on the very, very long finish. A great bottle of Musigny in the making, but do not go wasting bottles before it has had at least a dozen years' worth of bottle age. 2028-2090. **98.**

### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Clos de la Maréchale”- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The 2014 Clos de la Maréchale is also superb, as again, the very elegant profile of the vintage works perfectly with this *terroir*. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a very pure blend of red and black cherries, pomegranate, cocoa, a superb base of soil, violets and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure, and full-bodied, with excellent transparency, suave tannins, a sappy core and excellent length and grip on the tangy and youthful finish. 2021-2060. **93+.**

### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Clos de la Maréchale” Blanc- Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier**

The 2014 Clos de la Maréchale Blanc is a beautiful young wine that really shows off the synthesis of pure, ripe fruit and stellar transparency that are the hallmarks of the most successful white wines of the 2014 vintage. The bouquet is pure, classy and very vibrant, wafting from the glass in a blend of pear, green apple, gorgeous, chalky soil tones, fresh almond and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and zesty, with a lovely core, fine soil signature and lovely length and grip on the crunchy and complex finish. 2018-2035. **93.**

### **Domaine Georges Roumier (Chambolle-Musigny)**

*Christophe Roumier has made some of the most beautiful examples of the 2014 vintage, and from the basic Bourgogne all the way up to the Bonnes-Mares and Musigny, these are absolutely stunning wines! The 1985 vintage came along pretty early in Christophe's career and it is nice to see that he has gotten a “re-do” in 2014 and hit his mark, as the elegance, purity, silky and seductive fruit tones and the extraordinary balances of each and every wine here are the stuff of legend. I had the good fortune to see some of the artwork that has been given to vignerons as part of the big Unesco push on world heritage status for the vineyards of Burgundy, as the commissioned painters have produced works of art to reflect the inspiration they find in some of Burgundy's finest wines, which presumably they were allowed to taste as part of the creation of the book of paintings celebrating the vineyards and the Unesco decision. Not sure if a bold canvas of day-glow green and violet is really emblematic of Christophe's Ruchottes-Chambertin, but hey, it was a boldly-styled and lively painting in any case! Monsieur Roumier began picking on September 17<sup>th</sup> in 2014 under “perfect conditions” with natural alcohol levels ranging from twelve to twelve and a half degrees. As I noted in the report's introduction, he chose to chapitalize his wines around a half degree each and is very happy with his decision, and the wines have certainly turned out stunningly well. Malos for the red wines were all finished here by the month of June and the cellar had been racked cask to cask in mid-October, but was showing extremely well and the wines had clearly bounced back one hundred percent from the racking prior to my visit on November 12<sup>th</sup>. After tasting through the dazzling lineup of 2014s,*

*we settled in to taste a few 2013s with Christophe and his comments about the vintage bear repeating, as these wines are also likely to be available in the market over the next year or two, as the trophy chasers let the hype machine turn them obsessive about the 2015s: “For me, the 2013 vintage is superior to 1993- better purity, better precision of terroir- they will be very, very good wines when they are ready to drink.”*

#### **2014 Bourgogne- Domaine Georges Roumier**

I always like Christophe’s Bourgogne rouge and the 2014 is a lovely example. The nose offers up a bright blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, a nice base of soil tones and a touch of violets in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and juicy in personality, with good focus and just a bit of backend tannin that will want to soften a bit before starting to drink this stylish wine in earnest. Good juice. 2018-2030. **88.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 Chambolle *villages* bottling *chez* Roumier is really lovely, wafting from the glass in a mix of cherries, red plums, cocoa, gamebirds, lovely transparency, a hint of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the silkily structured finish. Just a superb AC. 2022-2055. **91+.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “Clos de la Bussière”- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The fingerprints of the 2014 vintage are all over this very elegant and refined young Clos de la Bussière. The wine offers up a superb bouquet of red and black cherries, pomegranate, raw cocoa, a fine base of soil, fresh herb tones and plenty of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with an impressively sappy core, ripe tannins and impeccable focus and balance on the very long and still fairly youthful finish. This will want a good decade in the cellar to really reach its plateau, but it is going to be a superb vintage of Clos de la Bussière and will be well worth the wait! 2024-2060. **92.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Combottes”- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 Combottes is nicely reserved out of the blocks, but with plenty of sappiness in evidence at the core. The excellent nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, red plums, a touch of nutskin, a bit of chocolate, a superb base of soil tones and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely structured, with a good core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused finish. One of my favorite vintages of this bottling *chez* Roumier. 2022-2055. **92.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Cras”- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 les Cras from Christophe Roumier is absolutely stunning wine in the making. The utterly superb nose delivers a sappy and very transparent constellation of black cherries, plums, violets, great minerality, cocoa, woodsmoke, incipient notes of gamebird and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, reserved in profile and absolutely sappy at the core, with very refined tannins, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the very elegant, seamless young finish. A great, great vintage of les Cras. 2025-2065. **94.**



*Christophe Roumier in the domaine's offices- the work of art on the wall is not part of the Unesco series!*

#### **2014 Charmes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier**

The 2014 Charmes-Chambertin *chez* Roumier is also excellent in this vintage, offering up a deep and nascently complex nose of strawberries, cherries, red plums, gamebird, cocoa, lovey soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and far more primary than the nose suggests, with really beautiful fruit tones at the core, lovely soil and a very long, focused and suavely-tannic finish. In most vintages, the Charmes here is the least elegant of the grand crus in the cellar, but not in 2014. 2025-2065+. **94.**

#### **2014 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Christophe Roumier**

This is a great young vintage of Roumier Ruchottes, as the wine shows off great depth of sappy fruit, superb transparency and a very suave structural chassis that will carry it far into the future in style. The stunning nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, plums, cocoa, chalky soil tones, a hint of almond, vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, fine-grained tannins and stunning elegance and focus on the very long and very soil-driven finish. A great, great young Ruchottes. 2025-2075. **95.**

#### **2014 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 Bonnes-Mares from Christophe Roumier is a stunning young wine. The great nose soars from the glass in a very vibrant blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, incipient gamebird, violets, mustard seed, a magically complex base of soil and

vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with that inimitable combination of sappy fruit and stunning transparency that make the very best 2014s undeniably profound wines. The finish is very, very long, ripely tannic and seamless, with stunning latent energy and magical potential. Just add fifteen years bottle age *et voila!* 2030-2100. **97.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 les Amoureuses from Domaine Roumier is extremely perfumed out of the blocks this year, offering up a simply beautiful bouquet of cherries, red plums, pungent violets, chalky soil tones, a touch of fresh herbs, cocoa and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly seamless in profile, with a sappy core, great soil inflection and a very, very long, elegant and ripely tannic finish. A magical wine. 2026-2075. **97.**

**2014 Musigny- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The 2014 Roumier Musigny is another great wine in the making. The stunning nose offers up a vibrant aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a very, very complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds, mustard seed and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and properly reserved in profile, with bottomless depth at the core, suave tannins and a very long, tangy and vibrant finish that will profoundly complex in the fullness of time. This will need a minimum of a dozen years in the cellar to start to stir and will not really peak until thirty years has elapsed, but it is a legendary wine in the making. 2027-2085+. **98+.**

**2014 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Georges Roumier**

The only exception in the Roumier cellars to the fairly early and straightforward malos this year was the Corton-Charlemagne, which had still not completed its malolactic fermentation at the time of my visit. The wine is very good on the palate (the nose is still in plain malo and all over the place), with a fine core and impressive purity on the attack and backend raciness. It is very, very long already and looks likely to be a great vintage for this cuvée, but I am obviously not going to score it while it is still in malo.

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

*I started out my trip this year tasting with François Millet at Domaine de Comte de Vogüé, and there are worse ways to start off one's exploration of a new vintage in barrel! Monsieur Millet noted that the harvest started here on September 13<sup>th</sup> under picture perfect conditions, with the cool evenings and north wind allowing the grapes to retain lovely freshness that has found its way into the finished wines. Most of the cellar was just finished being racked at the time of my visit on the ninth of November, with only the Musigny not finished up (the note below for the Musigny was taken from a cask that had not yet been racked), so most of the wines were still just a touch upset from their recent decantation. The hail on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June caused anywhere from ten to twenty percent diminution in the crop, in the vineyards at the southern end of the village, which include, of course, Musigny and les Amoureuses. Monsieur Millet likes the 2014s very, very much, as he finds a real sense of refinement and elegance across the board with the domaine's wines this year, and which he encapsulated by observing “that even the Bonnes-Mares is romantic in 2014.” The wines are classic expressions of all that is best about 2014 red wines, with beautiful purity of fresh fruit tones, strikingly transparent expressions of terroir, suave tannic structures and long, sappy and very polished finishes. As Monsieur Millet commented, “both 2013 and 2014 show very fine transparency and are classic expressions of their respective terroirs, but in each vintage the soil is expressed very differently, due to the very*

*different characteristics of the two growing seasons, and it will be very interesting to follow and compare these two vintages over the years.” For the wines that had just been racked, I have scored the wines in a short range, but would fully expect them to bounce back and ultimately earn the top score in each span of numbers. The 2014s at Domaine de Comte de Vogüé are once again classic expressions of the vintage and a very, very strong set of beautiful wines. They are not overly powerful in style, but very intensely flavored and seem likely to be approachable a bit earlier than the 2013s here, but with their exceptional balance, I see no reason why they should not be every bit as long-lived as well.*

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé**

The 2014 Chambolle AC from Domaine de Comte de Vogüé is a very pretty and promising village wine, wafting from the glass in a vibrant blend of black cherries, red plums, smoke, a lovely base of soil and a gentle topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a lovely core, moderate tannins and a long, tangy finish. This should prove to be an excellent middleweight and quintessentially Chambolle with six to eight years of bottle age. 2022-2050. **89-90+.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Domaine de Georges de Comte de Vogüé**

The bottling of young vine Musigny is going to be superb in 2014, as the wine shows the vintage’s beautiful combination of sappy pure fruit and great transparency. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a perfumed constellation of red and black cherries, plums, bitter chocolate, a touch of marjoram, a fine base of soil, a dollop of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy from start to finish, with lovely mid-palate concentration, fine-grained tannins and a long, potentially very velvety finish. Lovely juice. 2024-2060. **92-93.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Domaine Comte de Georges de Vogüé**

The 2014 les Amoureuses here is also outstanding, but it will want a couple of years more in the cellar to fully blossom than the Premier Cru cuvée. The bouquet is pure and very floral in personality this year, jumping from the glass in a gorgeous blend of plums, black cherries, pomegranate, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, floral tones redolent of roses and peonies, woodsmoke and a whisper of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with lovely layers of soil tones, suave tannins and a long, focused and very classy finish. This too seems likely to be a very velvety wine when it has fully blossomed. 2026-2065. **93-94.**

#### **2014 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé**

The Bonnes-Mares 2014 at Domaine de Comte de Vogüé comes in at a very svelte 12.4 percent alcohol, but delivers just lovely fruit sappiness to go along with stellar transparency. The nose delivers a lovely range of scents, with notes of damson plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, smoke, mustard seed, peonies, gentle notes of new wood and a beautifully refined range of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven, with plenty of sappiness in reserve at the core, ripe, beautifully-integrated tannins and a long, vibrant and very, very promising finish. A beautiful example of Bonnes-Mares in the making. 2025-2075. **94-95.**

#### **2014 Musigny “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine de Comte de Georges de Vogüé**

I was very happy to find that the Musigny had not yet been racked at the time of my visit, as it is nice to see at least one wine that is totally on form, so that it makes it far easier to get a proper read on the wines that have been recently racked. In contrast to the recently racked wines, the tug of great minerality can really be felt in the Musigny, as the wine offers up a gloriously

complex bouquet of red and black cherries, plums, pomegranate, a very complex base of soil tones, violets, roses, fresh herbs and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very energetic, with a sappy core, classic transparency and mineral drive, fine-grained tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and perfectly balanced finish. 2027-2075. 96+.

### ***Vougeot***

#### **Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat (Vougeot)**

*The timing of my visit to Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat was very good this year, as only three wines had been racked at the time of my visit and Charles van Canneyt had pulled samples of these three wines just prior to the racking, so that I was able to taste the whole range with the wines in good form. Monsieur van Canneyt began the harvest of 2014 on September 15<sup>th</sup> and brought in beautifully ripe grapes that were all around 12.2 percent natural alcohol. He chapitalized three or four-tenths of a degree for each wine, just to keep the fermentations going a bit longer and the wines have all finished off between 12.5 and 12.7 percent alcohol, making for a very svelte lineup of 2014s. Most of the malos finished up here in the late spring or early summer, but a few wines, such as the Chambolle-Musigny AC went on into the autumn, and consequently were a bit further behind in their evolutions in cask. The hailstorm of June 28<sup>th</sup> affected the domaine's holdings in Vosne and Vougeot, but not their Chambolle "Charmes", which was just outside the path of the storm, and in these vineyards, Monsieur van Canneyt reported that yields were down twenty percent. The entire range of 2014s here is exceptional, but this is not a surprise, as the domaine has been on an amazing hot streak over the last six or seven vintages and the wines seem to get even more refined and precise with each passing vintage. These days, Charles van Canneyt makes my absolute favorite example of Richebourg, as he is probably the only proprietor that only uses fifty percent new oak for this grand cru bottling. As he observed, "most vigneronns will tell you that Richebourg has no trouble supporting one hundred percent new oak, and of course, they are correct, but to my mind, what is the point of using all new oak for a great terroir, as one certainly gets more soil complexity with less new wood." D'accord!*

#### **2014 Bourgogne- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

As is customary at the domaine, the Bourgogne rouge had already been assembled in tank and was destined for bottling prior to Christmas. This is a very pretty example in 2014, offering up a red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, woodsmoke, a nice dollop of soil and a topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and bouncy, with nice detail and just a bit of backend tannin adding grip to the fairly long finish. Very good Bourgogne. 2015-2025+. 87.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges "Au Bas de Combe"- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The Bas de Combe had already been racked prior to my visit, so this was served ahead of the other two village wines this year, which had not yet seen their racking. The 2014 Bas de Combe is very transparent this year, offering up a superb nose of red and black cherries, cocoa, a lovely and complex base of soil, a touch of nutskin and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and soil-driven in personality, with a good core, tangy acids and a nice touch of suave backend tannin on the long finish. A very classy Nuits AC in the making! 2020-2040+. 89+.

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

This was one of the last wines to finish up its malo, which did not stop bubbling until September 15<sup>th</sup>, but the wine was in good form in early November. The bouquet is bright and classically Chambolle in its red fruity mélange of cherries, red plums, nutskin, chalky soil tones and a lovely topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and soil-driven, with a good core and brightness, lovely balance and a long, moderately tannic finish. This will be a lovely *villages*. 2019-2040+. **90.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The 2014 Vosne-Romanée AC from Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat is another excellent example, wafting from the glass in a vibrant blend of raspberries, strawberries, rose petals, lovely minerality, cocoa powder and a nice touch of fresh herb tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and intensely flavored, with a nice sappy kernel of fruit at the core, lovely transparency and a long, gently tannic and focused finish. Delicious. 2020-2040+. **90.**

#### **2014 Vougeot “Petits Vougeots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The 2014 Petits Vougeots was also one of the slower wines to finish up its malo this year in the Hudelot cellars and the wine still had just a bit of CO<sub>2</sub> on the palate as a result. However, this was still quite easy to read its charming quality, as it offers up a fine bouquet of red plums, cherries, raw cocoa, chalky soil tones, violets and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with lovely soil drive, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the nascently complex and vibrant finish. The *terroir* of Petits Vougeots is a dead-ringer for Chambolle and this is especially apparent *chez* Hudelot with this really lovely 2014 version. 2021-2055. **92.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Murgers”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The 2014 Murgers from Monsieur van Canneyt is very red fruity and refined this year. The superb bouquet offers up a lovely constellation of red plums, cherries, cocoa powder, nutskin, gamebird, a fine base of soil, a touch of vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with very suave tannins, impeccable balance and a very long, nascently complex and classy finish. This will be all velvet and perfume at its peak. 2022-2060. **92+.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Charmes”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The Chambolle “Charmes” was the only premier cru that had already been assembled in tank for preparation for bottling, which was likely to happen in the early spring. The wine is very pretty in 2014, offering up a fine and classic bouquet of cherries, a touch of blood orange, chalky minerality, cocoa, nutskin and a gentle framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and nicely mineral in personality, with a fine core, classy tannins and a long, tangy and quite energetic finish. This was only racked two weeks before my visit, so was still a touch agitated from its change of domicile, but its potential was still quite evident. 2021-2055. **91-92+.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

In most vintages, young Beaumonts is usually quite black fruity in personality, as this is one of the coolest *climats* accorded premier cru status in the Vosne-Flagey nexus. However, in 2014, this is very red fruity and extremely elegant right out of the blocks, delivering a fine nose of cherries, red plums, dusty rose, cocoa powder, a lovely signature of soil and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and minerally, with a superb core of fruit, moderate tannins and a long, tangy, and again very energetic finish. 2014 is a really strong vintage for the Beaumonts *chez* Hudelot. 2022-2055+. **92+.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

Suchots is another Vosne premier cru that is usually very black fruity out of the blocks, and interestingly, this is absolutely the case with this classic 2014 version from Charles van Canneyt. The bouquet soars from the glass in a very elegant blend of dark berries, black cherries, raw cocoa, a superb base of dark soil tones, gamebirds, cardamom, cedar and a bit of fresh herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, very much defined by its beautiful minerality at the outset, with a sappy core of black fruit, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and impeccably balanced finish. I love the tension here between the fruit, soil and acids. 2021-2055+. **93.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

Not surprisingly, in this stellar range of premier crus *chez* Hudelot, the Malconsorts takes the prize in 2014. The simply gorgeous nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of sappy cherries, raspberries, red plums, cocoa, woodsmoke, beautifully complex minerality, roses, Vosne spices and a deft framing of cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very mineral in personality, with a sappy core of red fruit, suave tannins and excellent vibrancy and nascent complexity on the long, tangy and laser-like finish. This is a thoroughbred middleweight in the making that will always be light on its feet, but simply loaded. 2023-2060. **94.**

#### **2014 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The Clos Vougeot was the very last wine to finish up its malo and there was still a hint of CO2 on the backend of the wine. With a bit of swirling in the glass the wine blossoms very nicely to offer up a lovely aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, gamebird, woodsmoke, a very complex base of soil, violets, cocoa and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very elegant in profile out of the blocks, with a superb core of pure fruit, ripe tannins and a very long, transparent and classy finish. A superb Clos Vougeot in the making. 2025-2075. **94-95.**

#### **2014 Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The Hudelot RSV is a brilliant wine in 2014, but I seem to have said that every year for many vintages in a row now, as this is one of the most beautiful grand cru bottlings being produced in Vosne these days. The 2014 offers up a stunning nose of raspberries, red plums, Vosne spices, very complex minerality, cocoa, roses and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and shows a nice sense of reserve out of the blocks, with very refined tannins, laser-like focus and a very long, youthful and seamless finish. Great juice. 2025-2075. **96+.**

#### **2014 Richebourg- Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat**

The 2014 Richebourg from Charles van Canneyt is stunning, with the elegance and transparency of the vintage finding a perfect dance partner in the depth and succulence of this cru. The superb bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of red and black plums, cocoa powder, duck, a very complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, violets and a lovely framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined out of the blocks, with a sappy core of fruit, great mineral drive, suave tannins and stunning backend energy on the precise and very, very long and complex finish. A great young example of Richebourg. 2025-2075+. **97.**

#### ***Vosne-Romanée***

#### **Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair (Vosne-Romanée)**

*As I did not get a chance to taste at Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair last year, as Louis-Michel had closed up the cellar to tastings prior to my arrival in December to taste the vintage, I was very happy to have a chance to look at a wide range of his 2014s this year, and Monsieur*



*Liger-Belair also very graciously opened up a selection of the 2013s as well at the end of the tasting so that I could sample a range of this vintage as well. It was a very, very pleasant way to head into lunch on a Wednesday morning! The harvest started here in 2014 on September 15<sup>th</sup>, with the hail of June 28<sup>th</sup> responsible for the loss of fifteen to twenty percent of the crop-load in the vineyards on the slope that were hit by the storm. Louis-Michel observed that natural alcohol levels in 2014 came in between 12.2 and 12.9 percent and he generally chose to chapitalize about a half degree per wine, but of course this depended on the starting point of each cuvée. A couple of wines in the cellar had been racked three weeks prior to my visit, with the Vosne “Clos du Château” already bottled in September of 2015. There will be a new addition in the cellars next year which I am very much looking forward to discovering, as the domaine will now be working with a forty ares parcel of vines in the heart of the Clos Vougeot slope beginning in the 2015 vintage. The vines have been farmed organically for years and are situated towards the Vosne-Romanée side of the Clos at mid-slope and should produce an excellent new member of the estate’s excellent roster of bottlings. I did not ask how old the vines are in Clos Vougeot, but will make sure to note this when I taste the first vintage of 2015 next year. A couple of the 2014 wines here were in that stage where not all of the new wood had been fully integrated, but as was the case at other domaines where the wood tannins were still sticking out a bit, this was simply a function of the evolution of the wines in cask, rather than anything to be alarmed about. The 2014s here were showing beautifully and are excellent examples of this supremely elegant vintage, and the 2013s that I finished up the tasting with here were also exceptional. Of course, none of this is surprising, as Louis-Michel Liger-Belair has been on an absolute tear since the 2010 vintage!*

#### **Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair 2014s**

##### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grandes Vignes” Blanc- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

Having missed tasting the 2013 vintage of Clos des Grandes Vignes Blanc, it was interesting to see how much this cuvée has jumped up since the debut release in 2012, now that the Liger-Belair team has gotten a chance to really dig into the viticultural here. The 2014 is excellent, offering up a lovely bouquet of apple, fresh almond, white peach, chalky soil tones, vanillin oak and a fine topnote of acacia blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and focused, with good acids, a generous core of fruit and a long, crisp and complex finish. 2016-2030. **93.**

##### **2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The Vosne AC 2014 had been racked three weeks before my visit, but was showing quite well, as it offers up a bright and stylish nose of cherries, raspberries, cocoa, a lovely base of soil and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and shows off very good mid-palate depth, with suave tannins, fine focus and a long, already quite velvety finish. A lovely villages. 2017-2040. **89.**

##### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “la Colombière”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2014 la Colombière had also been racked three weeks before our tasting and this was a bit more reticent in personality after its recent racking. With a little coaxing, the nose eventually offers up quite a complex blend of red plums, raspberries, cocoa, a touch of nuttiness, a good base of soil, duck and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and adolescent, with a good sappy core, fine transparency, ripe, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. This will be very good. 2020-2045+. **90-91.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Clos du Château”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

I really liked how the 2014 Clos du Château was showing in November, particularly only a couple months out from its bottling. This is a very stylish wine, offering up a vibrant bouquet of raspberries, red plums, Vosne spice tones, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and very elegant in profile, with a fine core, suave tannins and lovely length and grip. 2020-2045. **91.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2014 Nuits “aux Cras” was really showing enormous potential out of barrel, as the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy on both the nose and palate. The excellent bouquet delivers a blend of sappy black cherries and dark berries, gamebird, dark chocolate, a fine base of soil and a judicious serving of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really shows lovely sap at the core, with fine focus and grip, lovely soil signature and a long, fine-grained and tangy finish. Classic juice. 2022-2060. **93.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2014 Petits Monts is also outstanding from Louis-Michel this year and is a quintessential expression of this outstanding *terroir*. The nose wafts from the glass in a fine blend of black raspberries, dark soil tones, duck, espresso, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very much defined by its minerality, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and still a touch of backend wood tannin awaiting integration on the long and ripely tannic finish. A lovely result in 2014. 2022-2055. **93.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grandes Vignes”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The Clos des Grandes Vignes Monopole is a fine new addition to the lineup here, and the 2014 is really a lovely and very classy young bottle of Nuits St. Georges. The bouquet offers up a complex mélange of black raspberries, sweet dark berries, gamebirds, lovely spice tones, dark soil and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with lovely transparency, a sappy core of black fruit, fine-grained tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. 2021-2060. **93+.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “aux Reignots”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

I love Louis-Michel’s Reignots and the 2014 vintage has produced a stunning wine here. The bouquet soars from the glass in a beautiful blend of red and black plums, black raspberries, musky floral tones, gamebird, a gorgeously complex base of soil and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and really shows off superb depth at the core, with fine soil inflection and sappiness, impeccable focus and grip and a very, very long, well-balanced and ripely tannic young finish. A great wine in the making. 2023-2060. **94.**

#### **2014 Echézeaux- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2014 Echézeaux from the Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair was one of the wines in the cellar that had not yet fully integrated its now oak component and was showing a bit of uncovered wood tannin on the backend, but this was just a stage that the wine was in at that moment in November and it will be just fine in the fullness of time. The bouquet is excellent, offering up scents of black plums, black cherries, red raspberries, gamebird, Vosne spices, a lovely base of soil tones and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still fairly adolescent in profile, with a fine core, lovely transparency and a very long, ripely tannic and promising finish. All this needs is time. 2025-2065+. **95.**

#### **2014 La Romanée- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2014 La Romanée was still quite primary on both the nose and palate, but its ultimate quality was still very easy to appreciate. The bouquet will be celestial in due course, but

today offers up a youthful blend of red and black raspberries, Vosne spice tones, duck, kaleidoscopic minerality, coffee and plenty of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with exceptional focus and nascent complexity, fine-grained tannins and a very long, transparent and tangy finish. A majestic wine in the making. 2025-2075. **98.**

***Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair 2013s***

**2013 Vosne-Romanée “la Colombière”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2013 la Colombière is a lovely wine, offering up a very pretty and red fruity bouquet of cherries, raspberries, a fine base of minerality, Vosne spices and a nice touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and very transparent, with a good core, tangy acids, and a long, focused and modestly tannic finish. Good juice. 2019-2040. **89.**

**2013 Vosne-Romanée “Clos du Château”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2013 Clos du Château is also a very pretty example of the vintage, with a bit more *gras* at the core than the Colombière and the same perfumed elegance. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of red plums, raspberries, fresh herb tones, coffee, a lovely base of soil and a bit of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and quite soil-driven in personality, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and lovely balance on the tangy and nascently complex finish. A fine *villages*. 2020-2045. **90+.**

**2013 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grandes Vignes”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2013 Clos des Grandes Vignes is an utterly stunning young wine. Aromatically, this is already beautiful, as it offers up scents of red plums, musky cherries, raspberries, duck, a complex base of soil, a bit of fresh nutmeg and a nice base of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and tangy, with a great core of fruit, lovely transparency and a very long, suavely-tannic and bouncy finish. Dynamite Nuits. 2020-2050+. **93.**

**2013 Vosne-Romanée “aux Reignots”- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

It will be very interesting to track the evolution of the 2014 and 2013 vintages of Reignots here, as these are two utterly stunning young wines. The brilliant bouquet soars from the glass in a blend of red and black raspberries, red plums, Vosne spice tones, duck, raw cocoa, a glorious base of soil and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven in personality, with a great core, laser-like focus, modest tannins and a very, very long, tangy and complex finish. Great juice. 2021-2060. **94+.**

**2013 Echézeaux- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2013 Echézeaux from Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair is a beautiful and very red fruity example of this vineyard. The bouquet is a fine blend of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spices, a very refined and complex mosaic of minerality, gamebirds and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a superb core, great backend mineral drive, fine-grained tannins and a very pure, complex and vibrant finish. Another stellar wine. 2022-2065. **95.**

**2013 La Romanée- Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**

The 2013 La Romanée from Louis-Michel Liger-Belair is a gorgeous young wine. The classic nose wafts from the glass in a complex constellation of red plums, red and black raspberries, fresh nutmeg, duck, a beautiful base of soil tones, cocoa and nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, tangy and very complex, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip and a very, very long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. Sheer brilliance. 2025-2075. **97.**



### **Domaine Méo-Camuzet (Vosne-Romanée)**

*Domaine Méo-Camuzet is another estate that has been on a real hot streak in the last several vintages, with their collection of superb 2013s amongst my very favorite wines of that vintage, so I was sorry to find the cellar a bit cranky when I arrived this November to taste the 2014s. The vintage was a bit mixed in its stage of evolution on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month, with some wines a bit reduced, others recently racked or assembled, and others still showing some grumpiness from late-finishing malolactic fermentations, so one had to work quite a bit this year tasting through the range. This was also one of the cellars on the trip where the new wood was integrating at a slower pace than usual in some of the wines, so that too had to be worked around when evaluating the wines this year. That said, it was quite clear that the potential excellence of the vintage has not been missed at this fine domaine and the 2014s chez Méo will be superb, but several were still works in progress at the time of my visit. Where the wines were really out of sorts, I have scored them within a range, with the expectation that they should eventually place at the upper limit of the range once they complete their élevage. For wines that were on form, they have been given a proper, single numeric score. The harvest began here on September 13<sup>th</sup> and was all completed by the 20<sup>th</sup> in 2014, as the grapes were in such lovely condition that it was pretty quick work picking and sorting this year. The wines came in with natural alcohol levels on either side of 12.5 percent and were gently chapitalized three or four-tenths of a degree in 2014. As has been my custom in the last few years at the domaine, we tasted a representative range of the 2014s, rather than the complete set, as the portfolio has grown*

*nicely in the last several vintages and is now pretty vast and hard to cover completely in a two hour visit.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc “Clos St. Philibert”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Clos St. Philibert had been racked and assembled in August of 2015 and was to be bottled early in the new year. The wine offers up a lovely nose of apple, white peach, chalky soil tones, a touch of lemongrass and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nicely balanced, with a good core, fine length and grip and really a fine, racy backend. A lovely example. 2015-2025. **87.**

#### **2014 Meursault- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Meursault from Jean-Nicolas Méo was one of the last wines to finish up its malo in the cellars this year and the wine was still in barrel at the time of my visit. Consequently, the wine was still rather grumpy on both the nose and palate and difficult to taste. The nose offers up scents of green apple, fresh almond, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with racy acids, a fine underpinning of chalky soil and a long, vibrant finish. The focus and balance here are late arrivals after the laggardly malo, but will come with a bit more time and I am sure this will be quite good. The vines for this are in the *lie à dit* of La Vigne Blanche, which lies next door to the premier cru of Santenots. 2017-2030+. **89-91.**

#### **2014 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The Corton-Charlemagne from Domaine Méo-Camuzet hails from a few different parcels of vines on the hillside, with two-thirds coming from the Pernand end and one-third from Aloxe-Corton. The resulting wine is lovely in 2014, offering up a deep and mineral nose of apple, pear, chalky minerality, a touch of fresh almond and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil signature and a long, youthful and nicely balanced finish. A fine bottle in the making. 2018-2035+. **93.**

#### **2014 Marsannay- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

I always like what Jean-Nicolas Méo produces in the two villages of Marsannay and Fixin and I am glad that he pays such attention to these two communes. The 2014 Marsannay AC is quite red fruity in personality this year, offering up a bright bouquet of cherries, red berries, mustard seed, a lovely base of soil and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and quite tangy, with a good core of red fruit, nice soil inflection and just a bit of backend tannin adding grip on the pretty long finish. A very good example. 2017-2035. **88.**

#### **2014 Pommard- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Pommard *villages* bottling was one of the cranky wines in the cellar, as this was pretty reduced and due for its racking in the coming weeks. With some coaxing, the wine offers up scents of cherries, quince, venison, woodsmoke, cedar and a good base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, soil-driven and chewy, with a good core,. Sound acids and good focus and grip on the long and ripely tannic finish. This will be a very good, classically sturdy style of Pommard. 2022-2050. **89-90.**

#### **2014 Fixin “Clos Chapitre”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Clos Chapitre was in very good form at the time of my visit and will be a very elegant example of this *climat*, taking advantage of the style of the vintage. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, coffee bean, dark soil tones and a bit of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely focused, with

a very good core, fine transparency and a long, poised and tangy finish. Really a lovely example. 2019-2040. **90.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The domaine's 2014 Nuits AC is excellent and again, really shows the influence of the inherent elegance of the vintage on both the nose and palate. The lovely bouquet delivers a constellation of red plums, black cherries, nutskin, venison, a fine base of soil and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure at the core, with lovely soil drive, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and very well balanced finish. A fine young Nuits. 2020-2050. **90+.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Vosne AC from Domaine Méo-Camuzet was also in very good form at the time of my visit and is quite black fruity in personality this year. The fine nose wafts from the glass in a mix of black plums, black cherries, lavender, dark soil tones, a hint of dried eucalyptus and spicy wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and transparent, with a good core, tangy acids and very good length and grip on the moderately tannic and classy finish. 2021-2045. **90+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny "les Cras"- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 les Cras had just been assembled prior to my visit and was still fairly disorientated from its move from cask to tank. The bouquet shows some lovely elements in its mix of black cherries, a touch of nutskin, gamebird, coffee, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows fine mid-palate concentration, with fine-grained tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. Understandably, the focus and detail are not evident here today, but the raw materials look very good and this should prove to be excellent. 2024-2060. **90-92+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges "aux Murgers"- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

In contrast to the Chambolle "Cras", the Murgers 2014 was absolutely singing at the time of my visit and soars from the glass in a gorgeous aromatic constellation of red plums, black cherries, cocoa, a very complex base of soil tones, incipient notes of gamebird and a fine base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with a great signature of soil, fine-grained tannins and impeccable focus and grip on the very long and very pure finish. Really a stellar result and a vintage of Murgers that looks likely to drink very well from a relatively early age. 2022-2060. **93.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges "aux Boudots"- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Boudots includes fifty percent whole clusters this year and the wine has turned out beautifully. The deep and black fruity nose offers up scents of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, a superb base of soil, woodsmoke and cedary, spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really laser-like in its focus, with a fine core of black fruit, ripe tannins, tangy acids and fine focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This will probably need a couple more years in the cellar than the Murgers to fully blossom, but it will be excellent. 2024-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée "les Chaumes"- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Chaumes in the Méo cellars was more reserved in personality than either of the two Nuits premier crus that I tasted and I guess that this wine was another of the later-finishing malos. The purity on the nose is lovely, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black plums, cocoa, a lovely base of soil, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite reserved in personality today, with a good core, fine soil tones and a long, ripely tannic and primary finish. 2022-2055. **91-92.**

#### **2014 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Méo-Camuzet was raised in eighty percent new wood this year and had not yet fully integrated its new oak on the backend of the palate, but clearly this was only a matter of time. The bouquet is lovey, offering up scents of red and black cherries, a superb base of soil, gamebird, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, and very well focused out of the blocks, with a fine core of fruit, lovely grip and a long, chewy finish. This will be excellent with sufficient bottle age. 2024-2065. **93+**.

#### **2014 Corton “les Vignes Cents”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 les Vignes Cents was really showing beautiful potential at the time of my visit, wafting from the glass in a very fine blend of red and black cherries, venison, coffee, stony soil tones, mustard seed, cedary wood and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very suave on the attack, with a fine core, lovely soil signature and a very long, ripely tannic and beautifully balanced finish. An outstanding young Corton. 2025-2085. **94**.

#### **2014 Corton “Clos Rognet”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The Clos Rognet bottling can often be quite black fruity and opulent in personality, as these old vines ripen fairly briskly and in warmer vintages this can be the power-monger cuvée in the Méo cellars. However, in the vintage of 2014, where beautiful ripeness arrived slowly in the Indian Summer conditions of September, the wine is very red fruity and refined, offering up a superb bouquet of cherries, red currants, venison, mustard seed, a fine base of soil and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with excellent transparency, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the nascently complex and very soil-driven finish. This is still very early days for the 2014 Clos Rognet, but my gut feeling is that this is bound to be one of the great classic vintages for this bottling. 2025-2085. **94+**.

#### **2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Echézeaux was the very last wine to finish up its malo, at the end of August, and the wine was grumpy at the time of my visit. The nose is going to be flat out beautiful when it fully settles, as it offers up scents of black cherries, plums, espresso, woodsmoke, gamebird, fresh herbs and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, lovely length and grip and a tangy, chewy finish. I am sure that is absolute precision lying below the surface here, but the wine was still a touch unsettled at the end of November. 2025-2075+. **93-94+**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Brûlées”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

Like the Clos Rognet, the 2014 Brûlées *chez* Méo is very atypically red fruity this year, soaring from the glass in a beautiful blend of red plums, red and black cherries, raw cocoa, duck, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still a tad adolescent and in the process of absorbing its new oak, with a bit of wood tannin showing today, but also great backend soil drive and vibrancy. The wine should finish up ripely tannic and truly exceptional. 2024-2070. **94**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Cros Parantoux”- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Cros Parantoux was also in that intermediate stage in its evolution and the new wood was showing just a bit on the backend, but the depth is here for seamless integration with further *elevage* and this will be outstanding in due course. The bouquet is exceptional, offering up scents of red and black plums, gamebird, nutskin, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, Vosne spices and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with tangy acids, excellent focus and grip and a long, chewy finish. 2024-2070. **94+**.

## **2014 Richebourg- Domaine Méo-Camuzet**

The 2014 Richebourg from Domaine Méo-Camuzet was a bit further along its evolutionary course than either of the top Vosne premier crus in the cellar and was really showing stunning potential. The pure and really refined nose soars from the glass in a blend of red plums, red and black cherries, duck, cocoa, a gorgeous signature of soil, a bit of fresh nutmeg and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved in profile, with great purity on the attack, a fine core, superb focus and a very, very long, fine-grained and vibrant finish. A great wine in the making. 2027-2085. **96.**

## **Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret (Vosne-Romanée)**

*I had not had as much luck as I would have liked in the last few years with tasting a wide range of the new vintage in cask during my visit to Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret, but this year I hit the jackpot, as the Mongeard family was celebrating the career of Jean Mongeard, who retired after the 1995 vintage, and this November the domaine hosted one of the most extraordinary tastings I have ever experienced in the Côte d'Or. As readers will recall, I have been working on a domaine profile of this fine Vosne-Romanée estate for a couple of years now, and after this magnificent tasting, I now have plenty of material for that article, which will appear in Issue 61. For the celebration of Monsieur Mongeard's fine career at the helm of this estate, which began in the 1940s, the family put on a series of superb, walk around tastings in the domaine's tasting room which was attended by several hundred people over the course of two days. These included some infant 2015s, which the Mongeard family is very excited about (but which I did not taste during my six hours at the domaine, due to all the other temptations!), a very complete lineup of 2014 cask samples, plenty of top wines from the preceding four vintages, a vertical of Echézeaux back to 1976 and a "Salon de Vieux Millésimes" that stretched all the way back to the 1957 vintage. Needless to say, I will have a substantial report on the domaine in the upcoming issue! In the 2014 vintage, in which the Mongeard family was very successful, the domaine started harvesting on September 15<sup>th</sup>, with the estate's parcels in the Côte de Beaune villages of Savigny, Pernand and Beaune. Picking in the Côte de Nuits began on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month, with the grand cru fruit brought in on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of the month. Vincent Mongeard noted that the year started out strongly in the spring, but was "capricious over the course of the summer, with the hail in late June, plenty of rain in the first two weeks of July, a bout of scorching temperatures mid-month which caused some sunburn on the berries and then cold and overcast weather throughout August." All saved by a miracle fortnight of perfect weather at the start of September! The wines showed very well indeed at the time of my visit on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, with the samples drawn up from cask and labeled for the event. Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret has one of the largest and most impressive lineup of different crus in all the Côte d'Or, and it would have been impractical to provide cask samples of all the 2014s for an event of this magnitude, but the Mongeard family put together a very fine, representative range of 2014s and it was quite easy to see that this will be a very successful vintage for Vincent Mongeard and his team.*

## **2014 Bourgogne Blanc "Haute Côte de Nuits"- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc "Haute Côte de Nuits" from Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret is a very pretty wine, offering up a bright bouquet of apple, pear, chalky soil tones, a bit of vanillin oak and a nice topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and juicy, with



good focus and grip and very good length on the well-balanced finish. A very good example. 2015-2020. **88.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The Mongeard family's parcel of *villages* level Savigny hails from thirty-six year-old vines in the *lieu à dit* located just below Narbantons. The wine is raised in ten twenty percent new wood, depending on the vintage. The nose on the 2014 is lovely, wafting from the glass in a complex and red fruity mélange of cherries, strawberries, a touch of orange peel, Savigny spice tones, a good base of soil and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very nicely transparent, with a good core, bright acids and still a bit of wood on the backend in need of integration (which it will do over the next couple of years). The finish is long and focused and this will be a very good example with a bit of bottle age. 2021-2045. **89.**



*Jean Mongeard retired after the 1993 vintage, but he can often still be found holding court at the domaine.*

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Narbantons”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The 2014 Narbantons from Vincent Mongeard was raised in one third new oak and was showing very well at the time of my visit. The very fine bouquet wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, coffee, woodsmoke, iron-like soil tones and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with fine soil inflection, suave tannins and impressive length and grip on the very promising finish. The

inherent elegance of the vintage are very much in evidence in this excellent young example of Narbantons. 2023-2055+. **92.**

**2014 Fixin- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The 2014 Fixin AC is a good, sturdy example of its appellation, offering up a bright bouquet of red and black cherries, venison, woodsmoke, a touch of chocolate and a deft framing of spicy wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and fairly forward in personality, with a good core, modest tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. This is quite a stylish example of Fixin, with none of the youthful rusticity that sometimes pops up with *villages* level bottlings in this commune. 2016-2030. **87+.**

**2014 Fixin “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

This parcel of sixty-five year-old vines was added to the domaine’s roster of vineyard holdings in 2007, and the wine shows more old vine sappiness at the core and more complexity on both the nose and palate. Both bottlings of Fixin are raised in five to ten percent new wood, but the Vieilles Vignes bottling shows a bit of nutty oak, which is not evident in the straight *villages* example in 2014. The bouquet is deep and classy, wafting from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, coffee, roasted venison, mustard seed, a very good base of soil tones and a bit of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plush on the attack, with a good core, gentle tannins and impressive length and grip on the very well-balanced finish. Fine juice. 2019-2040+. **89.**

**2014 Pernand-Vergelesses “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

I have always liked the domaine’s bottling of les Vergelesses and the 2014 is very strong. The bouquet offers up a fine and quite elegant blend of black cherries, a touch of red currant, bonfires, coffee, lovely soil tones, a bit of game and a topnote of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and still shows a touch of CO2 on the backend from its later malo, with fine-grained tannins, lovely soil signature and a long, nascently complex and ripely tannic finish. This will be a fine example. 2022-2050+. **90.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The Mongeard family’s bottling of Vosne *villages* hails from parcels in the two *lieux à dits* of Aux Réas and Genevrières, with the vines averaging forty-five years of age. The 2014 shows lovely perfume in its bouquet of plums, black cherries, chocolate, hints of the autumnal soil tones to come and a bit of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plush on the attack, with a good core, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the focused finish. This will be a lovely AC with a handful of years in the cellar. 2020-2045+. **89.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The 2014 Chambolle-Musigny from Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret is a very pretty and classic example of its commune, wafting from the glass in an aromatic blend of red and black cherries, coffee, woodsmoke, a touch of mustard seed, a nice base of soil and a bit of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and already starting to get velvety, with a good core and nice focus and grip on the tangy finish. Good juice. 2019-2045. **89.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “Mazières Hautes”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

This was the first time I had tasted the Mazières Hautes bottling of Vosne *villages* from the domaine. This hails from a parcel of seventy-two year-old vines that are located in the upper northwesterly corner of the vineyard, right below the Les Treux *climat* in Echézeaux. The 2014 from Vincent Mongeard is lovely, offering up a deep and complex nose of red and black cherries, gamebirds, woodsmoke, a fine base of minerality, coffee and a touch of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and shows a nice touch of sap in the mid-palate,

with fine soil signature, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the finish. This will want a year or two longer in the cellar to start to blossom fully than the straight Vosne AC and should be a fine village wine. 2021-2050+. **89+**.

#### **2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

Of the range of village wines shown from the 2014 vintage, the Gevrey-Chambertin was my favorite at the tasting at Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret. The bottling comes from a pair of parcels, one located just below Charmes-Chambertin and the other on the other side of the *Route Nationale* near the Clos de la Justice. The 2014 version offers up a very precise and quite red fruity nose of cherries, pomegranate, mustard seed, dark soil tones, smoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and impressively transparent, with a good core and a long, pure and ripely tannic finish. 2020-2045+. **90**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Orveaux”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

Les Orveaux is one of the steepest vineyards in all of Flagey, with half of this vineyard included in Echézeaux and the other half entitled to premier cru status. The Mongeards’ parcel is just on the other side of the path that divides the grand cru section from the premier cru. The 2014 is really excellent, as the elegance of this vintage really makes its presence felt here, with the wine offering up a fine nose of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, a touch of nuttiness, a lovely base of soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and focused, with a fine core of pure fruit, excellent soil signature, fine-grained tannins and lovely balance on the long, tangy and nascently complex finish. 2023-2065+. **93**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The Mongeard-Mugneret 2014 Boudots is also very strong in this vintage, as these thirty year-old vines are now coming into their prime. The wine wafts from the glass in an excellent blend of red and black cherries, gamebird, woodsmoke, fresh herb tones, a fine base of soil (that already hints at the *sous bois* to come) and spicy wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite soil-driven in personality, with a sappy core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. This will need a good decade in the cellar to really blossom, but it will be outstanding once it is ready to drink. Fine juice. 2024-2065+. **93**.

#### **2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The 2014 vintage will be the last where the domaine produces two distinct bottlings of Echézeaux, as their old vine cuvée will no longer be produced. This bottling hails from two *climats* in the vineyard, Echézeaux du Dessus and les Treux (which Henri Mayer used to argue was the finest *climat* in the vineyard). The vines here range from twenty-five to sixty years of age and are raised in anywhere from sixty to eighty percent new wood, depending on the style of the vintage. The 2014 is excellent, offering up a fine aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, venison, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke, coffee, Vosne spices and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, tangy, refined and quite soil-driven finish. This will be excellent in the fullness of time. 2025-2075. **94**.

#### **2014 Echézeaux “la Grande Complication” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The old vine cuvée of Echézeaux from the Mongeard family used to hail from a parcel of vines planted in 1945 that are owned by a cousin, who has decided to bequeath them to the Hospices de Beaune starting in the 2015 vintage, so the 2014 is the last that will be produced at the domaine. Hence the name of this cuvée: “la Grande Complication.” This parcel is also located in the *climat* of Echézeaux du Dessus, right above Grands Echézeaux, and Vincent Mongeard has certainly fashioned a superb last vintage of this bottling. The superb nose is a tad

more reserved out of the blocks than the regular cuvée, but very, very promising in its blend of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, gamebirds, woodsmoke, incipient notes of *sous bois* and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, fine-grained tannins and a very long, tangy and nascently complex finish. A great wine for the final chapter of this bottling! 2025-2075. **95.**

**2014 Clos de Vougeot- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The Mongeards have two plots of vines in the Clos, with one located right under the Château and the other on the extreme southern side of the vineyard abutting Grands Echézeaux. The vines are all forty-five to fifty years of age and in their prime. The 2014 has turned out beautifully, as the inherent elegance of the vintage really works well in this young Clos de Vougeot, with the nose wafting from the glass in a blaze of red and black cherries, plums, gamebirds, coffee a complex base of soil, a touch of fresh nutmeg and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with superb focus and grip, ripe tannins, a lovely core and great transparency on the very long and promising finish. A dynamite Clos Vougeot in the making. 2025-2075. **94+.**

**2014 Grands Echézeaux- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

I have loved the Mongeard Grands Echézeaux for about as long as I have been drinking Burgundies, as the '83 and '85 vintages of this bottling were amongst the very first grand crus that I ever splurged on back in my early wine merchant days. The family's vines here are located up towards the very top of the slope, right smack dab in the middle of the vineyard, and range from forty-five to nearly seventy years of age. The 2014 Grands Echézeaux is a stellar wine, offering up a classic nose of black cherries, black plums, cocoa, fresh herb tones, venison, Vosne spices, a marvelous base of soil and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit out of the blocks, with a great core of pure black fruit, excellent soil inflection, ripe, suave tannins and a very long, focused and transparent finish. This is a proper *vin de garde* in 2014 and will be stunning with sufficient bottle age, but it will want at least a dozen years to blossom and will probably not really be at its apogee until its twentieth birthday. 2027-2085. **95+.**

**2014 Richebourg- Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret**

The domaine's plot of vines in Richebourg are in the lower section of the slope, about equidistant from Romanée-Conti and Romanée-St.-Vivant, with the vines ranging from forty to sixty years of age. The 2014 is exceptional in quality, delivering a fine and classic nose of plums, black cherries, gamebird, cocoa, a classy base of soil, woodsmoke and a generous serving of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, excellent transparency and a long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. Like most examples from this vineyard, the Mongeard Richebourg is aged in one hundred percent new wood and will need some extended bottle age to really blossom. But, it will be absolutely stunning in due course. 2028-2100. **97.**

**Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg (Vosne-Romanée)**

*I love visiting with the Mugneret sisters each year at their domaine in Vosne-Romanée, as aside from the beautiful quality of their wines year in and year out, this is one of the nicest families I have ever been fortunate enough to get to know over the course of my life. Even if their wines were not some of my favorite wines in the whole world, I would be happy to come back here just to share a bit of conversation together, but it is awfully nice when a visit chez Mugneret also entails running through a beautiful lineup of wines, as is the case with the very elegant 2014s here. As I noted in the introduction, Marie-Christine Mugneret noted the weather was so*

*cold in August that they had to turn on the heat at home to keep warm, and as she noted, “we were so uncertain about the quality of the vintage at the end of August that we really had no idea about the wines, but the first two weeks of September were just perfect and everything turned out very well.” Marie-Andrée Mugneret called it “a miracle vintage, as the grapes ripened just perfectly in the September weather and we could not have asked for anything more, with warm sunny days to ripen the grapes and cool nights to keep the acidity and freshness.” The domaine started harvesting on September 18<sup>th</sup> and was able to bring in everything by the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with little sorting needed, as the grapes were in beautiful condition and yields were quite normal here. Malolactic fermentations were all finished by June of 2015 and the entire cellar was racked once in July. At the time of my visit, some wines had already been assembled in tank in preparation for bottling in the spring, while others were still rounding out in cask. Many of the wines were very red fruity in character this year, which I find really attractive in Vosne and, in my experience, this augurs very well indeed for their ultimate complexity and refinement when they are fully mature. Across the board, they combined great purity of fruit and utterly classic expressions of their underlying terroir. A magical collection of young wines chez Mugneret in 2014.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

Burgundy's most consistently excellent bottling of Bourgogne is again excellent in 2014. The lovely and very red fruity nose this year offers up scents of cherries, red plums, Vosne spices, a lovely base of soil and just a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very pure, with a sweet core, nicely integrated structural elements and a long, modestly tannic finish.. This will be terrific with a few years of bottle age. 2019-2040. **88+**.

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The 2014 Vosne *villages* from the Mugnerets is also very red fruity this year, wafting from the glass in a lovely nose of raspberries, cherries, Vosne spice tones, a lovely base of soil and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and tangy, with a sweet core of fruit, suave tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and vibrant finish. Classy juice. 2021-2050. **90**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

There are only two casks this year of the Nuits old vines bottling, with one of them having been new up to the first racking in July, after which everything went into previously used barrels. This is a beautiful and very elegant young NSG in 2014, offering up a very refined nose of cherries, pomegranate, a touch of nutskin, a great base of soil, a dollop of raw cocoa, gamebird and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and disarmingly charming out of the blocks (not how I typically think of young Nuits St. Georges!), with a fine core of fruit, very suave tannins and impeccable focus and balance on the long and tangy finish. Just a lovely bottle in the making. 2022-2050. **92**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Vignes Rondes”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The vines here are now forty years of age and the wine is really starting to come into its own in the Mugnerets' cellars. In the past, this was often just a touch rustic in personality and a bit of the odd man out here, but not so in 2014- though the style of the vintage is certainly part of the reason! The fine nose offers up scents of dark berries, black plums, nutskin, espresso, dark soil tones, cedar and woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the promising finish. 2025-2065. **92**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

As the Mugnerets had a few more new casks this year in the cellar, both the Chaignots and Feusselottes were raised in fifty percent new wood this year. The Chaignots is very lovely and returns to the red fruity them of the vintage *chez* Mugneret in 2014, wafting from the glass in a very classy blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of Vosne spice elements, dusty rose, gamebird, soil and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and tightly-knit out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and a long, vibrant and still quite primary finish. This will be terrific, but it is going to need some bottle age to start to stir. 2025-2065. **93.**

#### **2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Feusselottes”- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The 2014 is one of the best young vintage of Feusselottes that I have tasted from the Mugneret sisters. The stunning nose delivers a perfumed constellation of red plums, cherries, roses, gamebird, cocoa powder, a gorgeous base of chalky soil tones and a gentle framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with stunning soil signature, suave tannins and great length and grip on the laser-like finish. A beautiful bottle of Chambolle. 2024-2065. **94.**

#### **2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The 2014 Mugneret-Gibourg Echézeaux is very black fruity this year and an utterly classic expression of its *terroir*. The bouquet delivers a fine blend of cassis, dark berries, espresso, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, venison and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and rock solid at the core, with great focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and exceptional length on the perfectly balanced and nascently complex finish. *Chapeau!* 2025-2085. **95+.**

#### **2014 Ruchottes-Chambertin- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The 2014 Ruchottes-Chambertin from the Mugneret family is also outstanding, wafting from the glass in a stunning constellation of black cherries, sweet dark berries, grilled meat, bitter chocolate, woodsmoke, black minerality and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and more reticent out of the blocks than the Echézeaux, with a fine core and excellent balance on the focused and ripely tannic finish. This is probably every bit as fine as the Echézeaux, but with its more reserved profile out of the blocks, I have to give a very, very slight nod to the Echézeaux this year. 2025-2085. **95.**

#### **2014 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Georges Mugneret-Gibourg**

The 2014 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Mugneret-Gibourg is also a bit tight out of the blocks, but there is so much quality manifest here that it is still very easy to see just how stunning this wine will be in the fullness of time. The youthful nose offers up a classic blend of red and black cherries, a touch of red plum, mustard seed, lovely soil tones, incipient gamebird and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still fairly adolescent and in the process of absorbing its wood, with a lovely core and excellent transparency, ripe tannins and stunning length and grip on the focused and elegant finish. 2025-2085. **96.**

#### **Domaine Georges Noëllat (Vosne-Romanée)**

*Maxime Cheurlin has made another outstanding range of wines in the 2014 vintage, but this was one of those cellars (much as was the case at Domaine Méo-Camuzet) where the new wood had not yet been fully integrated into the wines, so that they were showing a bit more oakiness in November than I think they will ultimately display. But, Monsieur Cheurlin also used a touch more new wood in 2014 than he did for his 2013s, reasoning that the vintage had a bit more stuffing and could support a bit higher percentage of new barrels this year. This is the*

*fashion in Vosne-Romanée these days (sadly in my opinion), so it is not too surprising to see the Domaine Noëllat wines a touch more new oaky this year, but I was still very much impressed by the depth, purity and strikingly expressive reflections of terroir in each wine. The two grand crus and the Beaumonts were all raised in new casks in 2014, with the other premier crus seeing between half and two-thirds new barrels and the village wine received forty percent new oak. The wines are not overly oaky by any measure, but intuitively, it seems to me that if one has some of the most magical terroir in all the world in which to grow pinot noir grapes, what is the point of obscuring it a bit with a higher percentage of new oak? This observation goes for the vast majority of producers in Vosne-Romanée and is certainly not directed at Monsieur Cheurlin, who is making superb wines, but I often wonder what it would be like to drink La Tâche or Richebourg out of a third new casks, instead of almost always having to see the wines raised in all new barrels. Happily, Charles van Canneyt at Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat only uses fifty percent new wood for his own Richebourg, so there is at least one example out there, but it seems the trend is towards even more new wood for many of the very top bottlings in this village and that is too bad. In any case, Monsieur Cheurlin began harvesting in 2014 on September 15<sup>th</sup> and brought in absolutely beautiful grapes. The malos were not particularly late to finish in the cellars here and the wines were showing beautifully in November. I did not have a chance to taste the Nuits AC this year, but loved everything else from Monsieur Cheurlin in 2014. The vintage here shows just gorgeous, sappy and pure fruit tones, coupled to absolutely exemplary expressions of terroir in each and every wine. The tannins are ripe, suave and seamlessly integrated into the wines (where the new wood is completely absorbed already) and this is yet again another outstanding vintage for Domaine Georges Noëllat.*

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

The 2014 Vosne-Romanée from Domaine Georges Noëllat is a lovely village wine, offering up a bright and complex nose of raspberries, cherries, gamebird, a fine base of soil and a stylish framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with fine focus and grip, lovely soil signature and a long, tangy and gently tannic finish. There is an almost crunchy texture to this wine this year that is really attractive. 2019-2045. **90.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Chaumes”- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

The percentage of new wood used this year for the Chaumes bottling *chez* Cheurlin is up ten percent from 2013, but fifty percent is not a particularly heavy load of lumber for this cru to carry. The bouquet is beautiful and sappy right out of the blocks for the 2014 Chaumes, wafting from the glass in a blend of raspberries, red plums, duck, a beautiful base of soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure on the attack, with a very sappy core of red fruit, fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and balance and a long, tangy and complex finish. A really classy bottle of Chaumes. 2021-2055+. **91+.**

#### **2014 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

There are only three casks of Petits Monts in 2014, so Monsieur Cheurlin decided to use two new barrels for the *elevage* of the wine in this vintage. This is a beautiful and very classic example of Petits Monts, offering up a pure bouquet of black cherries, sweet dark berries, raw cocoa, gamebirds, dark soil tones and a fine base of nutty new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very soil-driven in personality, with a sappy core of black fruit, suave tannins, tangy acids and outstanding length and grip on the complex and seamless finish. This is very reminiscent of Véronique Drouhin’s example, and that is the highest Petits Monts praise I can give! 2021-2055+. **93+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Boudots”- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

In the style of the 2014 vintage from Monsieur Cheurlin, the Boudots this year is an absolutely quintessential example of this marvelous *terroir*. The first class bouquet delivers a blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, a complex base of soil tones, gamebird, woodsmoke and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a sappy core, great transparency, ripe, refined tannins and outstanding grip and focus on the very long and very soil-driven finish. Classic Boudots! 2023-2055+. **93.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

The new addition from last vintage, the Nuits “aux Cras” is really outstanding in 2014. The bouquet is deep, complex and very black fruity in its mélange of black cherries, sweet dark berries, woodsmoke, gamebirds, dark soil tones, espresso and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with ripe tannins, lovely transparency, bright acids and really excellent length and grip on the perfectly balanced and nascently complex finish. Superb juice. 2024-2060. **93+.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “les Beaux Monts”- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

The 2014 Beaux Monts was raised in all new casks this year, and I cannot really understand the reason for this, but the wine is still very lovely. This was one of the wines in the cellar where the wood tannins were not yet fully integrated into the body of the wine, but it was only a matter of time until this would occur. The bouquet is superb, offering up scents of black raspberries, red cherries, dark soil tones, a touch of venison, bonfires, cocoa and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine focus and grip, lovely backend minerality and a long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. A fine example that will show plenty of the vintage’s elegance when it is fully mature. 2024-2065. **93+.**

**2014 Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

Monsieur Cheurlin has two parcels of vines in the *climat* of Cruots, with both plots in excess of one hundred years of age. This is really a stunning young example of Echézeaux in 2014, soaring from the glass in a brilliant blend of raspberries, red plums, gamebirds, Vosne spice tones, a great base of minerality and plenty of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on the attack and very mineral on the backend, with a sappy core, excellent focus and grip and a very, very long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. A fine bottle in the making. 2025-2075. **95.**

**2014 Grands Echézeaux- Domaine Georges Noëllat**

Not surprisingly, the domaine’s 2014 Grands Echézeaux is also a brilliant young wine in the making. The superb nose delivers a complex constellation of red and black raspberries, red plums, great minerality, gamebird, fresh herb tones, Vosne spices and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent in personality, with fine-grained tannins, a sappy core and lovely grip and balance on the very, very long and classic finish. Great juice. 2025-2075. **96.**





### **Nuits St. Georges**

#### **Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils (Nuits St. Georges)**

*I remember so well visiting Bertrand Chevillon in December of 2014 and his showing me the photographs he took at harvest time (one of these is to the right) of the absolutely perfect grapes that the family was able to bring in during the Indian Summer conditions of September of 2014. The Chevillons began picking on September 11<sup>th</sup> in this vintage and brought in grapes that were in such fine condition that there was almost no sorting needed back at the cuverie. Monsieur Chevillon tends to really like structured and concentrated vintages and he seemed to have just a bit of distrust for the really early sappiness of his superb range of 2014s, opining that “the 2013s probably have just a bit more concentration than the 2014s and the younger vintage will be the one that will drink well sooner.” But, when one looks at those beautiful grapes at the right, it is very easy to see where the*

*utterly gorgeous fruit tones of the 2014s from Domaine Chevillon came from this year, and like so many of the most successful domaines in the Côte de Nuits this year, the Chevillon 2014s couple their sappy and pure fruit tones to absolutely classic expressions of their underlying soils. The malolactic fermentations here finished up in June of 2015, with the exception of the Nuits “Vieilles Vignes”, which was the earliest in the cellar and was completed in the spring. The racking here was done before the harvest of 2015 and the wines were absolutely singing at the time of my visit, with the great fruit tones and superb transparency tied to seamlessly structured wines of impressive depth and, in my opinion, potential for long-term cellaring as well. Certainly, they will drink well on the earlier side this year (particularly crus such as Chaignots and Roncières), but these are not easy-going wines that lack a chassis of tannin, and they are destined to be an utterly superb range of wines over the coming decades. It will be great fun comparing the 2013 and 2014 vintages chez Chevillon twenty years down the road, as right now, I cannot choose a favorite from among these two “Belles Surprises” vintages from this iconic estate!*

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The earlier completion of the malo for the *villages* this year at Domaine Chevillon has the wine absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The superb nose offers up scents of red and black cherries, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a lovely base of soil and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite soil-driven in personality, with a lovely

core, fine length and grip and a very refined, suavely-tannic finish. A lovely old vine cuvée. 2019-2045. **90.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The Chaignots is always the most accessible of the premier crus in the Chevillon cellars, but the 2014 shows a lovely sense of reserve out of the blocks that augurs very well for its potential longevity. The bouquet is very pure and elegant, offering up scents of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a beautiful base of soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with excellent transparency, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully balanced finish. A really lovely Chaignots in the making. 2021-2050+. **92.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Bousselots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The domaine’s 2014 Bousselots is quite black fruity in personality this year, as it wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, plums, a fine base of soil, dark chocolate, incipient notes of gamebird and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a sappy core of black fruit, fine soil signature and lovely backend bounce and grip on the fine-grained and focused finish. Fine juice. 2021-2050+. **92.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Roncières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2014 Roncières *chez* Chevillon is quite a bit more reserved on the nose than either the Chaignots or Bousselots, as it offers up a pure, but discreet mix of cherries, vinesmoke, gamebirds, coffee, a nice dollop of soil and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is far more expressive than the reserved nose suggests, offering up lovely vibrancy and purity in its full-bodied format. The wine has a fine core of fruit, very good balance and a long, ripely tannic and soil-driven finish. Another very fine bottle in the making. 2022-2050+. **92.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

In very transparent years like 2014, the vineyard of Perrières supplies some of the most beautiful red fruit tones to be found anywhere in Nuits St. Georges, and this is most certainly the case with the outstanding version from Domaine Chevillon this year! The stunningly complex young nose soars from the glass in a blaze of cherries, blood orange, pomegranate, a great base of stony soil tones, cocoa, fresh herbs, vanillin oak and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure on the attack and very vibrant, with a sappy core, great transparency and a very, very long, fine-grained and tangy finish. I love this vintage of Perrières! 2022-2055+. **93+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Pruliers”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

As was the case here in 2012, the 2014 Domaine Chevillon Pruliers is supremely elegant out of the blocks, reflecting the style of this lovely vintage. This was the last wine in the cellar to finish its malo in 2014, but the wine was singing at the time of my visit, offering up a superb bouquet of red and black cherries, red plums, nutskin, gamebird, cocoa, a great base of soil, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with impeccable focus and balance, ripe, chewy tannins and excellent grip on the poised and very long finish. This is very uncharacteristically red fruity out of the blocks this year, which makes it almost an exotic vintage for this normally quite black fruity premier cru. A great wine in the making. 2024-2065. **93+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2014 les Cailles from the Chevillon family is equally stunning. The bouquet is deep, pure and remarkably vibrant, jumping from the glass in a blaze of cherries, pomegranate, nutskin, woodsmoke, gamebird, stunning minerality and a deft framing of new wood. On the

palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with great elegance and depth, laser-like focus and a very long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. An absolutely superb and classic example of les Cailles. 2022-2060+. **94.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

We tasted the Les St. Georges 2014 out of a new cask, as the older barrels (which is what I usually taste during my visits at the domaine) were due for a racking and showing a bit of reduction. New wood- no problem here! The 2014 is a very red fruity version of this great *terroir*, offering up a beautiful and very sappy nose of cherries, red plums, gamebird, nutskin, strikingly complex minerality, roses and spicy wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with impeccable focus, great balance and grip, ripe, seamless tannins and a very, very long, vibrant and tangy finish. *Grand Vin!* 2025-2075. **95.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2014 Domaine Chevillon Vaucrains is another stunning wine in the making, as I love the synthesis of the elegance of the vintage with the depth and power inherent in this great vineyard. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a sappy blend of cherries, pomegranate, nutskin, again, very stony minerality, gamebird, a touch of mustard seed and a judicious framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows almost bottomless depth of sappy fruit, with stunning transparency, ripe tannins and a very, very long, perfectly balanced and soil-driven finish. Sheer greatness in the making! 2025-2075. **95.**

**Domaine Henri Gouges (Nuits St. Georges)**

*Grégory Gouges was very happy with the quality of the family’s 2014s, as this was a vintage where the grapes ripened absolutely beautifully in the last fortnight and he was able to bring in the bunches with natural sugars all between 12.5 and thirteen percent natural alcohol potential and did not chapitalize anything this year. As readers will recall, the hailstorm of June 28<sup>th</sup> did not drop any stones on Nuits St. Georges and this is probably the most favored commune in all the Côte d’Or in this vintage. The Gouges family began harvesting on September 13<sup>th</sup> and averaged yields of thirty-four hectoliters per hectare in this vintage. The Nuits AC and Bourgogne had both been racked two weeks prior to my visit, with the remainder of the cellar awaiting their racking at the end of November. I did not taste the 2014 Chaînes de Carteaux at the time of my visit, and I cannot recall now why this was the case, but imagine that it was in the midst of its racking at the time. The entire lineup of 2014 chez Gouges is stunning and this will be one of the great recent vintages for this superb estate.*

**2014 Bourgogne- Domaine Henri Gouges**

The 2014 Bourgogne rouge from Domaine Gouges is a very good example in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a deep and black fruity blend of black cherries, cassis, venison, dark soil tones and a bit of espresso in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, suave and modestly tannic, with a good core, fine soil tones and very good length and grip. A classy bottle. 2018-2035+. **88+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges- Domaine Henri Gouges**

The Gouges family’s 2014 Nuits AC had also been racked a couple of weeks prior to my visit and had bounced back nicely. The wine offers up a lovely and quite red fruity nose this year of cherries, red berry, coffee, a lovely base of Nuits soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite stylish, with a lovely core of fruit, fine-grained

tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and refined finish. This will not take too long to start to drink well, but is so beautifully balanced that it will also age very well. 2020-2055. **90.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Chaignots”- Domaine Henri Gouges**

The 2014 Chaignots was showing lovely potential and a nice sense of reserve out of cask, which augurs very well for its future longevity. The bouquet is pure and very classic, offering up scents of black cherries, sweet dark berries, gamebirds, a fien base of chalky soil tones, dark chocolate and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fien core, ripe tannins and a long, focused and very refined finish. A lovely bottle in the making. 2021-2060. **91+.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Porrets”- Domaine Henri Gouges**

One of the nicest side effects of my completing my historical feature on the Gouges family earlier this year was my finally understanding just how brilliant a bottling the Clos des Porrets is here year in and year out. The 2014 looks destined to be a reference point vintage for this fine *terroir*, as the wine is very refined on both the nose and palate out of the blocks. The superb bouquet is a blend of red and black cherries, coffee, *pigeon*, a gorgeous base of soil tones, fresh herbs and a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved in personality, with a great core of pure fruit, fine soil signature and a very, very long, fine-grained finish. This will be a supremely elegant vintage of Clos des Porrets. 2024-2065+. **94.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Pruliers”- Domaine Henri Gouges**

The 2014 Pruliers is another wine *chez* Gouges that really has benefited from the inherent elegance of the vintage, as this wine will be equally refined and polished at its apogee. The bouquet is a young and complex mix of sweet dark berries, currant leaf, dark soil tones, woodsmoke, incipient notes of venison, espresso and just a bit of new oak in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a rock solid core of fruit, outstanding focus and grip and excellent backend energy on the poised and ripely tannic finish. Again, the tannins seems effortlessly seamless here in 2014. Great juice. 2025-2065+. **94.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Henri Gouges**

When I commented to Grégory about the early elegance that the 2014 Vaucrains was showing out of cask this year, he commented that “it is funny, but in some years, the Vaucrains is completely closed when young, and the Les St. Georges is more open, and in other years, it is the complete inverse, as is the case with the 2014s.” This is a great Vaucrains in the making, as it offers up a very refined bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, gamebird, stony soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and a topnote of French Roast. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively pure on the attack, with a sappy core, lovely soil inflection, ripe, well-integrated tannins and a long, youthful and very, very promising finish. 2027-2075. **95.**

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Henri Gouges**

The 2014 Les St. Georges *chez* Gouges is far more reserved in profile this year than any of the other premier crus, but it too shows off the profound elegance of the vintage and will be a great wine in the fullness of time. The utterly classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of sweet dark berries, cassis, graphite, complex minerality, espresso, a touch of new oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with a fine, soil-driven personality, excellent purity and focus and a very long, ripely tannic and youthful finish. 2025-2075. **95+.**



*A glass of older Nuits St. Georges to properly finish up a recent vintage to Domaine Henri Gouges.*

### **Domaine Alain Michelot (Nuits St. Georges)**

*As is not uncommon in the cold Michelot cellars, the malolactic fermentations on the 2014s here were amongst the slowest in all of the Côte d'Or and a few wines were still in the midst of finishing up or had only recently finished at the time of my visit on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Consequently, a couple of wines were simply still impossible to taste, whereas others still had a bit of gas on the backend and took a bit of swirling to open up, and others, who had finished their malos earlier were just singing. The cellar was just at the start of its first racking at the time of my visit, but I only tasted from casks that had not yet been racked and have scored some wines in a range if they were reduced or still affected by the recent completion of their malo, and a couple of wines were really still so out of sorts that it was not possible to take a proper note. This is not all that uncommon when visiting and tasting with Elodie Michelot, as the cooler cellars here always make the range a bit behind most of its neighbors in November. Nevertheless, enough wines were in good form to interpolate that 2014 is another very strong vintage chez Michelot, as the many of the wines in the mood for tasting were very pure, very red fruity this year and absolutely emblematic of their underlying terroirs. The elegance of the vintage is very much in evidence across the board here and this will be a superb range of refined, velvety and sappy wines at their apogees. Elodie Michelot has been making truly exceptional wines here for as long as I have been visiting regularly and this is one of the true super star domaines in Nuits St. Georges today.*



#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The 2014 Bourgogne rouge was destined to be racked a day or two after my visit and still had a touch of residual gas in its from its recently completed malo. Underneath is a wine with very pretty notes of red and black cherries, nutskin, woodsmoke and a very nice undertow of soil. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and juicy, with good length and focus and just a bit of tannin perking up the long finish. A very respectable example. 2018-2030. **87+**.

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The Morey AC was the very last wine to complete its malo in the cellars and if it had finished, it had only done so minutes before my arrival. It was hard to taste, but I did note that it was long and quite transparent.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

In contrast to the Morey *villages*, the 2014 Nuits “V.V.” bottling here was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The complex bouquet is deep, pure and vibrant, jumping from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, woodsmoke, nutskin, gamebirds and a lovely base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with a fine soil inflection, moderate tannins and lovely bounce and grip on the long and beautifully balanced finish. This will be a very velvety example of Nuits AC when it is fully mature and will not take too long to blossom and start to drink with real charm. 2020-2050. **90.**

#### **2014 Morey St. Denis “les Charrières”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The Morey “Charrières” was also in fine form and showing excellent potential at the time of my visit, delivering a fine constellation of sappy, pure black cherry and pomegranate fruit tones, dark soil, raw cocoa, woodsmoke and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with very good sappiness and transparency, suave tannins and a very long, vibrant and classy finish. A beautiful bottle of Morey in the making. 2022-2060. **92.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “la Richemone”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The 2014 la Richemone was another of the very late malo finishers *chez* Michelot and the wine was a bit grumpy still on the palate, but the nose was much more sanguine about being tasted. The black fruity bouquet is a blend of black cherries, plums, cocoa, nutskin, gamebirds and a lovely base of dark soil tones. The palate is full-bodied, long and transparent, with plenty of sappiness at the core, ripe tannins and fine length and grip. I am sure the precision is here, but lying in wait at the moment behind the slight agitation of the recent memory of the malo. 2023-2060. **91-92+.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The 2014 les Cailles was in a better mood for tasting than the la Richemone and offers up a very stylish and sappy nose of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, gamebird, a fine base of soil and a nice touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already quite suave on the attack, with a sappy core, fine focus and grip and a long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. A lovely example of les Cailles in the making. 2023-2060. **92+.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Champs Perdrix”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The Michelots’ vines in Champs Perdrix are seventy-eight years old, and these old vines in stony soils have really excelled in this vintage. The bouquet is flat out beautiful, offering up a sappy mélange of black cherries, plums, roses, gamebird, raw cocoa, plenty of stoniness, nutskin and a deft touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with ripe tannins, lovely focus and grip and a long, vibrant and youthful finish. This will be a terrific wine. 2023-2060. **93.**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The rollercoaster continues with a 2014 Chaignots that is still showing some gas from the late completion of its malo and was also fairly reduced (and in the midst of being racked that day). The wine has a fine core and pretty suave structural elements, not to mention fine length, but it was in no shape for taking a proper note. I am sure it will be quite good, based on the rest of the range and the consistency of the Chaignots *chez* Michelot year in and year out. **91-93?**

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

In contrast, the Vaucrains was showing very well, albeit properly young and structured out of the blocks. The very black fruity nose this year offers up scents of black cherries, sweet dark berries, coffee bean, a very complex base of soil, woodsmoke and just a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure and mineral in profile, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and a long, focused and tangy finish. Fine, fine juice. 2024-2065. **93+**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The 2014 Les St. Georges was again a bit reductive at the time of my visit, but was coaxed into blossoming with a bit of swirling and offered up a fine nose of sappy red fruit, raw cocoa, nutskin, again, superbly complex soil tones, roses and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very sappy at the core, with fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and balance and a very long, soil-driven finish. This will be very good. 2025-2065+. **93-94+**.

#### **2014 Clos Vougeot- Domaine Alain Michelot**

The 2014 Clos Vougeot from Domaine Michelot was raised in less than thirty percent new wood this year and was absolutely shining at the time of my visit. The deep, pure and simply gorgeous bouquet delivers scents of red plums, red and black cherries, a superb signature of soil, incipient notes of the venison to come, woodsmoke and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and impeccably balanced, with a fine core, lovely focus and balance and a long, ripely tannic and soil-driven finish. This is simply one of the best examples of Clos Vougeot made in the Côte these days! 2025-2075. **95**.

#### **2014 Nuits St. Georges “la Perrière Noblot” Blanc- Domaine Alain Michelot**

These are still vines that are under ten years of age, but they are getting older and the depth is starting to come! The 2014 la Perrières Noblot Blanc was bottled right before the harvest of 2015 and was raised in one-third new wood this year. It was showing lovely style in its bouquet of apple, quince, beeswax, stony soil tones, a touch of vanillin oak and a field full of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and juicy on the attack, with a respectable core, bright acids and lovely bounce and grip on the long and vibrant finish. A very tasty bottle that will drink fairly early on and has the balance to age nicely as well. 2016-2030. **90+**.

### ***Savigny-lès-Beaune***

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

*The 2014s at Domaine Simon Bize et Fils are truly stunning examples of the vintage, as Chisa Bize and her team have captured all of the latent potential in this pure and supremely elegant vintage. With the hail of late June hitting on the Beaune side of the village more seriously than on the Pernand side, the few of the cuvées where hail was a factor in the vineyards were completely destemmed in 2014, as the stems were not of high enough quality for inclusion in the fermentations. Where hail was not an issue, the 2014 wines were fermented with a significant percentage of whole clusters, as has been typical at the domaine for generations. One or two of the red wines showed a bit of the more sturdy and chewy side of the vintage as a result of the hailstorm on June 28<sup>th</sup>, but I reiterate that this is nothing like the more notably*

*rustic structures one found in many of the Côte de Beaune reds in 2012 that were also hit by hail, as the textural differences in 2014 between wines from hailed on vineyards and those that were not touched is far less significant than was the case a couple of years ago. The wines that I tasted here were all assembled in tank already in preparation for bottling in the spring, as is the custom at Domaine Bize. Like many of the most successful addresses in 2014, the red wines here offer a beautiful combination of ripe and very pure fruit tones and utterly classic underlying expressions of their respective terroirs, and tasting through the full Bize lineup this year is like a master class in the variations between various premier crus in Savigny-lès-Beaune. The whites wines chez Bize are also outstanding in this vintage, with the purity of fruit, exemplary soil signatures and vibrant energy found in the best white wines of the Côte de Beaune. Though the white wine appellations in the cellar here are not as toney as the reds, the entire range is beautifully crafted in 2014 and a wine like the Bourgogne Blanc “Perrières”, with its serious base of complex minerality and vivid fruit has to be one of the most beautiful white Burgundy values one can find anywhere in the Côte d’Or.*

### ***Vins Rouges de Simon Bize et Fils***

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Bourgeots”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The Bourgeots this year was one-third de-stemmed, as there was some hail in one sector of this vineyard. The wine shows lovely depth and complexity on the nose, offering up scents of currants, dark berries, a lovely base of minerality, gamebird and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely grip and focus on the ripely tannic finish, good length and fine balance. This is still quite primary in personality and will need some time to blossom properly, but it is an outstanding Savigny *villages* in the making. 2020-2045+. **90.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 Grands Liards was just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but with a bit of swirling opened up nicely. This is a very precise and refined example of this *lieux à dit* this year, delivering a fine, red fruity nose of currants, cherries, bonfires, stony soil tones and a touch of venison in the works. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and really very soil-driven, with a fine core, ripe, chewy tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and tangy finish. This will need a couple more years than the Bourgeots to blossom, but should prove to be another excellent example of the vintage. 2022-2050. **90-91.**

#### **2014 Aloxe-Corton “le Suchot”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 le Suchot was singing at the time of my visit to Domaine Bize, offering up a pure and black fruity bouquet of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil and hints of the gamebird to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure on the attack, with a good core, ripe tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused and promising finish. This *climat* can sometimes be a bit rustic stylistically in its youth, but the elegance of the 2014 vintage is very much in evidence here. 2021-2050. **91.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Talmettes”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

As Talmettes lies on the Pernand side of the village, it was away from the path of the hail at the end of June and was unaffected by the storm. The resulting wine is really exceptional *chez* Bize in 2014, offering up a superb and very red fruity nose of cherries, currants, stony soil tones, coffee, Savigny spices, woodsmoke and hints of the *sous bois* that will come as the wine matures. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely transparent in personality, with a



fine core, ripe tannins and a long, tangy and quite stony finish. This will want a solid decade in the cellar to really start to stir, but it will be a fine bottle once it has blossomed. 2024-2060. **92.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

Serpentières is also located on the side of the valley in Savigny that was not in the direct path of the June hail, but Chisa Bize noted that their parcel here suffers from leaf roll virus, which presents a challenge for efficient photosynthesis. The 2014 version has turned out very well indeed, but this too will need a good ten years’ worth of bottle age to really start to stir, as it is nicely structured. The bouquet offers up another quite red fruity interpretation of the vintage, with notes of red currants, cherries, coffee, bonfire, a touch of clove and incipient notes of roasted venison wafting from the glass. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe, well-integrated tannins, good acids and a long, focused and still very primary finish. 2024-2060. **92+.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 Fourneaux from Domaine Bize is another superb Savigny premier cru in the making, delivering a fine aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, venison, coffee, a fine signature of soil and some brown spice tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and notably suave on the attack (particularly for a young example of Fourneaux), with a nice core of sappy fruit, fine transparency, ripe tannins and excellent focus and balance on the very long and promising finish. This is a beautiful and utterly classic example of Fourneaux in the making and yet another outstanding Domaine Bize premier cru in 2014. The wine should start to stir a couple of years earlier than the Serpentières, but prove to be every bit as ageworthy. 2022-2060. **92+.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Marconnets”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The Marconnets vineyard is located on the Beaune side of the Savigny valley and this was one of the parcels where hail hit in late June, so that Chisa Bize reported that they lost twenty percent of the crop as a result of the storm and the wine was completely destemmed this year. The bouquet is young and quite black fruity in profile, offering up a fine mélange of cassis, dark berries, coffee grounds, a bit of currant leaf, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and more overtly chewy than the other Savigny premier crus in the tasting, but with a good core, fine focus and a long, youthful and still quite promising finish. Structurally, this wine is just a touch more rustic than the wines from the unaffected vineyards, but there is depth and complexity here as well, and it should still age into a very tasty bottle with sufficient bottle age. However, I cannot imagine it will ever be able to replicate the very suave profiles that the other 2014 Savigny premier crus will show at their apogees. 2020-2050. **90+.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 Vergelesses is a great bottle of Savigny in the making, as we have once again switched sides of the valley and are back on the Pernand side of the village. This is an utterly classic example in the making (and the 1972 Domaine Bize les Vergelesses remains to this day the most hauntingly beautiful and complex bottle of mature Savigny I have ever had the pleasure to taste, so I have great confidence just how stunning the 2014 will be in due course!), as it soars from the glass in a vibrant blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, a complex base of minerality, currant leaf, espresso and a topnote of woodsmoke. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very complex, with impeccable focus and grip, ripe tannins and a nice sense of reserve on the very long, tangy and mineral finish. A great bottle in the making and probably one of the great bargains of the vintage! 2024-2060+. **94.**

### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Guettes”- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The superb 2014 Guettes from Domaine Bize is another absolutely classic bottle in the making. The wine delivers a deep and pure bouquet of black cherries, cassis, gamebirds, espresso, dark soil tones, smoke and again, a distinctive topnote of currant leaf. On the palate the wine is focused, full-bodied and very, very precise, with a rock solid core, superb soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a very long, pure and still quite primary finish. All of the constituent components are in place here for another absolutely stunning bottle of Savigny, but like all of the other top premier crus *chez* Bize of 2014, this wine will deserve a solid decade's worth of bottle age to start to really stir and drink with serious generosity. But, patience will most assuredly be rewarded here! 2024-2060. **94.**

### **2014 Latricières-Chambertin- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 Latricières-Chambertin from Domaine Bize is another excellent bottle in the making. The bouquet is deep, pure and youthfully superb in its blend of black plums, cassis, bitter chocolate, gamebirds, fresh herb tones, woodsmoke and a complex base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and very suave on the attack, with a very fine core of fruit, lovely transparency, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the very well-balanced and primary finish. This too will be an utterly classic example of this marvelous *terroir* in the fullness of time. 2025-2075. **94+.**

### ***Vins Blancs de Simon Bize et Fils***

#### **2014 Bourgogne “les Champlains” Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The Champlains and Perrières had both already been bottled at the end of August, and were very much recovered from the *mise* and on form at the time of my visit. The 2014 Champlains is a really lovely example of its genre, wafting from the glass in a juicy and vivid blend of apple, pear, a nice touch of chalky soil tones and a bit of acacia blossom in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and wide open in personality, with a good core, lovely shape and grip and fine backend energy on the long finish. Classy Bourgogne Blanc. 2015-2025. **88.**

#### **2014 Bourgogne “les Perrières” Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

As is typical with the Perrières bottling *chez* Bize, the 2014 is a truly superb example of Bourgogne and a wine that transcends its level in much the same way as this bottling does at Domaines Coche-Dury and Arnaud Ente in Meursault. The 2014 Perrières offers up a deep and simply stunning bouquet of apple, white peach, a touch of lime zest, beautifully complex, limestone minerality and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, nascently complex and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with bright acids, fine focus and grip and a long, racy and classy finish. This is excellent white Burgundy and one needs to ignore the appellation and just pay attention to the beautiful wine in the glass! 2015-2030. **90+.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Simon Bize et Fils**

The 2014 Savigny Blanc was still in tank and showing beautifully at the time of my visit. The bouquet is bright and vibrant, wafting from the glass in a blend of green apple, lime, chalky minerality, and a very floral topnote redolent of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very much defined by its chalky soil tones, with bright acids, a lovely core and fine focus and grip on the long and zesty finish. A lovely example that will drink beautifully from the outset. 2015-2030. **91.**

### **Domaine Camus-Bruchon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**

*Guillaume Camus is making just outstanding wines and his entire range of 2014s is superb. Picking started here on September 15<sup>th</sup> in 2014 and malos were a bit more relaxed in finishing up here than in many of the cellars that I visited, with the secondary fermentations completing between mid-May and the end of August. The entire cellar was racked and assembled in mid-October and bottling was to begin with the Savigny Blanc at Christmas time, with the reds starting early in the new year. A few of the wines were cranky from their racking a month prior to my visit, but most were singing and clearly showed that the 2014s here will be a velvety, soil-driven and utterly classic lot of wines. Natural alcohol levels came in between twelve and 12.2 percent in this vintage, with Guillaume chapitalizing anywhere from a half to seven-tenths of a degree, depending on the base level of the particular cuvée, with most of the wines topping out in the high twelves. The hail of June 28<sup>th</sup> hit their Bourgogne parcels, as well as the Clos du Roi and Narbantons, which were both down thirty percent in yield as a result. The Gravains and les Lavières were essentially unaffected, as they lie over on the Pernand side of the village. And of course, the Pommard “Arvelets” was once again hit, as Volnay and Pommard seem to get hailed upon every year these days, but again, Guillaume reported that yields here were also down thirty percent, which is better than has been the case in previous years, where it has been customary to see a half to three-quarters of the production wiped out in this vineyard from hail.*



*Guillaume Camus in the domaine's tasting room in Savigny.*

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Goudelettes” Blanc- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Savigny Blanc from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is really excellent this year and really shows what a strong vintage this is for white wines in the Côte de Beaune. The vibrant nose jumps from the glass in a fine blend of apple, orange zest, spring flowers, a lovely base of chalky soil tones and the first signs of the beeswax to come in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and energetic, with a lovely core, fine complexity and a long, tangy and focused finish. A really superb bottle of Savigny Blanc. 2015-2022+. **91.**

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Camus Bourgogne rouge is a very pretty example, offering up a bright blend of cherries, pomegranate, a touch of Savigny currant, good soil tones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and nicely soil-driven, with just a whisper of tannin and a long, bouncy finish. 2015-2022+. **87.**

#### **2014 Chorey-lès-Beaune- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Chorey-lès-Beaune from Domaine Camus-Bruchon is as pretty as the Bourgogne and shows quite a bit more complexity and sappy stuffing at the core, as the bouquet delivers a first rate blend of cherries, red berries, a touch of gamebird, spice tones and a fine base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and very transparent, with a sappy core, fine balance and just a touch of backend tannin on the quite long and classy finish. I would be inclined to give this a year or two in the cellar to really let it blossom completely, but it is going to be very tasty from the moment it is released. 2016-2030+. **88+.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Cuvée Reine Joly”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Cuvée Reine Joly was a bit reticent after its recent *assemblage* and not as exuberant in personality as the Chorey AC. However, this is going to be a lovely *villages*, as the wine shows lovely purity of fruit in its aromatic blend of red and black cherries, cocoa, a fine base of soil, gamebird and a lovely topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and again, very soil-driven in personality, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, fine-grained finish. This really shows the elegance of 2014. 2019-2040+. **89+.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Pimentiers” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Pimentiers from Guillaume Camus is again, very stylish out of the blocks, with lovely depth of fruit and excellent soil signature, The nose wafts from the glass in a mix of cherries, red plums, red currants, woodsmoke, lovely minerality, gamebirds and just a touch of raw cocoa. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite stony in personality, with a fine core of pure fruit, ripe tannins and fine mineral drive on the long and youthful finish. Good juice in the making here. 2020-2050+. **91.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards” V. V.- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Grands Liards in the Camus cellars is also excellent and shows a bit more black fruit tones than the dramatically red fruity Pimentiers this year. The fine bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, pomegranate, raw cocoa, stony minerality, woodsmoke, Savigny spices and a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, and very pure on the attack, with a sappy core and excellent length and grip on the ripely tannic finish. Like the Pimentiers, these very old vines turn out a premier cru level wine year in and year out and the 2014 is very strong. 2021-2055. **91+.**

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Gravains is really fine this year, as this side of the valley was unaffected for the most part by the hail and the wine offers up a very refined bouquet of cherries, pomegranate, a deep base of soil, woodsmoke, Savigny spices and hints of the gamebird to come. On the palate

the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine-grained tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very long, transparent and potentially sappy finish. This is going to be a superb bottle with eight to ten years' worth of bottle age. 2022-2060+. **92+**.

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune "les Lavières"- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

Les Lavières is one of my favorite *terroirs* in Savigny and Guillaume Camus's 2014 version is going to be a stunning example. The vibrant nose offers up scents of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, chalky soil tones, a bit of *pigeon*, woodsmoke and a nice touch of violet in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off lovely depth at the core, with fine focus and bounce, a soil-driven backend and lovely focus and grip on the suavely-tannic and long finish. This will be very, very elegant when it fully blossoms. 2021-2060+. **93**.

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Narbantons" Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Narbantons from Domaine Camus shows a touch of black fruit in its aromatics and flavors this year from its reduced yields, offering up a young and promising nose of black cherries, violets, pomegranate, gamebird, stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a topnote of Savigny spices. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with chewy, very well-integrated tannins, lovely focus and grip and a very long, primary finish. This is going to be outstanding with sufficient bottle age. 2023-2060+. **93**.

#### **2014 Beaune "Clos du Roi"- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Clos du Roi was also hit pretty hard by the storm on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, and the wine is quite a bit more forward in personality than the Savigny premier crus that were hailed on, which makes me wonder if Guillaume was very gentle with the extraction here as a result. The wine jumps from the glass in a red fruity blend of cherries, red plums, a fine base of soil, roses, a touch of cedar and a discreetly smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a plump core, modest tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully focused finish. This has really turned out beautifully in 2014. 2019-2045+. **92**.

#### **2014 Pommard "Clos des Arvelets"- Domaine Camus-Bruchon**

The 2014 Clos des Arvelets from the Camus family is going to be outstanding as well in this vintage, but it will need a proper decade in the cellar to start to stir. According to Guillaume, the inherent elegance of this premier cru hails from the very deep base of limestone bedrock that lies just below the layers of *terres blanches* topsoil. The 2014 version offers up a superb bouquet of cherries, quince, red plums, raw cocoa, a fine base of minerality, gamebirds and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with excellent transparency, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the youthful finish. 2025-2065+. **93+**.

#### **Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**

*Claude and François de Nicolay took a bit of a different tact in the 2014 vintage than many of their neighbors, as they opted to start picking a bit later than many domaines and look for a bit more ripeness in their grapes, rather than needing to chapitalize. Consequently, the domaine began picking in the grand crus on the hill of Corton and the white wine vineyards on September 20<sup>th</sup> and did not get to several of their premier cru holdings until the following week. The resulting wines that were harvested a bit later show a more generous fruity character, and more natural plushness than wines from domaines that were picked a bit earlier, but also a bit lower acidities. As Claude de Nicolay observed, "with the cool nights of September, we felt that the acids were not dropping particularly fast, and the possibility existed to get a bit more natural*

*ripeness in the grapes over that last week or ten days on the vines.” To give some idea of timing of the picking for the Chandon de Briailles wines in 2014, Laurent Ponsot, who is famously one of the latest picker in the Côte de Nuits, did not get started harvesting until September 25<sup>th</sup> in this vintage, and the de Nicolays picked their grapes in the premier cru of Fournaux on September 28<sup>th</sup>, so they were in accord with Laurent Ponsot this year on when best to pick. In contrast, Hugues Pavelot began picking on September 12<sup>th</sup> and Guillaume Camus on the 14<sup>th</sup>. As I noted in the introduction to the vintage, the hailstorm of June 28<sup>th</sup> played differently across the vineyards in Savigny, with those on the Beaune side more severely affected than those on the Pernand side, but Claude de Nicolay was quick to point out that Fournaux (which lies on the extreme eastern end of the slope on the Pernand side of the village’s band of premier crus) was also hit head on by the hail, so that the domaine lost fifty percent of its crop in this cru in 2014 because of hail damage. The family’s parcels in les Lavières, which lies next to Fournaux on the slope, was less battered and only thirty percent of the crop was lost to hail. It was not only the crop size that was affected by the storm, as the de Nicolays like to include a lot of whole clusters in their fermentations, and this was curtailed in certain vineyards affected by the hail. So, for instance, the Fournaux was completely destemmed in 2014 and the les Lavières only included ten percent whole clusters. The cellar was in varying stages of evolution at the time of my visit, with certain wines just racked, others just bottled and others still happily resting in cask, so not everything was on the same schedule at the time of my November 21<sup>st</sup> visit. I did not taste the whole range, as some wines had just been racked, and did not take proper notes on at least one wine that I tasted and was obviously still agitated from recent movement in the cellars. Others were on better form, though recently moved and I have scored these in a range. In general, the Savignys that I tried here looked likely to drink earlier as a result of their later harvesting date this year, but I did not have this same impression of the wines from Pernand and on the hill of Corton. This is a very fine range of 2014s.*

### ***Vins Blancs***

#### **2014 Corton Blanc- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

The 2014 Corton Blanc from Chandon de Briailles had been bottled two weeks prior to my visit, but had not yet dramatically closed down from the *mise* and was still showing very well. There was no hail at all in this parcel and the wine came in with a natural alcohol degree of 12.5 percent and was not chapitalized. The complex bouquet is really lovely, offering up a vibrant blend of apple, white peach, fresh almond, a lovely base of soil tones, white flowers and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and almost silky in texture out of the blocks, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine focus and grip and a long, classy and vibrant finish. A lovely bottle. 2016-2035+. **93.**

### ***Vins Rouges***

#### **2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Fournaux”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

The 2014 Fournaux had been racked three weeks prior to my visit, but was showing quite well. The wine was not chapitalized this year, as the grapes had good sugar levels by September 28<sup>th</sup>, when the domaine gathered the bunches. The wine offers up a lovely and quite red fruity nose of cherries, blood orange, woodsmoke, gamebird, coffee and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with a good core of fruit, lovely soil signature and silky tannins on the long finish. The perception of acidity here seems markedly lower than in many cellars I visited on this trip, but as Claude de Nicolay commented,

“the acids are still in a good range and I really like the extra dimension we were able to get by picking a little later.” This seems likely to drink on the relatively early side for this bottling and shows plenty of the elegance of the vintage. 2019-2040+. **90.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

The 2014 les Lavières from Domaine Chandon de Briailles had been bottled the week prior to my visit, and was showing a bit easy-going structurally. I am not sure if this impression was engendered by its recent *mise*, or is a result of the later harvesting this year having produced a more forward styled wine in 2014. The hail here was primarily in the bottom section of the vineyard and the domaine lost thirty percent of the crop from the storm. The bouquet is pretty and again, very red fruity in personality, as it offers up scents of red currants, cherries, woodsmoke, gamebird, fresh herbs and chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and complex, with a currently quite wide open profile, a good core and a long, gently tannic and very elegant finish. This again seems likely to drink well in its youth, but I wonder how long it will cruise along in bottle? Perhaps it will firm up with a bit more distance out from the bottling? 2017-2040+? **91+?**

**2014 Pernand-Vergelesses “les Vergelesses”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

There was no hail at all in the domaine’s parcels in les Vergelesses in 2014 and the wine was showing very well. This had been racked a couple of weeks prior to my visit, but was on form and showing really lovely elegance out of the blocks this year. The lovely nose is a blend of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, venison, a fine base of soil that shows some iron in its mix and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and ripely tannic, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, well-balanced and nascently complex finish. 2021-2045. **90.**

**2014 Pernand-Vergelesses “Île de Vergelesses”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

According to Claude de Nicolay, their parcels in Île de Vergelesses “were just touched by the hail” and the damage was very minimal, so they were able to use forty percent whole clusters for this wine in 2014. The wine has turned out beautifully and is very refined in this vintage, wafting from the glass in a blend of cherries, red currants, stony soil tones, venison, a touch of cinnamon and a bit of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and focused beautifully, with a fine core, lovely, chewy and ripe tannins and a long, mineral-driven finish. This has really turned out beautifully and seems likely to be longer-lived than the Savigny premier crus this year. 2022-2055. **92+.**

**2014 Corton “Maréchaudes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

The 2014 Maréchaudes had just been racked that week and was really out of sorts and impossible to take a proper note on, though I did notice that it was long and plush in the mouth.

**2014 Corton “Bressandes”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

The 2014 Bressandes had been racked a couple of weeks earlier than the Maréchaudes and was in much better form as a result. The nose is really stunning, delivering a deep and pure constellation of red and black cherries, a touch of plum, gamebird, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke and a nice touch of youthful stems. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very mineral in personality, with a good core, ripe tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and classy finish. Good juice here. 2024-2065. **93+.**

**2014 Corton “Clos du Roi”- Domaine Chandon de Briailles**

Like the Maréchaudes, the 2014 Clos du Roi was also just racked, but this had already recovered pretty well and was showing a lot more nuance and precision than the Maréchaudes. The bouquet is quite beautiful and red fruity, offering up the full panoply of cherries, strawberries and red currants, to go along with notes of woodsmoke, Corton spices, venison,



roses and a fine base of minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely structured, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, potentially very suave finish. This is a bit agitated from the racking, but not dramatically so and one can see that this will be excellent. 2024-2065. 93-94+?



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

*When I was at the domaine in Savigny a year ago, there was a large construction project started. I was very happy to arrive here in early November to see the work just about completed and to be welcomed in a very commodious new tasting room up above the cellars, where we were able to work through the fine lineup of 2014s here in great comfort. Hugues Pavelot had a few new cuvées to introduce as well in 2014, as he has taken a négociant license, so that he can buy in some grapes and/or juice to augment the family's traditional lineup as opportunity allows. The new bottlings include a lovely Chorey-lès-Beaune "Beaumonts" made from a parcel of fifty year-old vines, a Pernand-Vergelesses "les Vergelesses" (to replace a parcel of vines that a cousin owned and which was taken back a few vintages ago), a vibrant Saint Romain Blanc and a bit of Corton-Charlemagne. If I were a bidder at the Hospices de Beaune auction these days, this is a domaine where I might consider having my barrels finished off and bottled, as the Pavelot family is certainly quite familiar with many of the terroirs farmed by the Hospices. The hail on June 28<sup>th</sup> principally hit the side of the Savigny valley next to Beaune, with the Pavelot vineyards such as Narbantons, Peuilletts and Dominode down twenty to thirty percent in yields as*



*a result. Their parcels on other side of the valley, where Lavières, Gravains and Guettes are located was pretty much spared and yields here are much closer to normal in this vintage. I did not ask, but I would assume that Hugues Pavelot was a bit more cautious with extraction with the wines on the side of the valley hit by hail, as this was the approach taken by other vignerons I spoke with in the village. The 2014 harvest started here on September 12<sup>th</sup> and the wines had been racked and assembled several weeks prior to my visit, with the intention of starting to bottle them early in the new year. This is a very fine range of 2014s.*

**2014 Chorey-lès-Beaune “les Beaumonts”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The new bottling of Chorey “Beaumonts” is made from purchased grapes from a nice, old vine parcel now fifty years of age. The wine saw no new oak and offers up a lovely nose of red and black cherries, coffee, gamebirds, woodsmoke and a fine signature of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, plush on the attack and nicely sappy at the core, with modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the wide open and succulent finish. This will drink very well from the outset, but has the balance to also age quite nicely. Fine juice. 2015-2035. **88+.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

I always like the Pavelots’ Savigny *villages* bottling and their 2014 is very successful, wafting from the glass in a black fruity blend of plums, black cherries, hints of the fruitcake to come, venison, dark soil tones, coffee and a bit of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and nicely plump in the mid-palate and well-balanced, with modest tannins and very good focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This will be lovely, but will need a few years to blossom. 2018-2040. **89.**

**2014 Aloxe-Corton- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 Aloxe AC really shows off the elegance and generosity of the vintage to fine effect, with a velvety palate impression and lovely purity in its aromatic constellation. The fine bouquet offers up scents of dark berries, black plums, a touch of cocoa, gamebird and the first signs of the forest floor to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and again, quite plush on the attack, with a fine core, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the balanced and quite soil-driven finish. A very classy *villages*. 2018-2035+. **89.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Peuillets”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 les Peuillets is nicely spicy and structured in this vintage, but with the hail here at the end of June, the wine does not share the same textural refinement as the premier crus from the other side of the valley. However, this is still a fine bottle in the making, offering up a nascently complex nose of black cherries, bonfire, a touch of chocolate, lovely autumnal soil tones and the full panoply of Savigny spices in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows a nice touch of backend reserve, with a very solid core, bright acids, moderate tannins and very good length and grip on the youthful finish. Good juice. 2020-2050. **90+.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 Serpentières hails from the hillside that was mostly spared from hail and the wine was showing very well at the time of my visit. The deep and youthful nose offers up a classic blend of black cherries, a touch of currant, coffee, venison, Savigny spices and a lovely base of soil that will also get quite autumnal with some bottle age. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a fine core of fruit, a lovely base of stony soil tones, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and promising finish. This will need a few more years than the Peuillets to fully blossom, but it will be a very good example. 2022-2050+. **91.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “les Lavières”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 les Lavières from Domaine Pavelot is excellent this year. Hugues Pavelot included fifteen to twenty percent whole clusters here in this vintage, as there was no hail damage. The bouquet is deep, fine and youthfully complex, wafting from the glass in a black fruity mélange of dark berries, black plums, woodsmoke, gamebird, a fine base of soil tones and a nice dollop of spice tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with ripe, suave tannins, fine focus and grip and a long, well-balanced and soil-driven finish. This will be excellent. 2022-2050+. **91+**.

**2014 Beaune “Bressandes”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 Beaune “Bressandes” is a bit more forward in style than the Savigny premier crus in the cellar this year, but offers up nice plushness, plenty of soil character and good length and grip on the backend. The ripe nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, black plums, roasted meats, chocolate, autumnal soil tones and a touch of oak leaves in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite plush on the attack, with a good core, moderate tannins and a long, complex and potentially velvety finish. This does not quite have the same backend energy as the Savignys, but it is quite tasty and will drink well from an early age. 2018-2045. **90+**.

**2014 Pernand-Vergelesses “les Vergelesses” - Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The new bottling of les Vergelesses is made from purchased grapes that hail from forty to fifty year-old vines in the vineyard. This particular parcel is right at the start of les Vergelesses, on the border where the Île de Vergelesses ends. The wine is lovely, wafting from the glass in a complex mix of black cherries, chocolate, a nice base of stony soil nuances, venison, a touch of the *sous bois* to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite sappy at the core, with lovely backend mineral drive, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the focused and well-balanced finish. A fine example. 2020-2050. **91**.

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Guettes” - Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 Guettes from Hugues Pavelot is outstanding and the breed of this *terroir* is beautifully coupled with the inherent elegance of the vintage. The first class bouquet jumps from the glass in a blaze of black cherries, coffee, woodsmoke, gamebird, gentle spice notes and a superb base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite soil-driven, with an excellent core of black fruit, fine focus and grip, ripe, suave tannins and outstanding length and grip on the seamless and classy finish. Excellent wine. 2022-2055+. **92+**.

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “aux Gravains”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 Pavelot Gravains is also superb, offering up a deep, nascently complex and very vibrant nose of black raspberries, black cherries, French roast, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and just a hint of the autumnal elements that will come with extended bottle age. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with an excellent core of fruit, lovely transparency, fine-grained tannins and outstanding focus on the long, refined and classic finish. All this beauty needs is some time in bottle to blossom. 2022-2055. **93**.

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “la Dominode”- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The 2014 la Dominode is also going to be a superb wine *chez* Pavelot, as it offers up a very promising and nascently complex nose of cassis, sweet dark berries, espresso, a touch of graphite, a smoky topnote and a deft framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a fine core, lovely soil signature and a very long, ripely tannic and tangy finish. Excellent juice in the making. 2024-2060. **93+**.

**2014 Saint Romain Blanc- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The new Saint Romain Blanc is a very pretty and elegant example that will drink beautifully from the moment it is released. The bright and classy nose offers up a fine mélange of apple, lemon, chalky minerality, spring flowers and a nice topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely generous on the attack, with fine purity, sound acids and lovely focus on the long and vibrant finish. This is very tasty juice and will be a terrific bargain! 2015-2025. **89.**

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc- Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

Over the years, I have bought and drunk with great pleasure cases of the Savigny Blanc from Domaine Pavelot, as I always find it to be a really superb example. The 2014 is another stellar success and probably one of the best young vintages I have tasted of this cuvée. The complex bouquet offers up loads of class in its aromatic blend of apple, white peach, chalky soil tones, beeswax, spring flowers and a notes of fresh almond in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and very well-balanced, with a lovely core, excellent cut and grip and a very long, complex and zesty finish. Great juice and another absolute steal of a white Burgundy. 2015-2030+. **91+.**

**2014 Pernand-Vergelesses Blanc - Domaine Jean-Marc et Hugues Pavelot**

The Pernand Blanc is another of the new *négociant* bottlings from Hugues Pavelot and was produced from thirty year-old vines. The 2014 is a very auspicious first vintage of this bottling, offering up a pure and classy nose of apple, pear, chalky minerality, acacia blossoms and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and broader on the attack than the Savigny Blanc this year, with a lovely core, fine, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and classy finish. This will want a couple of years in the cellar to allow more of its complexity to emerge, but it too is a lovely example of the vintage. 2017-2030. **91.**

**2013 Corton-Charlemagne- Jean-Marc et Hugues Domaine Pavelot**

The 2014 Corton-Charlemagne had just been fined and was not ready for tasting, but Monsieur Pavelot was kind enough to open up a bottle of the 2013, which I did not have a chance to taste last year. This was made from purchased juice, rather than grapes in 2013 and offers up a superb nose of apple, pear, beeswax, chalky minerality, a touch of *crème patissière* and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and fairly forward in personality (as was the case with so many examples of Corton-Charlemagne in the 2013 vintage), with a fine core, sound framing acids and very good length and grip on the complex and wide open finish. By the long-lived standards of Corton-Charlemagne, this will not make old bones, but it will provide plenty of pleasure over the next decade. 2015-2025. **92.**

**Beaune****Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)**

*Not surprisingly, Maison Joseph Drouhin has fashioned another absolutely beautiful range of wines in 2014, as this is the type of vintage that really dovetails with the elegant style of their winemaking philosophies. Of course, with their significant range of bottlings from the Côte de Beaune and the legacy of four hail vintages out of the last five, there are a few cuvées that reflect the battering of these annual storms and not every wine here has the energy and bounce of years where there is no hail damage (not that it is all that easy to recall those years in the Côte de Beaune after the spat of back luck here of late). What I love about the Drouhin wines is that they are always true to both their terroirs of origin and the style of a particular vintage, and there never seems to be an effort to try and make something out of a given wine that was not*

*already there through the graces of Mother Nature. So, there are a few Côte de Beaune bottlings here- both red and white- that will be more forward in 2014 than is customary in other top vintages, due to the storm on June 28<sup>th</sup> and the cumulative effect of so much battering in the last five years, but these wines in the lineup are still complex, pure and classy. Others in the range, where the hail damage has not been as consistent since 2010, are as stunning as any wines found anywhere in the Côte d'Or in the 2014 vintage, with the sappy, pure, 1985-like fruit tones, magical transparency and utterly seamless and refined structural chassis that make young Burgundies into legends with the passing of time. As Véronique Drouhin Boss observed, "the spring of 2014 was very early and the weather was beautiful, with the early flowering of late May and early June coming off flawlessly", so vignerons were anticipating an early and very promising harvest. However, as noted above, the hail of June was followed by cold and wet weather from mid-July to the end of August and expectations were dampened significantly. September came in with fabulous Indian Summer conditions, with "the weather absolutely beautiful again and perfect for completing the ripening optimally" and the harvest started at Maison Drouhin on September 15<sup>th</sup> in the Côte de Beaune. Véronique commented that the Suzuki fruit fly, which was such a problem in the Loire Valley in 2014 for instance, "was a bit of an isolated problem in Vougeot, Chambolle-Musigny and spots in Gevrey, but not as bad as we had feared." As is customary chez Drouhin in vintages such as 2014, where the domaine likes to preserve the beautiful fruit tones with fairly early bottling for certain cuvées, part of the range had already been bottled at the time of my two November tastings, where other wines had been assembled recently in anticipation of bottling early in 2016, while others were still in cask. I have tried to note the stage of élevage each sample was in when I tasted the wines in the notes on each wine.*

### **Vins Blancs de Maison Drouhin**

#### **2014 Mâcon-Lugny- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Mâcon-Lugny was raised entirely in stainless steel and as a result shows off loads of floral nuances on both the nose and palate. The bouquet is a lovely blend of apple, pear, chalky soil tones and a field full of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied and quite generous on the attack, with a good core, zesty acids and lovely length and bounce on the backend. Good juice. 2015-2020+. **87+**.

#### **2014 Mâcon-Bussière "Les Clos"- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Mâcon-Bussière "Les Clos" from Maison Joseph Drouhin is excellent and really shows off the purity and depth of the vintage. The bouquet is very classy, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, lemon, refined, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish, bright and intensely flavored, with good core, lovely focus and grip and a long, racy finish. This is really a very classy bottle of Mâcon. 2015-2025. **90**.

#### **2014 St. Véran- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

I was very happy to hear that beginning with the 2014 vintage, Maison Drouhin's St. Véran will be available under cork as well here in the US, not simply in screwcap. The wine is very good this year, as part of the blend is starting to be fermented in six hundred liter *foudres*. The 2014 offers up a bright and zesty bouquet of lemon, apple, toasty soil tones and a topnote of yellow lilies. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and still a tad on the youthful side, with a good core, vibrant acids and lovely length and grip on the still quite primary finish. 2016-2022. **88**.

#### **2014 Pouilly-Vinzelles- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

There was a touch of hail in 2014 in early July in the Mâcon, and the 2014 Pouilly-Vinzelles from the Drouhins seems to show a bit of an easy-going style as a result of this storm. The nose is very pretty, wafting from the glass in a wide open mélange of apple, peach, a touch of orange peel and a nice dollop of toasty soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, succulent and ready to drink right out of the blocks, with a good core, sound framing acids and a long, laid back finish. This is not as complex as the best Mâcon bottlings *chez* Drouhin this year, but it hits all the right notes in its more limited range and is really quite tasty. 2015-2022. **88.**

#### **2014 Montagny- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Montagny AC had already been bottled in mid-November, with the *mise* taking place in September, and the wine was showing very well. This offers up a very pretty and zesty nose of apple, pear, chalky soil tones, lemon zest and just a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a good core, bright acids and lovely backend tension on the vibrant and classy finish. A lovely example. 2015-2025+. **89.**

#### **2014 Montagny “Premier Cru”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Montagny Premier Cru had also been bottled in September and was showing a nice sense of reserve and a bit more cut and grip than the *villages*. This is made of a blend of three different premier cru parcels. The nose is pure and vibrant, offering up scents of apple, pear, spring flowers, chalky minerality and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, bright and focused, with a good core, lovely backend mineral drive and very good length on the still youthful finish. This is certainly approachable today, but I would be inclined to give this a couple of years in the cellar and allow its secondary layers to emerge. A great value. 2017-2030+. **90+.**

#### **2014 Côte de Beaune Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Côte de Beaune Blanc from Maison Joseph Drouhin was bottled at the end of October of 2015. The wine is very pretty and shows a youthful aromatic mélange of lemon, pear, chalky soil tones, a touch of acacia blossom, vanillin oak and a lovely topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very solid at the core, with bright acids and lovely cut and grip on the long and stylish finish. This is always one of the best values in the Drouhin lineup of white wines and the 2014 is another very fine effort. 2016-2026. **89.**

#### **2014 Meursault “la Pièce Sous le Bois”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The premier cru of la Pièce Sous le Bois lies on the Blagny side of Meursault, up above the vineyard of Sous la d’Ane produced by Domaine Leflaive. This is the first vintage that this cru has been bottled on its own *chez* Drouhin, as previously, this was blended into the Meursault AC cuvée. The wine is very nice, offering up a fresh and pure nose of apple, lemon, chalky soil tones, a touch of fresh pineapple and a lovely topnote of orange zest. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and precise, with a good core, fine backend mineral drive and a long, racy and nascently complex finish. This will be accessible right out of the blocks, but will be even better with a bit of bottle age. 2015-2030+. **90+.**

#### **2014 Meursault “Genevrières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Meursault “Genevrières” from Maison Joseph Drouhin had been bottled in mid-August of 2015 and was not fully recovered from its *mise* at the time I tried it in November, so I have scored it in a range. The wine seems pretty forward and easy-going, but as Genevrières was principally spared from the hail of June, I assume that this perceived characteristic is the result of the bottling, rather than inherent in the wine. The nose is very pretty, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, salty, chalky soil tones, white flowers, hazelnut and vanillin oak.

On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and shows a good core, with fine soil signature, nice framing acids and very good length on the seemingly laid back finish. This is the first vintage of Genevrières *chez* Drouhin and the wine is very good, but my gut instinct is that it was showing more forward in personality simply because of its recent bottling and probably has a bit more cut and spine than what it was showing in November. 2015-2030+? **89-92?**

**2014 Meursault “Perrières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Meursault “Perrières” from Maison Drouhin was still in cask at the time of my visit, but showing very well in the more forward style of many wines from this commune in 2014. The nose is deep, complex and wide open, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, tangerine, hazelnut, lovely minerality, a deft framing of vanillin oak and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a lovely core, fine focus and grip and a long, vibrant and absolutely succulent finish. This will not make old bones, but will provide plenty of enjoyment over the next fifteen years. 2015-2030. **92+**.

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos de la Garenne was still in barrel in November and showing beautifully. The first class nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of apple, peach, chalky soil tones, a touch of nutskin, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with fairly broad shoulders, lovely focus and grip and a long, wide open and snappy finish. Clos de la Garenne is never one of the most refined premier crus in the village, but it has depth, complexity and plenty of personality *chez* Drouhin in 2014. 2015-2030. **92.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Folatières from Maison Drouhin is always a consistently excellent example and this is again the case in the 2014 vintage. The lovely nose jumps from the glass in a classic blend of apple, white peach, *crème patissière*, chalky soil tones, acacia blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and succulent on the attack, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, vibrant and complex finish. I really like the backend energy on this wine this year. 2015-2035. **92.**

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Embazées”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 les Embazées from Maison Drouhin is plump and forward in style in this vintage, delivering a lovely nose of apple, peach, chalky soil tones, citrus oils and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied, juicy and quite long on the backend, with good, but not great mid-palate depth, vibrant acids and very good length on the wide open finish. This cuvée was bottled at the end of August and it is possible that there is a bit more mid-palate stuffing here than the wine is currently showing only a couple of months after its *mise*. If the wine blossoms a bit more at the core as it recovers from the bottling, then it will merit a score at the upper end of the range. 2015-2025+? **89-91?**

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” Marquis de Laguiche- Joseph Drouhin**

The Marquis de Laguiche bottling of Morgeot is always one of the most elegant examples of this premier cru and the 2014 is stunning. The beautifully vibrant and quite classic nose jumps from the glass in a blaze of delicious apple, pear, lemon blossoms, chalky soil tones, pastry cream and a stylish framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in profile, with a great core of fruit, stellar soil inflection, racy acids and outstanding focus and grip on the long and gorgeous finish. A great wine. 2018-2035+. **93+**.



*Véronique Drouhin Boss in the domaine's tasting room.*

#### **2014 Beaune “Clos des Mouches” Blanc- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos des Mouches Blanc had been bottled at the start of September, but seemed to have bounced back into form by November. The hail damage of recent vintages seems to have sapped a touch of the customary energy level of this wine in 2014, but there is still depth, complex and breed in abundance. The nose is forward and very inviting, offering up scents of apple, pear, *crème patissière*, a touch of almond, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a touch deeper-pitched than normal (due to the hail no doubt), with a good core, fine focus and grip and a very long, zesty and wide open finish. This will not be as long-lived as customary in 2014, but it will drink very well for the next decade. 2015-2025. **90.**

#### **2014 Corton-Charlemagne- Domaine Joseph Drouhin (Estate)**

The Drouhins still produce two distinct bottlings of Corton-Charlemagne, with one made from purchased grapes and the other from their small parcel they own on the hill in the parcel of les Languettes. In the past they used to blend their parcel with the purchased fruit, but they now keep them separate and the domaine-grown fruit has produced a stellar example in 2014. The deep and superb nose offers up a complex blend of apple, pear, fresh almond, a fine base chalky soil tones, white lilies and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and rock solid at the core, with superb length and grip, fine nascent complexity and a very promising, reserved finish. This will be superb with a bit of bottle age. 2020-2045+. **94+.**

### **2014 Bâtard-Montrachet- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Bâtard-Montrachet had just been assembled at the start of the week prior to my tasting it on a Friday afternoon and was destined to be bottled in March of 2016. Consequently, this was still a little grumpy from the recent racking, but settled in nicely in the glass to show excellent potential. The bouquet is deep and pure, offering up scents of apple, pear, fresh almond, chalky soil tones, *crème patissière*, gentle floral tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows of an absolutely great core, with bright, racy acids, impeccable balance and superb length and grip on the vibrant finish. The focus is not totally precise right after the racking, but I am sure that this wine will snap back into place with a bit of time and is going to be a reference point Bâtard in 2014 and should settle in at the higher end of my range of scores. Great juice in the making. 2020-2050+. **94-95.**

### **2014 Montrachet “Marquis de Laguiche”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The superb quality of the 2014 vintage is very much in evidence in this great young example of Laguiche Montrachet. The pure and youthful nose wafts from the glass in a superb blend of apple, pear, lemon, a gorgeous base of chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with outstanding focus and balance, bright, zesty acids and stunning length and grip on the youthfully refined and seamless finish. 2020-2045+. **96.**

### ***Vins Rouges de Maison Drouhin***

#### **2014 Coteaux Bourguignons- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Coteaux Bourguignons from Maison Joseph Drouhin is a very pretty, red fruity middleweight, offering up a bright nose of cherries, pomegranate, a touch of chocolate, woodsmoke and a nice dollop of soil tones. On the palate the wine is surprisingly full-bodied and generous on the attack, with nice bounce and a touch of backend tannin. A good, honest introductory red Burg. 2015-2020. **87.**

#### **2014 Rully Rouge- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

Maison Drouhin’s tasty example of 2014 Rully Rouge had been bottled only a couple of weeks prior to our tasting in November and was still wide open and showing very well indeed. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in an elegant blend of cherries, quince, coffee, a nice base of soil tones and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and tangy, with a nice plump attack, a good core and just a whisper of backend tannin on the long and well-balanced finish. Wines like this really benefited from the inherent elegance of the vintage and this is an absolute steal for the price. 2015-2025+. **88+.**

#### **2014 Santenay- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Santenay AC had been bottled a month prior to my tasting it, but was still showing very nicely in November. The bouquet shows the lovely sappiness of the vintage in its aromatic mélange of sappy cherries and quince, coffee, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil, just a touch of the venison to come and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, juicy on the attack and nicely balanced, with a good core of fruit, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the gently tannic finish. A fine *villages* and a very good value in 2014. 2015-2035+. **89.**

#### **2014 Maranges “Premier Cru”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Maranges “Premier Cru” is another good example of the vintage, but it does not show quite the same elegance out of the blocks as the very fine Santenay. The bouquet is quite a bit more black fruity in its blend of dark berries, black cherries, a bit of bonfire, game,



bitter chocolate, dark soil tones and a touch of herbs in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with a good signature of soil and a long, moderately chewy finish. The tannins are just a touch more rustic here than in the Santenay, but this too is a good result. 2019-2040. **88+**.

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Savigny-lès-Beaune *villages* bottling includes fruit from the premier crus of Clos des Guettes and Fourneaux in the cuvée and the 2014 has turned out beautifully. The bouquet is bright and nascently complex, offering up scents of cherries, currants, stony soil tones, coffee, gamebirds and still a bit of youthful stemminess in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tangy and nicely balanced, with a good core of fruit, fine soil signature and a long, ripely tannic finish. This wine had been bottled in October of 2015. High class juice this year. 2021-2055. **90**.

**2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Godeaux”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos des Godeaux was still in cask in November, but it too was showing very good potential. The fine nose wafts from the glass in a very pretty blend of strawberries and plummy fruit, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a touch of cocoa, dark soil tones and a dollop of fresh thyme. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more structured out of the blocks than the straight Savigny AC, with a fine core and a bit of chewy tannin perking up the long and still quite primary finish. As this vineyard lies up on the slope above the premier crus on the Pernand side of the village, I would have expected it to be just a touch more suave out of the blocks, but there is good depth and balance here and all the wine needs is some bottle age. 2022-2055. **90+**.

**2014 Beaune “Grèves”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Beaune “Grèves” is one of the wines in the Drouhin cellars this year that is a bit “low energy” from the cumulative effects of the hail in the last five years. The wine is still very good, but quite open and forward in personality, as it offers up scents of plums, cherries, a touch of nutskin, a good base of soil and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely complex out of the blocks, but with an easy-going style, quite modest tannins and a long, velvety finish. This will drink very well from early on its life, but will not be particularly long-lived by the high standards of this cuvée, which can be one of the very best premier crus in the cellar in many vintages. 2018-2040. **89+**.

**2014 Beaune “Clos des Mouches” Rouge- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos des Mouches was still in ask in November and a bit reduced, though it was due to be racked the following week. The wine is quite deep-pitched and black fruity this year, offering up a bouquet of cassis, black cherries, charred wood, coffee, fresh herb tones, dark soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved out of the blocks, with a good core, moderate tannins and good length and grip on the youthful and chewy finish. This has better structure than the Grèves in this vintage, but it too lacks a bit of bounce and customary vibrancy. 2022-2045. **89-91?**

**2014 Côte de Nuits-Villages- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Côte de Nuits-Villages bottling from Maison Drouhin hails from grapes from the communes of Fixin in the north, and Prémieux, Comblanchien and Corgoloin in the southern end of the Côte de Nuits, so it represents the full extent of this northern half of the Côte d’Or. The 2014 was still in cask and offering a fresh and stylish nose of black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a bit of bonfire and a nice base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit reserved in personality, with a classy attack, good focus and a rather chewy

backend. There is good length and grip on the finish here, but this is not quite as elegant on the palate as the nose suggests. A good, solid example that will need a few years in the cellar to blossom. 2018-2035. **88.**

**2014 Morey St. Denis- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Morey AC was still in cask and showing good potential in November. The bouquet is really lovely and quite expressive, wafting from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, a touch of beetroot, fresh herbs, venison, coffee and woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still fairly reserved in personality, with a good core, moderate tannins and good length and grip on the youthful finish. This will want a couple of years in the cellar to blossom fully. 2019-2040. **88+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Drouhin family's Chambolle AC all hails from *villages* parcels down near the RN-74, with the exception of one plot of vines up closer to the premier crus in aux Exchanges. The 2014 was still in barrel and really showing lovely potential at the time of my tasting, delivering a pure and sappy nose of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, gamebird, a touch of mustard seed and a lovely signature of soil tones. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very focused, with lovely mid-palate depth, suave tannins and a long, vibrant and still quite primary finish. High class *villages*! 2020-2050. **90+.**

**2014 Vosne-Romanée- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The Drouhin village wine bottlings are getting better and better with each passing vintage and their 2014 Vosne AC is excellent. This hails from four different parcels of vines, with one up above Malconsorts on the slope, two down by the Route Nationale and a bit of the premier cru les Chaumes blended in as well. The bouquet is pure and already very inviting, as it wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, red plums, cocoa, a lovely base of soil and just a hint of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite sappy at the core, with a wide open attack, modest tannins and fine focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. A lovely example. 2018-2045. **89+.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Gevrey AC is the pick of the litter of a very strong range of *villages* bottlings *chez* Drouhin in this vintage. The really lovely nose offers up a fine constellation of black cherries, black plums, woodsmoke, grilled meat, dark soil tones, mustard seed and just a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very precise, with a sappy core of black fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, soil-driven and moderately tannic finish. 2018-2045+. **91.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Premier Cru”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Chambolle “Premier Cru” from Maison Drouhin is lovely, wafting from the glass in a classic blend of black cherries, red plums, mustard seed, chalky soil tones, a touch of nutskin and a topnote of espresso. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a good core, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the focused finish. This is very precise this year, but also a bit reserved in style and will need a bit of bottle age to blossom. 2022-2055. **91+.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Baudes”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

In contrast to the Chambolle “Premier Cru”, the 2014 les Baudes had already been bottled at the time of my November visit. This cru usually only finds itself bottled on its own in what the Drouhins feel are exceptional years, and the 2014 is going to be an outstanding wine with some time in the cellar. The fine, youthful nose wafts from the glass in a blend of red and

black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, woodsmoke, a lovely base of dark soil tones, a bit of nutskin and a stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and still quite primary in profile, with a sappy core, lovely soil inflection, suave tannins and fine length and grip on the focused finish. A lovely wine in the making. 2023-2060. **92+**.

**2014 Morey St. Denis “Clos Sorbés”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

I have a warm spot in my heart for examples of Clos Sorbés, having cut my Burgundy teeth on the old school wines of Jacky Truchot. This bottling is always very classic at Maison Drouhin and is one of the real sleepers in their fine portfolio. The 2014 version is excellent, offering up a deep and complex nose of cherries, red plums, woodsmoke, gamebirds, a touch of raw cocoa, a fine base of soil and a very discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very sappy at the core, with velvety tannins, lovely focus and grip and a long, refined and nascently complex finish. This has lovely intensity of flavor already and will be an excellent drink with a half dozen years or so in the cellar. 2022-2060. **92.**

**2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

Like the Chambolle “Baudes”, the 2014 Cazetiers was bottled in mid-August of 2015 and was still a bit grumpy after the *mise*. The wine needed a bit of coaxing in the glass, but eventually blossomed to show notes of red and black cherries, dark soil tones, espresso, gamebird, woodsmoke and a nice base of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite precise on the attack, with a good core, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy finish. A fine example. 2024-2060+. **92+**.

**2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès” from Maison Joseph Drouhin was still in barrel in November and showing beautifully. The classy bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, cassis, dark soil tones, a touch of nutskin, gamebirds, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary in personality, with a fine core of black fruit, ripe tannins and fine length and grip on the focused and soil-driven finish. This is always one of the sleeper premier crus in the lineup *chez* Drouhin and the 2014 is another stellar success. 2024-2060. **92+**.

**2014 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

There are only four barrels of Petits Monts this year in the Drouhin cellars, with two of the casks new, so the wine was still in the process of absorbing its percentage of new wood and showing a bit new oaky in November. The bouquet is a blend of cassis, black plum, bitter chocolate, a beautifully complex base of soil, gamebirds, woodsmoke and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core of black fruit, excellent minerality, suave tannins and a very long, nascently complex and utterly refined finish. This is always one of my favorite premier cru bottlings in Vosne-Romanée and the 2014 is going to be lovely. 2025-2060+. **94.**

**2014 Chambolle-Musigny “les Amoureuses”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 les Amoureuses had been racked only a week prior to my tasting it, but the wine was showing beautifully despite its having changed residences. The wine included fifteen percent whole clusters in this vintage and offers up a stunning young bouquet of red and black cherries, beetroot, gamebirds, mustard seed, a gorgeous base of chalky soil tones, a touch of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with a sappy core, superb soil inflection, great balance and focus and a very long, suavely tannic and tangy finish. There is a fine sense of reserve out of the blocks here that augurs very, very well for its future development in bottle. A gorgeous wine. 2024-2075. **95.**

### **2014 Clos de Vougeot- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos Vougeot from Maison Drouhin (which was still in barrel) is excellent, offering up a deep and youthful blend of red and black cherries, bonfire, a touch of the venison to come, espresso, a superbly complex base of soil and a fair bit of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a fine core, ripe tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and still quite primary finish. Like the Petits Monts, this is still in the process of absorbing its new wood, but will be lovely with sufficient bottle age. The domaine's parcel of vines in the Clos are located just above the Château de la Tour. 2025-2075. **93+**.

### **2014 Grands Echézeaux- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Grands Echézeaux had been bottled in mid-August of 2015 and was still in a grumpy mood post-bottling. The bouquet offers up some lovely elements in its mélange of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebird, cocoa, fresh herb tones and spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and primary, with a fine core, ripe tannins and very good length and grip on the well-balanced finish. Today, this wine is more settled in on the palate than it is on the nose, which is still a bit all over the place after its *mise*, but the constituent components are all in place here for a lovely wine with sufficient cellaring. 2025-2075. **92-94**.



*Late afternoon descending towards dusk over the Clos des Mouches vineyard in Beaune.*

### **2014 Charmes-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

After decades and decades of buying fruit from the same *vigneron* in Charmes-Chambertin, the Drouhin family had to find a new source for this cru in the 2014 vintage. The wine was still in barrel at the time of my visit, but showing very fine potential in its aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, a touch of cassis, grilled meats, espresso, mustard seed, dark soil tones and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a good core, suave tannins and a long, tangy and quite soil-driven finish. This is a very auspicious start for the maison's new source in Charmes! 2024-2065.

**93.**

### **2014 Mazis-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

There is only a single cask of 2014 Mazis-Chambertin in the cellar this year and the Drouhin family was very generous to make it available to taste. The wine is excellent, wafting from the glass in an absolutely classic blend of cassis, black cherries, grilled meat, French roast, black minerality, a touch of bonfire and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine focus and nascent complexity, ripe tannins and a long, pure and tangy finish. 2025-2075. **93+.**

### **2014 Griotte-Chambertin- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Maison Drouhin Griotte-Chambertin had also been racked a week prior to my tasting it, but this too was showing very well indeed and did not seem overly upset about having been moved out of cask so recently. The wine includes fifteen percent whole clusters this year and offers up a gorgeous and very soil-driven bouquet of strawberries, cherries, grilled meat, coffee, a beautifully transparent base of soil, gentle spices and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and loaded with sappy red fruit at the core, with excellent transparency, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the impeccably balanced finish. 2025-2075. **95.**

### **2014 Chambertin “Clos de Bèze”- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Clos de Bèze had only been in bottle for three weeks when I had a chance to taste it at the end of my November trip, but this was probably close enough to the *mise* that the wine had not yet had a chance to really close down. The wine is clearly going to be brilliant, as it offers up a pure and very red fruity aromatic blend of red plums, cherries, grilled meat, dark soil tones, espresso, woodsmoke, a judicious framing of spicy wood and a classic topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a lovely core, stunning transparency, nascent complexity and a very long, beautifully balanced, fine-grained and tangy finish. This is a classic example in the making and one of the best wines in the Drouhins' cellars in this vintage! 2025-2075. **96+.**

### **2014 Bonnes-Mares- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Bonnes-Mares from the Drouhin family, of which there are only two *pièces* this year, was still in cask in November. This is going to be a gorgeous vintage for this very underrated Drouhin grand cru, as the wine soars from the glass in a blaze of sappy black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, gamebird, a touch of nutskin, a superbly complex base of soil, mustard seed and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with a sappy core of fruit, superb soil inflection, ripe, suave tannins and a very, very long, focused and utterly pure finish. Great Bonnes-Mares in the making! 2025-2075. **95+.**

## 2014 Musigny- Maison Joseph Drouhin

Like the Grands Echézeaux, the 2014 Drouhin Musigny had been bottled in mid-August and was still grumpy from the *mise*. The wine was quite compact on the palate after the bottling, but I am sure this is just a normal stage and the wine should bounce back nicely with a bit more distance out from the bottling. Today, the nose is the more expressive element of the wine, offering up a very refined constellation of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, gamebird, mustard seed, woodsmoke, a gorgeous base of soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tangy and quite soil-driven, with a fine core, ripe tannins and a long, promising finish. This should prove to be very suave and very, very elegant when it is ready, but it was not particularly happy about being opened up in mid-November! 2025-2075+. **94-97.**

## Volnay

### Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

*Frédéric and Michel Lafarge are very excited about the style and quality of the 2014 vintage, which, as I noted in the introduction to the vintage, Michel Lafarge comparing the reds of 2014 to a combination of the “elegance of 1966 and the purity and balanced structure of 1978”. As has been the case here in Pommard, Volnay and Meursault so often in recent times, 2014 once again hit this village harder than others with hail damage on June 28<sup>th</sup>, so that Frédéric Lafarge reported that across the board production at the domaine is down fifty-five percent in this vintage. This has forced the domaine to make a few less individual cuvées this year, so for instance, there is only a single Meursault villages bottling in 2014 (rather than the customary two), so that there would be enough grapes to make a workable-sized cuvée. In the Lafarge family’s fine parcel of les Aigrots in Beaune, there was only sufficient chardonnay production this year to make a single cask of wine, which they have decided to bottle exclusively in magnums. And, as I also mentioned in the vintage’s introduction, the Lafarges’ parcel of ninety-three year-old vines in Beaune “Grèves” had to be dug up and replanted after the battering of 2014, as they were just too old to survive the heavy hail damage here in four of the last five years. The Lafarge family has gotten philosophical about all the hail damage in recent years, noting that “this is just nature”, but one really feels for them and other growers in these villages that keep getting battered with heavy hail year after year, as it would be such a nice change of events to see Mother Nature relent in the coming years and give vignerons in Volnay and elsewhere a run of hail-less vintages for a bit and let their vines fully recover the vigor they had before this vicious cycle began in 2010. As always, the Domaine Lafarge wines are outstanding in 2014, which is a very red fruity vintage out of the blocks for their red wine bottlings. The wines each show beautiful fidelity to their underlying terroirs, coupled with very, very pure, vibrant fruit tones, and it is quite clear that with sufficient bottle age, this is going to be a fantastic vintage chez Lafarge. I also had the pleasure during my visit to taste the three new Cru Beaujolais bottlings that Chantal Lafarge is now producing from parcels she bought before the 2014 growing season began- two single vineyard bottlings from Fleurie and one from Chiroubles. Not surprisingly, all three are really lovely wines and the notes on these wines are included in the follow-up article on late arriving 2014 Beaujolais that appears later in this issue. Visiting and tasting at Domaine Lafarge is always one of the highlights of my trips to Burgundy, as not only are the wines exemplary in quality year after year, but this is one of the nicest and most genuine families in all of the Côte d’Or and their welcome is always gracious and heartfelt. Domaine Lafarge is old school Burgundy in the very best sense and the 2014s are stellar.*

### ***Vins Blancs de Domaine Lafarge***

#### **2014 Bourgogne Aligoté “Raisin d’Orée”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The grapes for the Raisin d’Orée were not picked until the first couple of days of October in 2014 and the wine has turned out really nicely. The bouquet offers up a lovely blend of crab apple, a hint of honeycomb, lovely minerality, spring flowers and lime peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and focused, with a good core, nascent complexity and a long, succulent finish. Very tasty juice. 2015-2025. **88.**

#### **2014 Meursault- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

Once again, there will only be the single Meursault bottling *chez* Lafarge this year, as the hail cut the yields back to much that there were only enough grapes to make a single cuvée. The wine has weathered the storm nicely though and does not show the lack of energy that plagues some examples of 2014 Meursault, as it offers up a bright and vibrant bouquet of tangerine, apple, a nice touch of nuttiness, complex, stony minerality and a nice touch of citrus zest in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite refined in profile, with a good core, lovely mineral drive, bright acids and a long, energetic and beautifully balanced finish. A lovely *villages*. 2015-2030+. **90.**

#### **2014 Beaune “les Aigrots” Blanc- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

My comments on the fine energy of the Meursault from Domaine Lafarge this year are also echoed with this excellent les Aigrots, which has really turned out very well, despite the hail. The superb bouquet jumps from the glass in a very classy blend of apple, pear, a touch of fresh almond, salty minerality and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a fine core, impeccable balance and lovely length and grip on the bouncy and really stylish finish. These will be really good magnums. 2017-2035. **92.**

### ***Vins Rouges de Domaine Lafarge***

#### **2014 Bourgogne Passetoutgrains “Cuvée Exception”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The 2014 Cuvée Exception is marvelously red fruity and vibrant this year, and this will make a lovely middleweight that would be great fun to sneak into a blind tasting of Cru Beaujolais down the road. The bouquet offers up a bright Gamay blend of sweet cranberries, strawberries, fresh herb tones and a lovely base of minerality. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and tangy, with nice intensity of flavor, fine focus and just a touch of backend tannin perking up the finish. 2018-2030. **87+.**

#### **2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The Lafarge family makes really, really good Bourgogne rouge, and their 2014 is a fine vintage for this bottling. This wine is often quite black fruity in personality, but not in this vintage, as it jumps from the glass in a blaze of cherries, quince, a touch of nutskin, really quite classy minerality and a dollop of woodsmoke in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and well-balanced, with a juicy core of red fruit, fine backend intensity and just a bit of tannin to resolve on the long finish. 2019-2035. **89.**

#### **2014 Volnay- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The thematic thread of the 2014s at Domaine Lafarge seems to be prettiness, and this is again the case with the Volnay *villages*. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, strawberries, fresh herb tones, a lovely base of soil, coffee and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and very tangy, with a fine core, impressive transparency and a long, moderately-tannic and nicely reserved finish. Goode juice. 2022-2050+. **90+.**

**2014 Volnay “Vendanges Selectionées”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The 2014 Volnay “Vendanges Selectionées” is another very refined example of the vintage, offering up a classy bouquet of red plums, cherries, woodsmoke, hints of the gamebird to come, a fine base of minerality and a touch of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely structured, with a sappy core of red fruit, a very soil-driven personality, fine-grained tannins and a long, focused and intensely flavored finish. 2024-2055+. **91+**.

**2014 Beaune “Clos des Aigrots”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

There are only three casks of Clos des Aigrots in 2014, but the wine has turned out beautifully and will be worth a thorough search to try to find in the market. The very stylish nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, strawberries, a touch of bonfire, gamebird, chalky soil tones and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very transparent in profile, with a very good core, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and ripely tannic finish. No problem here with diminished energy from the June 28<sup>th</sup> storm, as this wine is vibrant and very promising. 2025-2060. **92**.

**2014 Beaune “Grèves”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

It is sad that these great old vines had to be replanted, but at least they have gone out with a great last vintage in 2014! The superb bouquet delivers a complex and quite sappy mix of cherries, red plums, chalky minerality, violets, fresh thyme and a nice touch of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and built for the long haul, with excellent mid-palate depth, impressive focus and balance and a very long, ripely tannic and soil-driven finish. Top flight Beaune. 2024-2060. **93+**.

**2014 Volnay “Mitans”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

Mitans is usually the most black fruity premier cru in the Lafarge cellars when young, but the 2014 shares the red fruity personality of this vintage here. The lovely nose delivers a fine constellation of strawberries, cherries, gamebirds, chalky soil tones, roses, a touch of mustard seed and again, that nice gentle topnote of woodsmoke on the breeze. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very precise, with a lovely core of fruit, lovely focus and grip, tangy acids, fine-grained tannins and a long, transparent and quite energetic finish. I could see this wine ending up very 1966-like in the fullness of time. 2024-2060. **92+**.

**2014 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The 2014 vintage of the Clos du Château des Ducs is excellent, offering up a very classy bouquet of red plums, cherries, nice spice tones, a superb base of complex soil nuances, raw cocoa and a bit of sweet almond in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with lovely mid-palate intensity, suave tannins and a long, refined and nascently complex finish. This is going to be such a beautiful bottle of wine at full maturity. 2025-2065+. **94**.

**2014 Volnay “Caillerets”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The Caillerets is equally fine in 2014, delivering a classic bouquet of cherries, blood orange, Caillerets spiciness, gamebirds, mustard seed, coffee and plenty of stony soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and soil-driven in personality, with a rock solid core, ripe tannins and excellent focus and balance on the very long, tangy and pure finish. This will need at least a decade to blossom, but should prove to be very long-lived. 2026-2065+. **93+**.

**2014 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine Michel Lafarge**

The 2014 Clos des Chênes is gorgeous on both the nose and palate. The bouquet offers up a young and refined blend of red plums, cherries, gamebird, a touch of nutskin, fine minerality, cocoa and a nice topnote of gentle floral nuances. On the palate the wine is deep, full-



bodied, focused and sappy at the core, with superb transparency, suave tannins and a long, pure and tangy finish. Classic Clos des Chênes. 2026-2075. **94+**.

### **Meursault**

#### **Domaine François et Antoine Jobard (Meursault)**

*It is not easy days to be a vigneron based in Meursault, Volnay or Pommard, as the summer hail always seems to find these villages almost every year of late and this was the case again in 2014. Last year's hail damage in the Jobard family's vineyards mainly hit their Bourgogne Blanc vines and the lieu à dit of En La Barre, but their premier crus were all spared. The hail of 2014 was less benign, as it hit most of the top premier crus in the village, with the exception of most of Genevrières and a significant portion of Charmes on the Puligny side of the village, and also the premier crus in Blagny were not hit hard. Where there was significant hail in 2014, the wines have come in quite a bit more forward and laid back in style than is typical chez Jobard, as the cumulative effect of four hail vintages out of the last five is certainly sapping the energy of these poor abused vines. Antoine Jobard reported that where the hail hit a parcel head on, he typically lost twenty-five to thirty percent of the crop, but he has several parcels where the damage was a bit more circumspect. Picking started at Domaine Jobard on September 13<sup>th</sup> and the entire cellar had been racked one time, prior to the harvest of 2015 and the wines were showing quite nicely at the time of my visit on November 10<sup>th</sup>. I was very pleased to find that last year's new addition of the premier cru of Sur le Sentier de Clous in St. Aubin has been augmented in the 2014 vintage by a second St. Aubin premier cru bottling, this one from the vineyard of Perrières. I tasted the full range of 2014s here with Antoine Jobard, with the exception of the Meursault "Perrières", and I did not ask if the shorter crop with the hail had affected the trade that they have made in the last few years with a friend of some Genevrières grapes for some Perrières grapes, but it is possible that the two domaines did not do the exchange this year, due to the reduced yields from the hail. I should have asked...*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Jobard is a very pretty wine, as the hail did not hit this far down the slope. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a stylish mix of apple, peach, lovey nutty overtones and a really fine base of minerality (particularly for its level). On the palate the wine is full-bodied, round and nicely balanced, with a succulent attack, solid core and nice touch of backend minerality on the pretty long finish. Quite stylish. 2015-2020. **87**.

#### **2014 Meursault "En La Barre"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The 2014 En La Barre from Antoine Jobard is also very pretty in style, but is a bit more forward in personality this year, as it offers up a fine bouquet of apple, tangerine, a touch of iodine, hazelnuts and a nice base of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and generous, with a good core, sound framing acids and fine focus and the juicy and long finish. This will not make old bones, but it is very well-balanced and should keep nicely over the mid-term. 2015-2030. **89**.

#### **2014 Meursault "Tillets"- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The Domaine Jobard 2014 Tilletts is also more open out of the blocks than is typical of this fine lieu à dit bottling, but this is the nature of the 2014 vintage here. The very suave nose wafts from the glass in a mélange of apple, peach, hazelnuts, chalky soil tones and a nice, musky floral topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, juicy and wide open in personality, with a

good core, fine focus and just a bit more mineral drive on the backend than the En La Barre this year. A very pretty *villages* that will drink well from the outset. 2015-2030. **90.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Perrières”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The new St. Aubin “Perrières” *chez* Jobard hails from a small parcel of twenty-five year-old vines that Antoine Jobard was able to buy this year. There is only enough for two *pièces*, which were from the 2008 and 2010 vintages respectively, as there is no new wood used for this small *cuvée*. The wine is really very stylish, offering up a vibrant bouquet of apple, pear, spring flowers, lovely chalky soil tones and still just a whisper of vanilla from the older casks. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with a good core, fine soil signature and good framing acids on the complex and focused finish. Very tasty. 2015-2022. **89+.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The second Jobard vintage of St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou” is also lovely in 2014, and this was the one wine in the cellar that had already been assembled in tank at the time of my visit and would be one of the first to be bottled after the new year. These are twenty-three year-old vines, but it has the advantage of nine barrels’ worth of production, so it is a more reasonably-sized *cuvée* for Antoine Jobard to work with. The wine was just a touch reduced at the time of my visit, but a bit of swirling opened it up nicely to show an aromatic constellation of pear, delicious apple, fresh almond, chalky minerality, just a touch of vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy in personality, with a good core, fine soil signature and a long, crisp and complex finish. Lovely St. Aubin. 2015-2025. **90+.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Trezin”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

Puligny has had a much better go of it of late from the summer bouts with hail, and one can sense that there is more energy here, in comparison to the Meursault vineyards that have been hit so hard in the last several years. This is a terrific vintage for the Jobard family’s Trezin, which jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of apple, pear, lime zest, lovely minerality and a topnote of orange blossoms. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and beautifully focused, with a bright core of fruit, lovely soil and a long, bouncy and quite wide open finish. This is really a pretty bottle of Puligny and it will drink very well right out of the blocks. 2015-2025. **90.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Champ Gains”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

As I noted last year, the Jobard family’s parcel of sixty year-old vines in this vineyard lie on the border with les Truffières (as is the case with Domaine Sauzet), and this section is nicely sheltered by surrounding woods. The 2014 version from Antoine Jobard is really a fine bottle in the making, offering up a pure and classy nose of apple, white peach, a fine base of chalky soil, apple blossoms and a very stylish base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows a nice sense of reserve, with a fine core, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the beautifully balanced finish. I would give this at least a couple of years in the cellar to allow some of its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. Fine juice. 2017-2030. **92.**

**2014 Meursault “Blagny”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

As I noted in the introduction, there was no hail in Meursault “Blagny” this year and this wine has turned out very well indeed. The lovely nose jumps from the glass in a classic blend of apple, passion fruit, a fine base of minerality, almond and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and complex, with very good focus and grip, a rock solid core and very good backend energy on the poised and zesty finish. A lovely example. 2015-2030. **92.**

### **2014 Meursault “Poruzots”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The Jobard family has three parcels in Poruzots, and Antoine noted that most of the hail damage was in the parcel by the road in this vineyard, with the other two parcels higher up on the slope barely touched by the hail. They lost thirty percent of their production in Poruzots as a result of the storm on June 28<sup>th</sup>. But, as two of the parcels were not touched, the wine shows no ill effects in terms of energy from the storm, offering up a complex and vibrant bouquet of apple, orange, hazelnuts, a lovely vein of minerality, a touch of iodine and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with excellent mineral drive, bright acids and lovely backend energy on the long and very classy finish. Fine juice. 2016-2030+. **92+**.

### **2014 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The Jobards’ parcel in Genevrières was right on the edge of the June storm, so fifteen percent of the production was lost to hail damage, but as things have been going in Meursault of late, that was not too bad. The 2014 Genevrières here is excellent, offering up a pure and complex nose of apple, hazelnut, lovely, saline minerality, lovely floral tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely focused, with a fine core, excellent balance and a long, impressively mineral backend. The finish is long and vibrant and this is a lovely bottle of Genevrières that has very good cut and grip, though it will drink well right from the outset. 2015-2030. **92**.

### **2014 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine François et Antoine Jobard**

The family’s parcel in Charmes was not hit with hail in 2014 and, as a result, this is the star in the cellar in this vintage. The bouquet is excellent, soaring from the glass in a bright and complex constellation of apple, passion fruit, fresh almond, spring flowers, iodine, vanillin oak and a dollop of geranium in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined in personality, with a rock solid core, fine focus and grip and a very long, racy and precise finish. A superb bottle of Charmes. 2017-2035. **93+**.

### **Domaine des Comtes Lafon (Meursault)**

*Tasting first thing in the morning at a domaine in Meursault the morning after the Paulée de Meursault is not the most polite time to make an appointment, particularly when the rendez-vous is at Domaine des Comtes Lafon, whose brainchild is the Paulée. Happily, Dominique Lafon had planned well in advance and had his second in command Stéphane Thibodaux on hand to get us started with the tasting in the event it was a great Paulée (which by numerous reports it was this year!) and we did not impinge upon Dominique’s Tuesday morning too much with our early appointment. 2014 is another hail year here at Domaine des Comtes Lafon, as the path of the June storm rolled right over Volnay and much of Meursault and yields were down fully forty percent from a proper crop load in this vintage, with some cuvées even shorter. Consequently, there is no Volnay AC bottling in 2014 chez Lafon, as this cuvée is made from the younger vines in the three premier cru vineyards owned by the estate, but with the hail taking care of the crop thinning, everything in Clos des Chênes, Champans and Santenots du Milieu was reserved for their respective bottlings in 2014. As Monsieur Thibodaux pointed out about the hailstorm of June 28<sup>th</sup>, “it is important to understand that after the hail, the weather was absolutely perfect in early July- dry and very sunny- so there were no issues with rot in the wake of the storm, and we ended up with absolutely perfect berries in 2014- just so few.” Malolactics chez Lafon were finished up primarily in the spring, with virtually all the 2014s completing their*

*secondary fermentations in March and April of 2015, which was in notable contrast to the 2013 vintage, where some wines took forever to finish.*

### **Mâconnais Wines**

*After the absolutely draconian yields in the Lafon family's Mâconnais vineyards in 2013, it was good to return to a normal crop size for the high quality 2014 vintage here. All of the 2014 Héritiers du Comte Lafon Mâconnais wines were bottled either in July of 2015 (for the more basic cuvées) or early September, for the more structured crus. However, there was one exception to this, as the brand new bottling of Pouilly-Fuissé was still resting comfortably in cask down in the winery in Milly-Lamartine and not available for tasting in Meursault. I was very happy to hear that Dominique Lafon had finally found a source for Pouilly-Fuissé, as he has been looking carefully for many years now. This is not the only new addition to the Héritiers du Comte Lafon lineup in the 2014 vintage, as there is also now a new Mâcon-Prissé bottling, as well as an absolutely superb example of Saint-Véran. Across the board, the 2014 Mâconnais wines here are excellent and very classic in style, with lovely pure fruit tones, good soil signature and fine underlying structures to carry them nicely into the future. However, this is also a nicely forward and succulent vintage for these wines right out of the blocks, and they are going to drink very well from the moment that they are released. The Côte de Beaune whites chez Lafon are another very fine range of Meursaults and Pulignys, but the effects of the hail can be felt a bit in the vineyards where this was a factor, with the wines in this case showing a bit more forward in style than might be customary in more classic vintages. But, across the board, the energy levels in the whites here were very good and the primary impact of the hail in 2014 is once again on the yields of certain bottlings, rather than on the ultimate quality of the wines. The Désirée and Bouchères had already been assembled in preparation for bottling early in the new year, with the other 2014 Côte de Beaune whites having been racked once, but still resting comfortably in cask in the cool Lafon cellars.*

### **2014 Mâcon-Prissé- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The new 2014 Mâcon-Prissé from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is really a very pretty wine, but my gut instinct that this is only the tip of the iceberg qualitatively for this bottling, and once the Lafon team has a chance to really work and learn the vineyard better, this will even improve in quality. The bouquet is bright and juicy, offering up scents of apple, a touch of tangerine, lovely Mâconnais toasty elements, citrus zest and a nice dollop of soil tones. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and crisp, with a nice signature of soil, and pretty good length and grip on the wide open finish. 2015-2020. **88+**.

### **2014 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The 2014 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine from Dominique Lafon and his team is a very pretty and quite floral interpretation of the vintage this year. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, a touch of fresh almond and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with a good core, sound framing acids and a long, juicy and focused finish. Good juice. 2015-2020. **89**.

### **2014 Mâcon-Uchizy “les Maranches”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

As is typical with this bottling, the 2014 les Maranches shows a bit more tropical fruit on both the nose and palate than the Milly-Lamartine. The bouquet delivers a very attractive mix of apple, tangerine, Mâconnais toastiness and plenty of citrus blossoms in the upper register. On the

palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and succulent, with good mid-palate intensity, fine focus and a long, classy finish that is already very accessible. 2015-2020+. **90.**

**2014 Mâcon-Bussière “la Monsard”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The 2014 la Monsard bottling from Bussière is really a lovely wine, as this parcel of vines, right at the base of a small, chalky outcropping of stone really delivers fine minerality in the resulting wine. The excellent nose jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of pear, apple, a touch of citrus zest, spring flowers and a really excellent base of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and nicely concentrated at the core, with fine focus and grip and a long, bouncy and nicely soil-driven finish. Really a classy bottle of Mâconnais wine this year. 2015-2023+. **91+.**

**2014 Mâcon-Chardonnay “Clos de la Crochette”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The 2014 Clos de la Crochette shows plenty of the vintage’s generosity on both the nose and palate, with the very expressive bouquet a blend of apple, tangerine, fresh almond, citrus zest and a lovely and quite complex base of soil. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied and quite deep at the core, with good acids and grip, fine balance and a long, complex and wide open finish. This is excellent. 2015-2023. **92.**

**2014 Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine “Clos du Four”- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

Clos du Four is always the biggest wine in this lineup of single vineyard Mâconnais wines *chez* Lafon, but in 2014, the elegance of the vintage really can be felt here as well. The first class nose delivers a fine mélange of apple, pear, white flowers, a nice base of soil tones and a bit of nuttiness that seems more hazelnut than almond at this juncture. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a plump core, lovely soil signature, bright acids and lovely backend length and grip. This is quite tasty, but I would be tempted to tuck this away in the cellar for another year and let it develop some secondary layers of complexity. 2016-2025. **92+.**

**2014 Mâcon Viré-Clessé- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The 2014 Mâcon Viré-Clessé from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is excellent in this vintage, and as is so often the case in this lineup, it is the most reserved out of the blocks. The youthful nose offers up lovely promise in its constellation of lemon zest, pear, apple, chalky minerality and gentle floral tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and focused, with a fine core, lovely balance and a long, vibrant and promising finish. 2017-2030. **93.**

**2014 Saint-Véran- Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon**

The new Saint-Véran from Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon is a very welcome and high class new addition to the lineup here, with the wine showing great breed and nascent complexity on both the nose and palate. The lovely bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, a bit of hazelnut, an excellent base of minerality and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with bright acids and great backend cut and mineral drive on the long finish. Really impressive juice. 2015-2030. **93+.**



*The Lafon family house at the domaine in Meursault, where Dominique's parents still reside.*

### **Côte de Beaune Rouges**

*The reds wines chez Lafon are excellent in 2014, but this is again a very short crop and there will not be a lot to go around. For example, there are only two casks of Clos des Chênes, three barrels (out of a customary eight) of Champans and production for the Santenots du Milieu is less than half a normal crop. Only the Monthélie rouge had been racked and assembled at the time of my mid-November visit, with the other wines still in barrel and not yet racked. All of the Volnays are very tasty in 2014 and do not show any of the slightly more coarse tannins found in many other Côte de Beaune reds from hail-hit villages, as the tannins here are quite moderate and suave in texture.*

### **2014 Monthélie “les Duresses” Rouge- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The 2014 Monthélie “les Duresses” Rouge from Dominique Lafon was already in tank awaiting bottling soon in the new year, but was showing very well at the time of my visit. The nose wafts from the glass in a classic black fruity blend of dark berries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, dark soil and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and quite long, with a good core, very suave, modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the focused finish. A very stylish example. 2020-2045. 89+.

#### **2014 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The 2014 Domaine Lafon Clos des Chênes is another very stylish example of the vintage but as is typical here, this is a more reserved wine out of the blocks than the Monthélie and will want a couple more years’ worth of bottle age prior to starting to drink well. The fine nose offers up a youthful constellation of cassis, currant leaf, woodsmoke, gamebird, a lovely base of dark soil tones and a dollop of bitter chocolate. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very solid at the core, with suave, ripe tannins, fine focus and grip and a long, primary and quite promising finish. There is not quite the customary backend energy here as one finds in most vintages of the Clos des Chênes, which I assume is from a combination of having such a small-sized cuvée and the slight impact from the hail. But this is still a very tasty bottle in the making. 2022-2050+. **90+**.

#### **2014 Volnay “Champans”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Three casks is not a whole lot better than two, but one assumes that there is now a bit more quantity to handle the wine optimally during its *elevage*, as well as use one new cask out of the three. The wine is consequently a bit more vibrant on the nose and palate than the Clos des Chênes in 2014, but as is typical of this *terroir*, also a bit more muscularly styled out of the blocks. The fine nose offers up a blend of black cherries, dark berries, gamebird, woodsmoke, a nice signature of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with a good core, sturdy structure and fine length and grip on the ripely tannic and tangy finish. This will be a classic example of Champans with a decade in the cellar. 2024-2055+. **91+**.

#### **2014 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The substantial Lafon holdings in this excellent premier cru allow for proper *elevage* even in years with a very short crop load like 2014, and this translated nicely in this vintage. The very classy nose offers up a youthful mix of dark berries, cassis, espresso, woodsmoke, a bit of venison, dark soil tones and a gentle framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, reserved and quite elegant in structural terms, with suave, fine-grained tannins, lovely focus and grip and a long, primary and promising finish. A very lovely example of Santenots du Milieu. 2022-2055+. **91+**.

#### ***Côte de Beaune Blancs***

##### **2014 Meursault- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Dominique Lafon’s 2014 Meursault AC is a very pretty wine, but this is the one exception to the observation that the energy levels in the Lafon whites are quite typical, as this wine seems just a touch deeper-pitched in ’14 than is customary. But, that said, it is also complex and classy, offering up scents of apple, pear, nutty tones, a nice vein of minerality and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and shows nice backend bounce, with a good core, fine complexity and good length and grip on the finish. A fine result in a more forward style. 2015-2023. **89+**.

##### **2014 Meursault “Clos de la Barre”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The 2014 Clos de la Barre is quite classic in style in 2014, and given this vineyard’s location a bit further down the slope, I am guessing that it was not much affected by the hail at the end of June. The wine certainly is a step up in terms of energy on the backend from the *villages*, as it jumps from the glass in a vibrant blend of apple, pear, a touch of fresh coconut, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with bright acids, lovely focus and grip, a very good core and a long, soil-

driven and zesty finish. A very, very classy middleweight in the making in 2014. 2015-2025+. **92.**

**2014 Meursault “Désirée”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The 2014 vintage of Désirée had been racked prior to the harvest of 2015 and was showing very nicely at the time of my visit. The bright and nascently complex nose offers up scents of apple, a touch of tangerine, fresh almond, a nice base of soil and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and bouncy, with a good, solid core, fine nascent complexity and a long, vibrant and wide open finish. This will really be a charming bottle right out of the blocks. 2015-2025. **91.**

**2014 Meursault “La Goutte d’Or”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The la Goutte d’Or vineyard is the first premier cru one hits leaving the center of town and heading south towards Puligny, and the hail of June 28<sup>th</sup> rolled right over this section of the village’s vineyards. Consequently, the 2014 *chez* Lafon has emerged as quite a forward and accessible example of the vintage, but with good framing acids and fine complexity. The nose offers up a mélange of apple, pear, hazelnuts, chalky soil tones and a nice, discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite suave on the attack, with an almost silky texture out of the blocks. The core is good and generous, the acids nicely lift the round fruit tones and there is good soil signature on the backend, if not the customary cut and grip. This will drink very well indeed from the moment of release. 2015-2025. **91.**

**2014 Meursault “Bouchères”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Again, the vineyard of Bouchères was right in the path of the hail and the 2014 version from Comtes Lafon is more forward stylistically as a result, though with plenty of underlying complexity and class. The bouquet delivers a fine blend of apple, pear, a touch of orange, floral tones, a fine base of soil and just a dollop of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and forward, with a very suave and generous attack, a plump core of fruit, lovely soil signature and a long, wide open and complex finish. This does not quite have the same vibrancy as the other Meursault premier crus in the cellar this year, but this is a vineyard that tends to give lovely generosity of fruit year in and year out and really relies a bit on the style of the vintage to add the cut and sizzle on the backend. Good juice for early and classy drinking, but not quite in the same league as the 2013 Bouchères here. 2015-2023+. **91+.**

**2014 Meursault “Porusots”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Porusots was also in the path of the hailstorm of 2014, but the wine’s underlying mineral drive gives it more spine than the very generous and laid back Bouchères in this vintage. The superb nose jumps from the glass in a blend of pear, apple, iodine, hazelnuts, a really fine base of minerality and a nice framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and by a wide margin, the most reserved of these Lafon premier crus up until this point. The wine has a very good core, fine focus and grip and a long, zesty and still fairly primary finish. I would tuck this away in the cellar for at least a few years and let its secondary layers of complexity emerge. A fine, fine result in 2014. 2018-2030. **92+.**

**2014 Meursault “Charmes”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Yields were down thirty percent in Charmes this year for Domaine des Comtes Lafon, due to the hail, but the wine has really turned out beautifully and the worst impact of the hail is going to be on those trying to find sufficient number of bottles of the wine for their cellars. The lovely and impressively complex bouquet offers up a classy constellation of pear, coconut, chalky soil tones, hazelnuts, white flowers, iodine, a bit of vanillin oak and a bit of saltiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality,



with a fine core, lovely transparency, bright acids and excellent length and grip on the very charming finish. A lovely, lovely example of the vineyard that will drink very, very well from a fairly young age, but has the balance to also keep nicely. 2017-2030+. **93.**

**2014 Meursault “Genevrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Of all the premier crus in Meursault, Genevrières was the most blessed, as it was almost entirely missed by the hail. Dominique Lafon’s example has turned out beautifully and this is my favorite premier cru in the cellars this year. The bouquet is pure and absolutely stunning, offering up scents of pear, passion fruit, a very complex base of chalky minerality (which is quite saline, as is so often the case with Genevrières), fresh almonds, vineyard flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with a fine core, excellent focus and grip, bright acids and outstanding backend energy and length on the complex, svelte and vibrant finish. This will age very gracefully, but it is going to be very, very hard to resist in its gorgeous youth! Really a beautiful wine. 2015-2035+. **94.**

**2014 Meursault “Perrières”- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

The 2014 Comtes Lafon Perrières is another lovely wine, but the bit of hail here has given this wine a more forward personality than is customary for this bottling. The first class nose is complex and quite open in personality, wafting from the glass in an inviting blend of apple, pear, almond, lovely minerality, a nice touch of iodine and a classy base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and very pure, with a fine core, good acids to add brightness and bounce and a long, complex and very refined finish. I am accustomed to young vintages of Perrières *chez* Lafon demanding time in the cellar to blossom, but this will not be the case with the 2014 version, unless this wine really shuts down after its *mise*. 2015-2030. **93.**

**2014 Montrachet- Domaine des Comtes Lafon**

Happily, there was no hail in Montrachet and the 2014 from Domaine des Comtes Lafon is a breathtakingly beautiful young wine. The utterly pristine and filigreed bouquet delivers a complex panoply of pear, apple, a touch of passion fruit, chalky soil tones, a potpourri of very delicate floral scents and vanillin oak. There is also a nice touch of fresh almond on the nose that will soon turn to *crème patissière* with a bit of bottle age. On the palate the wine is utterly pure, refined and almost silky in texture, with its full-bodied format offering up stunning focus and balance, a rock solid core and a superb, vibrant and very complex finish. This is a classic 2014 white Burgundy, with the possibility to drink with utter completeness with only a few years’ worth of bottle age, but with the seamless balance to also age long and gracefully. A magical wine. 2018-2045. **97+.**

***Puligny-Montrachet***

**Domaine Jacques Carillon (Puligny-Montrachet)**

*Jacques Carillon has made absolutely beautiful 2014s, but this is no surprise, as he is one of the most consistent and talented winegrowers in the village of Puligny. The entire cellar had been racked into tanks prior to the harvest of 2015, so the wines were in a great point in their evolutions for tasting at the end of November of this year. Monsieur Carillon began picking on September 10<sup>th</sup> in 2014. The entire Carillon cellar this year is emblematic of the most favored elements of the white Burgundy vintage of 2014, with generous, but perfectly ripe and pristine fruit tones, strikingly pure and classic expressions of their underlying terroirs, and great vibrant structural elements that are built for extended aging capabilities, but which will not deter those who may be tempted to drink the wines on the younger side. In fact, several of these wines are*

*going to be very, very hard to resist in their youth, but I would be inclined to give all but the Puligny-Montrachet AC cuvée at least a little bit of time in the cellar to allow more secondary layers to emerge. Monsieur Carillon is of the opinion that the 2014s will generally drink better sooner than his fine 2013s, though he is very content with the balance of the new vintage and feels that the 2014s will also age long and gracefully as well. These are stunning 2014s.*

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Jacques Carillon**

The 2014 Puligny *villages* is really a lovely wine that will drink very well from its release. The pure and vibrant nose wafts from the glass in a blend of white peach, apple, chalky soil tones, fresh lemon and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and energetic, with a lovely core, impressive transparency and superb cut and grip on the long and complex finish. Utterly classic. 2016-2035. **91.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Macherelles”- Domaine Jacques Carillon**

The 2014 Chassagne “Macherelles” was a bit more reserved at the time of my visit than the Puligny AC, but equally pure and vibrant, with the elegance of the vintage really showing nicely here in these heavier, clay soils. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of lemon, apple, tangerine, spring flowers, a fine base of soil and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and rock solid at the core, with fine focus, cut and grip and a long, zesty and still fairly primary finish. This will want a few years in the cellar to fully blossom and probably will be every bit as good as the Puligny with a bit of bottle age. 2018-2035+. **90+.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”- Domaine Jacques Carillon**

The 2014 Champs Canet is another beautiful wine that is very reflective of its underlying *terroir* and stuffed with pure and perfectly ripe fruit. The superb bouquet delivers a fine blend of pear, apple, chalky minerality, vanillin oak and a pungent topnote of apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and impressively complex, with a lovely core, bright acids, seamless balance and outstanding focus on the very long and promising finish. It will be very easy to drink this wine out of the blocks, but it really should be tucked away for a few years to allow its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. A really lovely bottle. 2019-2040. **92+.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Perrières” - Domaine Jacques Carillon**

The 2014 Perrières is also outstanding and shares the same purity of fruit and stunning soil signature of the entire range here in 2014, but it is nicely buttoned up today behind a girdle of acidity and will want some bottle age to blossom. The truly lovely nose offers up a constellation of lemon, pear, white peach, stony soil tones, citrus zest, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and laser-like in its focus, with a rock solid core, great mineral drive and a very long, snappy and utterly precise finish. 2020-2045+. **93+.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Jacques Carillon**

The old vines that Monsieur Carillon cultivates in Referts have produced a stunning wine in 2014. The great bouquet soars from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, just a touch of tangerine, limestone minerality, lemon zest, vanillin oak and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with stunning mid-palate intensity, vibrant acids and great length and grip on the very poised, focused and complex finish. An absolute *tour de force* this year. 2020-2045+. **94.**

#### **2014 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Jacques Carillon**

I always love Monsieur Carillon’s Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet and the 2014 version is a legend in the making. The celestial nose wafts from the glass in a stunning blend of lemon,

apple, pear, kaleidoscopic minerality, citrus blossoms, lemon zest and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, seamless and utterly electric in its vibrancy, with a great core of fruit, superb complexity and a very long, nascently complex, seamless and utterly refined finish. A brilliant wine. 2022-2060. **96+**.

### **Domaine Leflaive (Puligny-Montrachet)**

*Éric Rémy, Cellarmaster at Domaine Leflaive is very, very happy with the quality of the 2014s resting in tank at the estate. And well he should be, as this is a great vintage at Domaine Leflaive! Monsieur Rémy underscored just how precocious the spring was of 2014, as he observed that the first flowering was seen in the domaine's vineyards on May 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year! The domaine averaged only forty-six hectoliters per hectare in 2014, as the difficulties with millerandage during the flowering acted as a brake on production in this vineyard, with the village wine parcels on the plain the most-affected this year. The harvest started on September 10<sup>th</sup> of 2014 and the domaine's picking teams brought in perfectly ripe grapes, with natural alcohols between 12.8 and 13.2 percent in 2014 and Monsieur Rémy chose to chapitalize only a few cuvées this year. The cellar was racked at the end of August of 2015 into tank, where the wines will settle until the spring, when they will be bottled at their customary time. Across the board the wines show the beautiful purity of ripe fruit, striking transparency and perfectly bright, tensile structural elements of a very classic year, which of course, is what 2014 is for the communes in the Côte de Beaune that did not have to deal with the hail of late June. Puligny and Chassagne were particularly blessed in this vintage and the Domaine Leflaive 2014s are absolutely classic, brilliant wines in the making.*

### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Leflaive**

The 2014 Bourgogne blanc from Domaine Leflaive shows plenty of the vintage's purity and raciness this year, as it offers up a bright and promising nose of lemon, apple, chalky soil tones and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is fullish, focused and vibrant, with lovely purity on the attack, a good core, fine soil signature and a long, focused and zesty finish. Really pretty this year. 2016-2030+. **88+**.

### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive**

The 2014 Puligny AC from the domaine is really gorgeous out of the blocks this year, wafting from the glass in a refined aromatic constellation of apple, pear, a hint of the lemon oil to come, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pure, with a fine core, superb transparency, excellent focus and grip and a long, racy finish. The problems with flowering in the *villages* parcels has given this wine a real depth this year that is exceptional. This will drink beautifully with a couple of years in the cellar and really is of premier cru quality in 2014. 2019-2040. **91**.

### **2014 Meursault "Sous la d'Ane"- Domaine Leflaive**

The 2014 Meursault "Sous la d'Ane" is also a very pretty wine, but this is still younger vines, as one-third of the vineyard was planted in 1995 and the other two-thirds in 2002, so the best is still yet to come from this bottling. The 2014 is very pretty and stylish, offering up a bouquet of apple, peach, chalky soil tones, a touch of iodine, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and more open-knit than the Puligny AC, with a good, solid core, bright acids and lovely mineral drive on the long finish. Good juice. 2019-2040. **90+**.

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Clavoillon”- Domaine Leflaive**

The 2014 Clavoillon from Domaine Leflaive is very floral this year and delivers superb complexity and breed on both the nose and palate. The outstanding nose wafts from the glass in a pure blend of apple, white peach, chalky soil tones, a gardenful of white flowers, a touch of fresh almond and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and simply gorgeous on the attack, with a fine core, bright acids and excellent backend precision on the very long and racy finish. The elegance of 2014 has given the Clavoillon here wings on which to soar! 2018-2040. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières”- Domaine Leflaive**

In similar fashion, the 2014 Folatières from the domaine is also very elegant in profile this year, as it offers up a pure and classy nose of apple, white peach, acacia blossoms, a fine base of chalky soil tones, a touch of apple blossom and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and quite tightly-knit out of the blocks, with fine cut and grip, lovely focus and a long, refined finish. The Leflaive vines here are on the northern side of the vineyard and this seems to give it a bit more of a svelte personality than examples from the southern side. 2019-2040. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Domaine Leflaive**

The old vines in the Leflaive family’s holdings in Combettes (planted in 1965 and 1973) have really produced a beautiful wine in the 2014 vintage. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a pure and properly reserved blend of lemon, apple, a touch of pear, chalky minerality, vanillin oak and a gentle topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with a fine core of fruit, excellent structure and grip and a very long, energetic and racy finish. Great juice in the making. 2020-2045+. **93+.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Pucelles”- Domaine Leflaive**

One would expect the elegance of the 2014 vintage to find a perfect foil in the Domaine Leflaive example of Pucelles and this is exactly the case this year. The bouquet is a pure and refined mélange of lemon, pear, delicious apple, spring flowers, fresh almond, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully balanced, with great purity and depth at the core, bright acids and a very long, structured and tensile finish. I love the synthesis of ripe fruit, striking minerality and great cut and grip here. 2020-2050. **94.**

#### **2014 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive**

The 2014 Domaine Leflaive Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet came in at 12.9 percent natural alcohol in this vintage and was chapitalized just a touch to prolong the fermentation a bit. This is a great bottle in the making, soaring from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, a touch of tangerine, deep, pure soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and notably more concentrated at the core than any of the premier crus, with great cut and grip, superb focus and a very, very long and nascently complex finish. Stellar juice. 2023-2055+. **95+.**

#### **2014 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive**

The domaine has a couple of different holdings in Bâtard-Montrachet and does not make the *assemblage* of the different parcels (which are fermented separately) until after the new year, so this example hails from a plot of fifty-plus year-old vines in the sector up above Bienvenues. The wine is stunning in its synthesis of power and elegance in 2014, delivering a superb and still quite youthful bouquet of apple, pear, again, just a touch of orange, spring flowers, a deep base of soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and youthfully buttoned up behind its fine girdle of acidity, with a great core of pure fruit, superb soil signature, racy

acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very, very promising finish. 2020-2055+. **95.**

**2014 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Leflaive**

The Domaine Leflaive 2014 Chevalier-Montrachet is magical. The bouquet delivers a blend of great purity and refinement, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, incipient notes of pastry cream, acacia blossoms, fresh almond, chalky minerality and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with great depth in the mid-palate, with great focus and grip, enormous backend energy and a laser-like, extremely long and youthful finish. This is a step up from the very beautiful examples of Bienvenues and Bâtard in the 2014 vintage! 2023-2060. **98.**



**Domaine Etienne Sauzet (Puligny-Montrachet)**

*I had the pleasure to taste this November at Domaine Sauzet with Gérard Boudot, who is always fascinating to run through the new vintage with, as he is a veritable font of knowledge about Puligny. As we sat in the comfortable tasting room at Domaine Sauzet, I was reminded of my first visit to the domaine back in 1989 and tasting through the young and racy 1988s here, which I really did not appreciate properly in their very tightly-knit and snappy youth, but which have turned out to be some of the most beautiful wines crafted by Monsieur Boudot in this very strong decade of top flight vintages at Domaine Sauzet. It is hard to believe that more than a quarter century has passed since my first visit here, but happily, I am sufficiently experienced*

*these days to get a better handle on young vintages out of the blocks at Domaine Sauzet, and there is little doubt that this collection of stellar 2014s from the Boudot family is going to go down in the family's history as one of the strongest and most beautiful vintages in their direction of this iconic Puligny estate. The wines share the same purity and utter fidelity to their underlying terroir as the great 2010 vintage here, but are not quite as concentrated in style and are perhaps just a touch more vibrant and classically proportioned as a result. This was one of the first big white wine cellars that I visited on my November trip this year and I kept waiting to hit the same peaks in other cellars that I visited over the remainder of my trip, but at the end of the day, perhaps there was no collection as complete and compelling from top to bottom as this magical lineup of 2014s at Domaine Sauzet! This estate has been on fire qualitatively in the last ten years and I would already be making plans to lay in a significant cache of 2014s from Domaine Sauzet if I had the discretionary income to really indulge my passion for white Burgundy at today's prices, as this is an utterly brilliant lineup of wines in the 2014 vintage. The entire range of wines had already been assembled in tank, as is customary at Domaine Sauzet, so that they can seamlessly integrate over the winter and the premier and grand crus will be bottled in March of 2016. I did not taste the Truffières this year.*

#### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Sauzet was all barrel-fermented this year in one to five year-old casks, and as usual, was bottled at the end of August before the harvest of 2015. The wine is very pretty, as it offers up scents of apple, pear, a lovely touch of chalky soil tones and a gentle floral topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and nicely focused, with a good core, bright acids and very good cut and grip on the quite long finish. 2015-2025. **87+**.

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Enseignères”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

Domaine Sauzet has so many parcels of old vines that these fifty-six year-old vines are really not considered old by the Boudot family, but they have turned out a truly beautiful bottle of Chassagne *villages* in 2014. This and the Puligny AC had just been fined prior to my visit. The excellent nose wafts from the glass in a very pure blend of apple, lemon, complex soil tones, citrus zest and a very gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very mineral in personality this year, with a lovely core, superb backend energy and cut and a very long, impeccably balanced finish. The fireworks are starting early! 2016-2035. **91**.

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The 2014 Puligny AC from the Boudots is equally superb and shows more early generosity than this bottling did in 2013, making it a very, very strong candidate for addition to a well-stocked wine list. The very refined nose offers up a mix of white peach, apple, a touch of orange zest, a complex base of white soil tones and a ton of spring flowers in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and a bit more primary in personality than the Chassagne “Enseignères”, with a fine core, bright acids and a very long, promising finish. 2016-2035. **91**.

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Clos de la Garenne”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The 2014 Clos de la Garenne is a very fine example of the vintage, with a beautiful combination of ripe fruit tones and a very transparent window down to its underlying soil. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of white peach, a touch of fresh pineapple, chalky minerality, citrus zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, still fairly tightly-knit finish. This will want a couple of years to really start to blossom. 2018-2035. **91+**.

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Champ Gains”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The domaine’s parcel of Champs Gains lies directly adjacent to Truffières on the northern end of the vineyard, with the other three sides of this sector surrounded by woods, which nicely shelters the vines and makes this the first premier cru parcel to ripen. The 2014 Champ Gains is excellent, offering up a pure and nicely detailed bouquet of apple, pear, chalky minerality, citrus blossoms and a very discreet base of vanillin oak from its fifteen percent new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and shows off lovely mid-palate depth, with fine cut and grip and racy acids on the very long and nascently complex finish. This is really strong in 2014. 2018-2035+. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Referts”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

Domaine Sauzet has two parcels of vines in Referts- one right on the border of Meursault “Charmes” and sixty-eight years of age, with the other located in the center of the vineyard. At twenty percent, this sees just a touch more new wood than the previous premier crus, but still sufficiently low enough to really let the *terroir* shine through in 2014. The bouquet is excellent, offering up notes of apple, peach, a fine base of soil, fresh almond and a floral topnote redolent of acacia blossoms. On the palate the wine is very soil-driven, full-bodied and focused, with really lovely fruit, impeccable balance and impressive cut and grip on the vibrant and complex finish. This will not demand much bottle age to really start to drink well and I would opt for opening the Referts ahead of both the Champ Gains and Clos de la Garenne in this vintage. Classy juice. 2016-2035. **92.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Perrières”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The domaine’s parcel in Perrières lie on the northern end of the vineyard, right on the Referts boundary. This is exceptional and utterly classic in 2014, with impressive chalky stoniness defining the wine on both the nose and palate. The excellent bouquet is a blend of apple, tangerine, limestone minerality, citrus zest, just a touch of vanillin oak and a lovely topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with excellent acids and focus, impressive nascent complexity and a very long, crisp and beautifully balanced finish. High class juice. 2018-2040. **93.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Folatières” - Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

As I have noted in the past, 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 year in and year out my favorite example of Folatières. The 2014 version is outstanding, soaring from the glass in a very floral mélange of apple, white peach, chalky soil tones, acacia and apple blossoms and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a superb core, excellent focus and grip and a very long, elegant and youthful finish. This will need time to blossom, but is going to be outstanding. 2018-2040. **93.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Champ Canet”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

In the mind of Gérard Boudot, “Champ Canet has the perfect rapport of chalk and clay in the soils for archetypical Puligny-Montrachet.” The domaine has four distinct parcels in the vineyard, as this is their largest premier cru holding, with one of these planted with ninety-two year-old vines. The 2014 Champ Canet is utterly classic in profile, jumping from the glass in a fine blend of pear, white peach, fresh almond, spring flowers, a fine base of chalky soil nuances and a judicious base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very refined on the attack, with a lovely core, excellent soil inflection, crisp acids and a very long, youthful and vibrant finish. Another absolutely stellar premier cru. 2018-2040. **93.**

#### **2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Combettes”- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The domaine has two parcels in Combettes, with the smaller parcel planted with fourteen year-old vines and right next to Dominique Lafon’s Meursault “Charmes” vines, but the majority in the center of Combettes and planted with fifty-eight year-old, *selection massale* vines. The 2014 Combettes is simply stunning, delivering a deep and vibrant bouquet of apple, white peach, lemon il, chalky minerality, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and very energetic, with a rock solid core, laser-like focus and superb length and grip on the crisp and utterly seamless finish. Brilliant juice. 2020-2045+. **94+**.

#### **2014 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

Domaine Sauzet’s 2014 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet saw no new wood, as there are only three *pièces* in the cellars of this wine and the Boudots decided to use one wine barrels for all three casks this year. The result is a stunningly transparent and beautiful Bienvenues, soaring from the glass in a gorgeous blend of apple, pear, tangerine zest, a very complex base of chalky soil tones, citrus blossoms and still a hint of vanilla in the upper register from the one year-old barrels. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and quite youthful in profile, with a great core of fruit, superb soil signature, bright acids and outstanding length and grip on the impeccably balanced finish. A great wine in the making, 2021-2050. **95**.

#### **2014 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The domaine’s parcel in Bâtard lie just above the Bienvenues upper limit and have produced a brilliant wine in the 2014 vintage. The stellar and utterly classic nose offers up scents of apple, par, lemon oil, orange blossoms, a great base of soil tones and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bdoied and really racy in profile this year, with a rock solid core, great focus and grip and a very long, pure and seamless finish. This seems to have even a touch more backend energy this year than the Bienvenues! 2022-2055. **96**.

#### **2014 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The domaine’s vines in Chevalier-Montrachet lie up at the very top of the slope in the center of the vineyard. This wine is magical in 2014, offering up a gorgeously youthful nose of apple, pear, lemon, chalky minerality, acacia blossoms, vanillin oak and the first hints of the *crème patissière* to come with further age. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and very, very pure, with a great core, laser-like focus and great backend cut and grip on the long and utterly refined finish. This is so stunningly balanced and nascently complex this year that it will be absolutely delicious to drink out of the blocks (unless the *mise* causes it to shut down), but it will age a very long time and there is no good reason not to at least exercise a bit of patience and let it blossom a bit more with some bottle age. Man, I love great Chevalier! 2015-2050+. **97**.

#### **2014 Montrachet- Domaine Etienne Sauzet**

The 2014 Domaine Sauzet Montrachet is another absolutely brilliant young wine. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, lemon zest, a very, very complex base of chalky soil tones, white roses and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, rock solid and already hauntingly well-balanced, with bright acids, laser-like focus, blossoming complexity and supreme elegance on the very, very long, vibrant and utterly seamless finish. Pure magic. 20245-2060. **98+**.



## **Chassagne-Montrachet**

### **Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils (Chassagne-Montrachet)**

*The Moreau brothers have made stunning wines in 2014, but this seems to be a consistent refrain these days! It is always one of the highlights of my trip to visit with Alex Moreau and taste the new vintage here, as the wines get more precise with each passing year. The wines were in varying stages of evolution at the time of my visit, with a few already bottled, all the rest assembled and a few of these already fined and/or filtered in anticipation of bottling, while others were more comfortably resting in tank and had not yet been prepared for their bottling, which will occur in the spring. Alex Moreau began picking on September 11<sup>th</sup> this year and was very, very happy with the quality of the grapes as they came in from the vineyards. There are two new bottlings in the cellar this year, as the family has produced their first bottling of Clos St. Jean in 2014 from a recently replanted parcel, and has traded with another vigneron some grapes to produce their very first bottling of Caillerets in 2014, which is stunning. Most of the malos here finished up in the spring or early summer, but the Vergers was late and the Champgains even later, as it had only just finished a short time before my visit on November 18<sup>th</sup>! I did not taste the Champgains this year, given its agitated state, but the remainder of the cellar was absolutely stunning and this is clearly going to be a great vintage chez Moreau. The purity and transparency of the 2014s chez Moreau is truly exceptional, as each premier cru really screamed out its underlying terroir, and if I wanted to teach a master class on the signature nuances of the top premier crus in Chassagne, I would just serve the 2014 roster from Domaine Moreau! I did not taste the full roster of reds on my visit, but the four I did sample were outstanding.*

## **Vins Blancs**

### **2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc was bottled right before the harvest of 2015, as is customary with this bottling. The wine offers up a beautifully pure and classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of fresh almond and a fine base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and juicy on the attack, with a good core, lovely balance and really impressive backend energy on the focused finish. This is amazingly good for Bourgogne. 2016-2030. **88.**

### **2014 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

This was bottled the week before I tasted it, but had not yet shut down and was still showing very well. The bouquet is again, strikingly refined in 2014, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, acacia blossoms, complex limestone soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and succulent at the core, with great soil inflection, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and vibrant finish. Superb juice. 2016-2030+. **90+.**

### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

If someone in the village makes a better version of Chassagne AC than Alex Moreau, I would like to taste it! The 2014 *villages* had been assembled and was destined for bottling in two weeks' time, but showed all of the inherent elegance and minerality that are the hallmarks of the very finest Côte de Beaune whites in 2014. The bouquet is stellar, offering up a vibrant and expressive blend of white peach, apple, citrus zest, a fine, complex base of soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined, with a fine core, bright acids, lovely focus and grip and great length and energy on the focused and transparent finish. Very high class example of AC! 2016-2035. **91.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

This is only the “third leaf” for the vines in Clos St. Jean, which is always the only year where the youngsters produce concentrated fruit, as the vigor ramps up from this point forward and the resulting wine tends to lack mid-palate concentration for several years after this. I do not know if Alex Moreau will blend this for a while into the Chassagne AC in subsequent vintages, but the 2014 is really a very pretty wine. The bouquet offers up a fine blend of apple, tangerine, deep soil tones, a bit of citrus oil, gentle notes of butter and a discreet topnote of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and possesses really ravishing fruit this year, with a fine core, bright acids and lovely length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. A lovely result. 2016-2030+. **91.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Moreau Maltroie is equally superb this year, jumping from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, a beautifully complex base of soil tones and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a great core, even better purity and focus and a very, very long, vibrant and perfectly balanced finish. This has excellent structure for aging, but I would be the first to say that the vast, vast majority of this beautiful wine is drunk up before its fifth birthday, as it is just so good out of the blocks this year! 2016-2035. **92.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Vergers was the only wine in the Moreau cellars that I tasted that was not really on form, as its late malo found it quite a bit behind the evolution of the other wines in November. The nose is very pretty in its mélange of apple, a touch of fresh pineapple, chalky soil tones, citrus blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and pure, with fine depth at the core, lovely length and grip and a zesty finish. I am sure this will be excellent in due course. 2017-2035. **92-93.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

I fell in love with the early appeal of Chenevottes all the way back in the 1992 vintage, with the wines of Domaine Colin-Deleger, and the memory of that beautiful ’92 came right back to me the moment I put my nose in the glass of this stunning 2014. The bouquet is utterly classic in its beautiful blend of apple, pear, acacia blossom, gorgeous chalky soil tones, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off superb mid-palate depth, with bouncy acids, great focus and grip and fine complexity on the very long, vibrant and utterly seamless finish. Chenevottes simply does not get any better than this! 2016-2035. **93.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Domaine Moreau Morgeot is also a stunning example of the vintage, with more obvious mineral drive than any of the premier crus up to this point in the tasting. The superb bouquet delivers a constellation of lemon, pear, stony minerality, a touch of candied lemon peel to come, citrus blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, bright acids, laser-like focus and a very long, very racy finish. Brilliant juice. 2019-2040. **94.**

#### **2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

There are only two casks of this magical first vintage of Caillerets in the Moreau cellars in 2014, with both the barrels being “one wine” barrels this year, so as not to dominate the great *terroir* of Caillerets with fifty percent new oak. The bouquet is stunning and properly reserved out of the blocks, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, a hint of mint, limestone minerality, spring flowers and a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied,

pure and racy, with a great core, stunning focus and grip and a very, very long, nascently complex and perfectly balanced finish. A great wine. 2020-2045+. **94+**.

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Grandes Ruchottes from Alex Moreau shows just a touch more depth than the stunning Caillerets, as it offers up a very refined and classic bouquet of apple, pear, lemon oil, a touch of iodine, great limestone minerality, gentle floral tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a rock solid core, vibrant acids and stunning length and grip on the seamless and electric finish. Grand cru quality without a doubt! 2021-2050. **95**.

**2014 Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The Domaine Moreau rows of vines in Bâtard-Montrachet lie on the Puligny-Chassagne border in this vineyard, being the very first rows on the Puligny side, right below Montrachet. This had just been racked two weeks prior to my visit and was a bit grumpy, but its ultimate shape and quality were still fairly apparent. The very primary bouquet is a fine blend of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, a very complex base of chalky soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very mineral in personality this year, with a great core, impeccable focus and balance and a very, very long, nascently complex finish that closes with beautiful fruit tones dovetailing into stunning mineral drive. 2022-2050+. **95-97**.

**2014 Chevalier-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

In contrast to the 2014 Bâtard, the Chevalier-Montrachet had not yet been racked and was in perfect shape for tasting. The wine is utterly brilliant this year, soaring from the glass in a magical mélange of pear, apple, chalky minerality, a touch of citrus oil, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, vanillin oak and a beautiful topnote of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with vibrant acids, laser-like focus, stunning complexity and great length and grip on the utterly seamless finish. This finishes like a dream and I am fully aware of the crime I committed in spitting this magical young wine! 2022-2060. **98**.

***Vins Rouges***

**2014 Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Bourgogne Rouge from Domaine Moreau had been bottled only a week prior to my visit, but had not yet shut down and was showing well. The nose is a very pretty and black fruity blend of black cherries, dark berries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely plump out of the blocks, with a good core, just a touch of tannin and fine length and grip on the focused finish. A very classy example. 2017-2030+. **88**.

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge- Dom. Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 Chassagne “Vieilles Vignes” has been racked into tank at the end of September and was showing very well indeed, with the elegance of the 2014 vintage front and center. The lovely nose offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil and a touch of gamebird in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still youthful in profile, with a good core, moderate tannins and lovely focus and grip on the long and quite refined finish. Good juice in the making and an absolute bargain! 2018-2035+. **90**.

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Cardeuse” Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The 2014 la Cardeuse is outstanding in this vintage, and again, really shows off the elegance of this year. The pure, elegant and sappy nose jumps from the glass in a blend of cassis,

black cherries, charred wood, dark soil tones, gamebird, espresso and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and suave on the attack, with a sappy core, lovely soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and absolutely seamless finish. It is very rare for young Chassagne *rouge* to show this kind of refinement out of the blocks! 2020-2050. **92.**

**2014 Volnay “Santenots”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

Alex Moreau noted that he lost twenty percent of his production in Santenots in 2014 due to the hailstorm at the end of June. The wine has turned out just fine however, offering up a lovely nose of sweet dark berries, black cherries, woodsmoke, gamebird, bitter chocolate and dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and sappy at the core, with suave tannins, lovely focus and grip and fine, nascent complexity on the long and soil-driven finish. A fine result. 2020-2050. **91.**

***St. Aubin***

**Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy (St. Aubin)**

*Olivier Lamy was very content with the quality and style of the 2014 vintage, as his vineyards are far enough south to have missed any ill effects from the hailstorm on June 28<sup>th</sup>. He began picking in 2014 on September 12<sup>th</sup> and brought in grapes in marvelous condition. The cellar was in varying degrees of evolution at the time of my visit, with a few wines already bottled, others recently racked and assembled in October in preparation for their bottling in the new year and others still resting contentedly in cask. The inherent elegance of the 2014 vintage was very much in evidence across the board here, but was particularly influential with some of the St. Aubin and Chassagne red wines, which can often start out life a bit rustic in character, but which were really showing a lovely level of refinement out of the blocks in 2014. Olivier Lamy is very well-known for the consistent excellence of his white wines, and the 2014s are exemplary once again, but if subscribers are looking for really good, soil-driven and elegant red Burgundies at a very good price, the 2014s from Monsieur Lamy should most assuredly be considered, as they are really strong this year! A couple of the white wines had just been bottled ten days prior to my visit and were still agitated from their mise, so I did not take notes on the wines, but the remainder of the range of whites chez Lamy was showing beautifully.*

***Vins Rouges***

**2014 St. Aubin “Cuvée Paradis” 1er Cru Rouge- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Cuvée Paradis is a lovely bottle of St. Aubin rouge and was showing very well, despite being racked a bit more than three weeks prior to my visit. The nose offers up an excellent and quite refined bouquet of red and black cherries, chalky soil tones, dark chocolate, woodsmoke and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and nascently complex, with a good core, suave tannins and very good length and grip on the focused finish. A lovely bottle in the making. 2018-2040. **89.**

**2014 Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The Santenay “Clos des Hâtes” rouge is made from fairly young vines, as at fifteen years of age, they are probably still five to seven years from coming into their prime. But, the 2014 has turned out very nicely, offering up a bright nose of plums, black cherries, cocoa, a lovely base of soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, sappy at the core and quite elegant in profile, with good focus and grip and a touch of backend tannin perking up the fairly long finish. This is a very good AC. 2018-2035+. **88+.**

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Gaujomme” Rouge- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Chassagne AC rouge is another very successful red from Olivier Lamy, wafting from the glass in a bright and elegant nose of black cherries, cassis, dark chocolate, dark soil tones, a touch of gamebird and a topnote of bonfire. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with fine elegance on the attack, suave tannins and a long, youthfully complex finish. Classy juice. 2019-2040. **89+**.

**2014 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Rouge- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Derrière Chez Edouard red from Monsieur Lamy is outstanding, with the purity of the vintage and the stylish signature of this fine *terroir* marrying superbly well this year. The bouquet delivers a fine constellation of sappy black cherries, sweet dark berries, raw cocoa, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a touch of fresh thyme in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved in personality, with a sappy core of black fruit, fine soil signature, moderate tannins and a long, suave and classy finish. This will be excellent with five or six years in the cellar. 2021-2050. **90**.

**2014 Santenay “Clos des Gravières”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

Olivier Lamy used entirely whole clusters for the 2014 Clos des Gravières and the wine is going to be outstanding. The classy bouquet offers up scents of sappy red and black cherries, woodsmoke, a superbly complex base of soil, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and espresso. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely transparent, with a very sappy core of pure fruit, fine-grained tannins and excellent, nascent complexity on the long and vibrant finish. Another absolute bargain bottle of red Burgundy from 2014! 2021-2050. **90+**.

***Vins Blancs***

**2014 Bourgogne Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

This was bottled ten days prior to my visit and was a bit grumpy post-*mise*. The wine is long, pure and mineral, with lovely energy and I am sure it will be a good example.

**2014 St. Aubin “La Princée”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The fine Saint Aubin *villages* bottling had also just been bottled ten days before and was not on form. The nose shows lovely elements of apple, pear, spring flowers and lovely chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very long, with good acids and grip. The wine is a bit out of focus today from its bottling, but this will clearly be a very fine bottle.

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Le Concis du Champs”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The Chassagne *villages* bottling here is made from ten year-old vines and this cuvée is destined to get stronger and stronger as the vines age. However, the 2014 is really a very pretty wine, as it wafts from the glass in a lovely blend of pear, apple, a fine base of soil tones, a hint of vanillin oak and a lovely, gentle topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite soil-driven this year (particularly for younger vines), with a nice plump core of fruit, good focus and balance and a nice sense of reserve on the fairly long finish. Good juice. 2016-2025+. **89**.

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Les Tremblots”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

In contrast to the Chassagne AC, the les Tremblots is produced from a parcel that ranges from forty to fifty years of age and the older vines have given the wine just a bit more dimension and depth. The bouquet is lovely, wafting from the glass in a blend of pear, white peach, chalky soil tones, a touch of *crème patissière* and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the

wine is deep, full-bodied and quite mineral in personality, with a crunchy core of fruit, fine focus and grip and a long, vibrant and elegant finish. High class AC. 2015-2030+. **90.**

**2014 Santenay “Clos des Gravières” Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The Clos des Gravières Blanc bottling is going to be one of the great sleepers in the Lamy cellars in the years to come, but today, this is still predominantly younger vines and it will take a bit of time to climb up into the quality level of some of these top Saint Aubin premier crus. Eighty percent of the vines here are only five years of age, but the other twenty percent are fifty years old already, so there is some old vine stuffing still available in the blend. The bouquet of the 2014 is very pretty, offering up scents of apple, pear, lovely, chalky soil tones, orange blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and wide open in personality, with just a touch of young vine *fluidité* showing at the core, but bright acids, fine focus and a long, stylish and succulent finish. This will drink very well out of the blocks. 2015-2025. **89.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Clos du Meix”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Clos du Meix was showing very nicely at the time of my visit, with a bit more mid-palate depth and backend amplitude than the Clos des Gravières. The bouquet is a lovely and classic mélange of pear, white peach, chalky soil tones, pastry cream and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite vibrant, with lovely focus and balance, a fine core and a long, crisp and very poised finish. A very stylish wine. 2016-2030+. **90.**

**2014 St. Aubin “les Frionnes”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 les Frionnes from Domaine Lamy was also showing very well, wafting from the glass in a bright and classy bouquet of apple, pear, spring flowers, a lovely base of limestone and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and focused with a lovely core, fine balance and grip and a long, vibrant and classy finish. Good juice. 2016-2030+. **90+.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Blanc- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The “regular” bottling of Derrière Chez Edouard is really excellent in 2014, with fine depth and dimension on both the nose and palate. The wine offers up a fine aromatic constellation of delicious apple, fresh pear, chalky minerality, a touch of the *crème patissière* to come, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely succulent on the attack, with a fine core, bright acids and lovely mineral drive on the long and zesty finish. Really a lovely wine this year. 2016-2035+. **91+.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Clos de la Chatenière”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Clos de la Chatenière from Domaine Lamy is another really lovely bottle in the making, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, a touch of grapefruit, pastry cream, chalky soil tones and a topnote of orange blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely complex, with a good core, fine focus and grip and a long, nicely reserved finish that closes with a youthful note of citrus peel. Olivier Lamy noted “that we picked this on the earlier side to maintain freshness, as the exposition is *plain sud*.” A lovely wine. 2016-2035. **91.**

**2014 St. Aubin “en Remilly”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 en Remilly from Monsieur Lamy is outstanding and offers up a lovely sense of youthful reserve out of the blocks that augurs extremely well for its future evolution. The bouquet is deep and pure, offering up scents of apple, pear, lemon zest, chalky minerality, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely focus and purity, bright acids and excellent mineral drive on the nascently complex and long finish. Fine, fine juice. 2018-2040. **93.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Murgers Dents de Chien”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

As Olivier Lamy noted, these vines are only thirty-five years of age, but they are not in the bloom of health and consequently perform more often like much older vines. *Millerandage* was a problem here in 2014 and the berries were very small, giving the wine great depth and mineral signature. The bouquet is really superb, offering up scents of apple, pear, *crème patissière*, apple blossoms, lemon zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and again, nicely reserved out of the blocks, with a superb core, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and very pure finish. A beautiful bottle in the making. 2018-2040. **93+.**

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Macherelles”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Domaine Lamy les Macherelles is another very pretty wine, but it cannot quite keep pace with the depth and elegant profiles of the top St. Aubin premier crus this year. The very stylish nose offers up scents of apple, pear, a fine base of soil tones, a touch of iodine, citrus peel and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off very good mid-palate depth, with bright acids, fine focus and very good length and grip on the still fairly primary finish. This will need a couple of years to blossom. 2017-2035. **91.**

**2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “les Chaumées”- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 les Chaumées is another very fine Chassagne in the making *chez* Lamy, and the wine shows a bit more elegance in its soil signature, due to the higher percentage of limestone in the soils here in comparison to more *terres rouges* soils in the les Macherelles. The wine offers up a superb and wide open bouquet of apple, pear, a complex base of chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and deep at the core, with lovely silkiness already in evidence on the attack, fine focus and grip and a very long, complex and wide open finish. This will drink with great style right out of the blocks, but has the requisite balance to also age long and gracefully. Fine juice. 2016-2035. **92.**

**2014 Puligny-Montrachet “Les Tremblots” Haut Densité - Domaine Lamy**

The 2014 Haut Densité bottling from Les Tremblots is a very pretty bottle of Puligny in the making. The bouquet is deep, pure and very mineral in personality this year, offering up scents of apple, pink grapefruit, a complex base of minerality, citrus peel and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite a bit more reserved in personality than the regular Tremblots, with a fine core, bright acids and a long, focused and vibrant finish. This will need some bottle age to blossom, but it is going to be excellent. 2018-2035. **92+.**

**2014 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard” Haut Densité - Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

The 2014 Haut Densité bottling of Derrière Chez Edouard is a great young wine in the making, which again is more reserved out of the blocks than the regular cuvée. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of apple, pear, tangerine, complex, chalky minerality, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a rock solid core, bright acids and outstanding focus and grip on the very long, youthful and electric finish. Fine juice in the making, 2019-2035. **93+.**

**2014 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy**

Olivier Lamy’s 2014 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet is a beautiful bottle in the making. The deep, pure and utterly refined nose soars from the glass in a blaze of white peach, apple, pear, a complex base of chalky soil tones, a touch of the *crème patissière* to come with bottle age, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and bottomless at the core, with outstanding focus and grip, nascent complexity and a very, very long, refined and still quite primary finish. A great wine in the making. 2021-2050. **96.**

## A FEW LATE ARRIVALS FROM THE LOIRE VALLEY AND A BIT MORE 2014 BEAUJOLAIS



*The famous windmill that gives the appellation of Moulin-à-Vent its name.*

While both of these regions have been covered in good depth in the last couple of issues, a few late arrivals came across my desk towards the end of the year and notes are included below. From the Loire Valley, a pair the samples of the top Sancerre bottlings from Pierre Morin were corked when I was covering the region in the last issue and were replaced in December, so it seemed logical to print the notes here, so that subscribers can track these fine bottles down before they disappear from the market (which would certainly be the case if I held the notes back until the next big Loire feature at the end of next summer). From Beaujolais, I had the chance to taste several new releases from Maison Joseph Drouhin, the Lafarge family and Louis Boillot during my stay in the Côte d'Or in November, and had a few late arriving samples awaiting me back in New York on my return. For the same reasoning as printing the Domaine Morin tasting notes right now, I have grouped them in here so that the notes are available prior to the wines disappearing from the market. With Louis Boillot's three bottlings of Moulin-à-Vent, I have included expanded notes here, even though I tasted two of the three bottlings and wrote them up in my last piece on Beaujolais, as those bottles had just been shipped into the US from France and it seemed a good idea to also print notes on those bottles that had been quietly resting in his



cellars in Chambolle-Musigny and in a perfect moment for tasting, rather than relying solely on *the* bottles just off the boat here in New York.

Back in October, I had written that the new Boillot family parcels in Moulin-à-Vent had originated with Monsieur Boillot's grandmother, but this was incorrect, as he has actually purchased these parcels in November of 2013. It is also a bit of a misnomer to say the wines have been made by Louis Boillot, as the 2014s were actually made by his son Clément Boillot-Barthod, along with his good friend who happens to be François Millet's son from the Domaine de Comte de Vogüé. The 2014s here were raised in ten percent new oak (five hundred liter casks), with the remainder of each cuvée raised in forty percent used, three wine barrels and the balance in stainless steel tanks. However, Louis Boillot was quick to point out that he and Clément have changed their cellar protocol a bit for the 2015 vintage in Moulin-à-Vent, as Louis notes that "2015 is going to be a great, great vintage in Beaujolais" and the entire production will be barrel-fermented in this vintage, with the percentage of new wood increased a small amount from the ten percent used for the 2014s here. There are three different bottlings of Moulin-à-Vent: the single vineyard bottlings of les Rouchaux and les Brussellions, as well as a Vieilles Vignes cuvée that is produced from four different parcels of vines, all of which surround the famed windmill. For the 2014 vintage, the grapes were transported up to Chambolle-Musigny for their fermentations and *elevage*, but the family has purchased a small *cuvée* in the region to use for the winemaking here beginning with the 2015s. There may well be a Fleurie coming as well from Clément and Louis Boillot in the very near-future.

The Boillot family is not the only important family in the Côte d'Or adding Beaujolais to their roster of wines in the 2014 vintage, as Chantal and Frédéric Lafarge of Domaine Michel Lafarge in Volnay have also purchased plots of vines in Cru Beaujolais to start producing their own wines from this region. This is a joint venture of the husband and wife, with the name of the project including Madame Lafarge's maiden name of Vial. These parcels (as well as a small *cuvée* and cellar in Fleurie) were purchased in November of 2013 and include a third of a hectare of vines in Chiroubles, a 1.3 hectare parcel in the Fleurie *lieu à dit* of Bel Air that lies near the Chiroubles border, and another 1.3 hectare clos in Fleurie called Clos Vernay, which lies up above Clos de la Roilette near the border with Moulin-à-Vent. The vines in Chiroubles are forty-five years of age and those in the Clos Vernay range from thirty-five to forty-five years old. Their Fleurie "Bel Air" hails from the oldest vines of their three bottlings, with these vineyards having been planted between 1930 and 1960. They have now bought additional vines in another fine Fleurie *lieu à dit* (in time for the 2015 growing season), in the steep vineyard of Joie du Palais, so that the couple now owns 4.1 hectares of vines in the two crus of Chiroubles and Fleurie. The Lafarges have immediately begun farming their Beaujolais vines under biodynamic principles and have been able in both 2014 and 2015 be in Beaujolais during the harvest here, as it was not coincident with the picking in Volnay. The 2014s were completely destemmed and aged in a range of older Burgundy barrels and *foudres*, with the 2015s seeing some whole clusters. The three 2014s Lafarge-Vial bottlings that I tasted in November were really excellent and are another exciting new addition to the firmament of Cru Beaujolais.

A third new Beaujolais project emanating out of the Côte d'Or is the new partnership of the Hospices de Belleville in Fleurie and Maison Joseph Drouhin, which will give the Drouhin family even more of a presence in this region. As readers may recall, all of the previous

Beaujolais bottlings from Maison Joseph Drouhin have been purchased under long-term contracts with growers in the region, but the partnership with the Hospices de Belleville (which is a charitable organization in the region founded under similar premises as the Hospices de Beaune) and its fourteen hectares of vines gives the family a solid foundation of vineyards to manage in the Crus of Brouilly, Fleurie and Morgon. Beginning with the 2014 vintage, the Hospices de Belleville parcels are farmed by the Drouhins and the wines produced and marketed also by this fine, Beaune-based *négociant* house. The Drouhins will continue to produce their other cru bottlings from purchased grapes in the villages where the Hospices de Belleville does not have vines, and I was able to sample a few of these as well during my three weeks in Burgundy in November.

### ***Loire Valley***

#### **2013 Sancerre “Ovide”- Domaine Pierre Morin (Bué)**

The 2013 Ovide from Pierre Morin is a very strong example from this moderately difficult Sancerre vintage. The complex and wide open nose wafts from the glass in a blend of gooseberry, a touch of tangerine, damp grass, chalky soil tones, orange peel and a bit of petrol. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a good core, again, quite a wide open structural chassis, with a solid core, good balance and a long, ready to go finish. This will not make old bones and should be drunk up over the next couple of years, but it will provide plenty of pleasure during that few years. 2016-2018. **89.**

#### **2013 Sancerre “le Chant de l’Orme”- Domaine Pierre Morin (Bué)**

The 2013 Sancerre “le Chant de l’Orme” from the Morin family is a bit more reserved in personality than the Ovide from this vintage, with more mineral drive on the palate and more floral tones on the nose. The lovely bouquet delivers a bright and classic bouquet of lemon, gooseberry, fresh-cut grass, spring flowers, a complex base of limestone minerality and a bit of citrus blossom. On the palate the wine is fullish, crisp and nicely detailed, with good, solid depth at the core, fine focus and grip and a long, fairly racy finish. This is not quite as generous in the mid-palate as the Ovide bottling, but I like its focus and cut a bit better. A very stylish middleweight and a noteworthy success for the vintage. 2016-2020. **91+.**

### ***Beaujolais***

#### **2014 Beaujolais-Villages- Domaine du Clos du Fief (Michel Tête)**

The 2014 Beaujolais-Villages from Michel Tête is the first example of this bottling from the estate I have tasted since trying the 2006 at the domaine back in April of 2007 and I was very happy to see that the US importer is now carrying this *cuvée* in the 2014 vintage. The bouquet on the '14 Beaujolais-Villages is excellent, offering up a classic blend of cherries, cranberries, vinesmoke, a fine base of soil tones, a touch of fresh thyme and a bit of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, bright and intensely flavored, with a good core, bright acids and just a bit of backend tannin on the long, complex and bouncy finish. A fine bottle. 2016-2025. **89.**

#### **2014 Beaujolais-Villages- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

Joseph Drouhin will continue to make its lineup of Beaujolais bottlings from purchased grapes, in addition to the new project with the Hospices de Belleville, and their 2014 Beaujolais-Villages is a lovely example of this classic vintage. The bouquet offers up a pretty blend of cherries, sweet cranberries, lovely spice tones, pepper, woodsmoke and a topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is medium-full, bright and nicely balanced, with a good core, a youthful

personality and lovely length and grip on the tangy and still fairly primary finish. This is a fine example that will age quite well and will drink even better a year from now than it does today. 2016-2026. **88+**.

**2014 Beaujolais “Cuvée Traditionnelle”- Domaine du Vissoux (Pierre-Marie Chermette)**

The 2014 Cuvée Traditionnelle from Pierre-Marie Chermette is a superb young bottle of Beaujolais, with beautiful purity and sappiness at the core, coupled to an excellent signature of soil and lovely structural elements. The fine bouquet delivers a blend of sweet cranberries, black cherries, woodsmoke, complex soil tones and a floral topnote redolent of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish, pure and sappy at the core, with bright acids, lovely focus and grip and just a bit of tannin perking up on the long and complex finish. This is one of the iconic bottlings of Beaujolais and the 2014 is an utterly classic vintage for this great wine. 2016-2030+. **92+**.

**2014 Saint Amour- Domaine du Clos du Fief (Michel Tête)**

Similarly to the Beaujolais-Villages bottling from Michel Tête, I had not tasted an example of his fine Saint Amour since my visit to his domaine in Juliéna all the way back in the spring of 2007. His 2014 version is excellent and classically structured for cellaring, wafting from the glass in a quite black fruity blend of black cherries, cassis, espresso, incipient notes of the forest floor to come, woodsmoke, acorn and just a hint of fresh thyme in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and nicely reserved, with a rock solid core, excellent balance and grip, ripe, moderate tannins and a long, tangy and soil-driven finish that really begs for a bit of bottle age to fully blossom. This is serious Saint Amour and deserves some time in the cellar to develop, but is certainly approachable out of the blocks. Fine juice. 2018-2030+. **91**.

**2014 Juliéna “Cuvée Tradition”- Domaine du Clos du Fief (Michel Tête)**

The 2014 Juliéna “Cuvée Tradition” from Michel Tête shows a beautifully expressive and vibrant bouquet of black cherries, sweet cranberries, bitter chocolate, incipient notes of *sous bois*, gamebird and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and wide open, with a lovely core and soil signature, tangy acids, modest tannins and outstanding length and grip on the complex and bouncy finish. This is far more open for business than the 2014 Saint Amour, but is so well-balanced that it should have no difficulty aging just as long. 2016-2035. **92**.

**2014 Moulin-à-Vent “Les Brussellions”- Louis Boillot**

As I noted back in October, the Les Brussellions single vineyard bottling hails from a parcel of old vines planted on red granite soils, and the 2014 was raised in a combination of ten percent new, five hundred liter barrels, stainless steel and older, three wine Burgundy casks. This bottle at the domaine shows more sappiness than the recently-shipped bottle I tried back in the autumn, offering up a very pure bouquet of black cherries, sweet dark berries, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke, fresh thyme, coffee bean and just a touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and primary, with a fine core, superb transparency, ripe tannins, tangy acids and outstanding length and grip on the soil-driven and still quite youthful finish. This very impressive example of Moulin-à-Vent needs time in the cellar to blossom, but it is a terrific wine in the making. 2018-2050. **92+**.

#### **2014 Moulin-à-Vent “Les Rouchaux”- Louis Boillot**

The 2014 les Rouchaux was the only single vineyard bottling that I did not taste here in New York in October, and the wine comes from a single parcel of fifty to sixty year-old vines in this *climat*. The nose is deep and exceptional, offering up a fine blend of dark berries, currant leaf, woodsmoke, *pigeon*, dark soil tones, espresso and just a hint of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very transparent in personality, with a sappy core of black fruit, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and grip on the long and minerally finish. Another terrific bottle of Moulin-à-Vent in the making. 2016-2050. **93.**

#### **2014 Moulin-à-Vent “Vieilles Vignes”- Louis Boillot**

The 2014 Vieilles Vignes bottling is made from a blend of four different *climats*, all of which flank the windmill from which the appellation takes its name. As is the case with the 2014 les Brussellions, the wines shows more sappiness to its fruit tones on both the nose and palate here in the cellars in Chambolle-Musigny, in comparison to the bottles that were just shipped. The wine still offers up a deep and utterly classic bouquet of cassis, black cherries, fresh herb tones, gamebirds, a beautiful base of dark soil, a touch of chicory and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely structured, with a fine core of black fruit, excellent soil signature, moderate, ripe tannins, tangy acids and excellent length and grip on the complex and energetic finish. The balance here is impeccable, which makes it quite approachable already, despite the fact that it is clearly built for long-term aging and will be far better to drink with four or five years’ worth of bottle age under its belt. Excellent juice. 2018-2050. **93+.**

#### **2014 Moulin-à-Vent- Maison Joseph Drouhin**

The 2014 Moulin-à-Vent from Maison Joseph Drouhin is simply outstanding, particularly when one considers that this was only bottled a few weeks before I tasted it. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a classic constellation of sweet dark berries, incipient notes of gamebird, charred wood, espresso, dark soil tones and a touch of pepper in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a proper sense of reserve out of the blocks, a lovely core of black fruit, ripe tannins and a very long, vibrant and primary finish. This will be an outstanding bottle of Moulin-à-Vent with a bit of bottle age. 2021-2055+. **93.**

#### **2014 Moulin-à-Vent- Domaine des Moriers (François de Nicolay)**

François de Nicolay’s relatively new bottling of Moulin-à-Vent, which he first began producing in the 2005 vintage, is absolutely superb in 2014. The wine has only been bottled two weeks prior to my tasting it, but still showed very well. It offers up a young and classically structured profile on both the nose and palate, with the complex bouquet offering up a very promising and high-toned blend of red berries, fresh herbs, a touch of pepper, cranberries, gamebirds, a lovely base of soil and a bit of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and intensely flavored, with a good core, plenty of structure and a long, tangy and still quite buttoned up finish. This will need some bottle age to really blossom, but will be lovely. 2018-2035+. **92.**

#### **2014 Fleurie- Hospices de Belleville (Maison Joseph Drouhin)**

The Hospices de Belleville that Maison Drouhin is now producing the wines for owns six hectares of vines in the village of Fleurie, spread over three *climats*, with one of the three being the well-known La Madone. This is the only 2014 where the Drouhin team decided to retain a small percentage of stems for the fermentation, and the wine is a very nicely structured example of Fleurie. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a youthful and red fruity blend of cherries,

cranberries, vinesmoke, fresh herbs, a touch of pepper and a good base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows a fine core of red fruit, with impressive soil signature, tangy acids and lovely focus and grip on the long and moderately tannic finish. This is a Fleurie that is built to age gracefully and another year's worth of bottle age will allow it to blossom more fully. 2016-2025+. **91.**

#### **2014 Fleurie “Bel Air”- Domaine Lafarge-Vial**

The Fleurie bottling from the *lieu à dit* of Bel Air are the oldest the Lafarges worked with in the 2014 vintage (I am not sure of the age of their parcels in Joie du Palais which will not make its debut until the 2015 vintage), having been planted in the 1930s and 1950s. The wine is very pretty and very red fruity in this vintage, offering up a fine constellation of cranberries, tart cherries, granite, vinesmoke and a topnote of fresh thyme. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and intensely flavored, with lovely mineral drive, a bit of backend tannin and excellent focus and grip on the long and tangy finish. This is a bit more reserved in personality than the Chiroubles and I would really be inclined to tuck this away for at least a year or two in the cellar and allow it to start to blossom. 2017-2030+. **92+.**

#### **2014 Fleurie “Clos Vernay”- Domaine Lafarge-Vial**

The Clos Vernay is a very granitic vineyard and this can really be felt in the 2014 version from Domaine Lafarge-Vial. This was picked fully ten days later than the Chiroubles and Bel Air bottlings (September 15<sup>th</sup> versus the 25<sup>th</sup>) and is a lovely bottle in the making. The bouquet is young and quite reserved in profile out of the blocks, offering up scents of cherries, pomegranate, plenty of granitic minerality, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and hints of the gamebird to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is fullish, pure and laser-like, with a fine core of red fruit, excellent soil signature and a very long, modestly tannic and tangy finish. This is going to be excellent as well. 2018-2035+. **93.**

#### **2014 Chiroubles- Domaine Lafarge-Vial**

The 2014 Chiroubles from the Lafarges is really a lovely bottle in the making. The grapes were entirely destemmed for this cuvée in 2014 and bottled unfined and unfiltered after nine to ten months aging in cask and *foudre*. The wine wafts from the glass in a youthfully pure nose of cherries, cranberries, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil tones and a topnote of fresh herbs. On the palate the wine is medium-full, round and tangy, with lovely transparency, fine focus and grip and just a touch of tannin perking up the long and nascently complex finish. Not surprisingly, the 2014 Lafarge-Vial Chiroubles is built for the cellar and will be even better with a few years' worth of bottle age. 2015-2025+. **90+.**

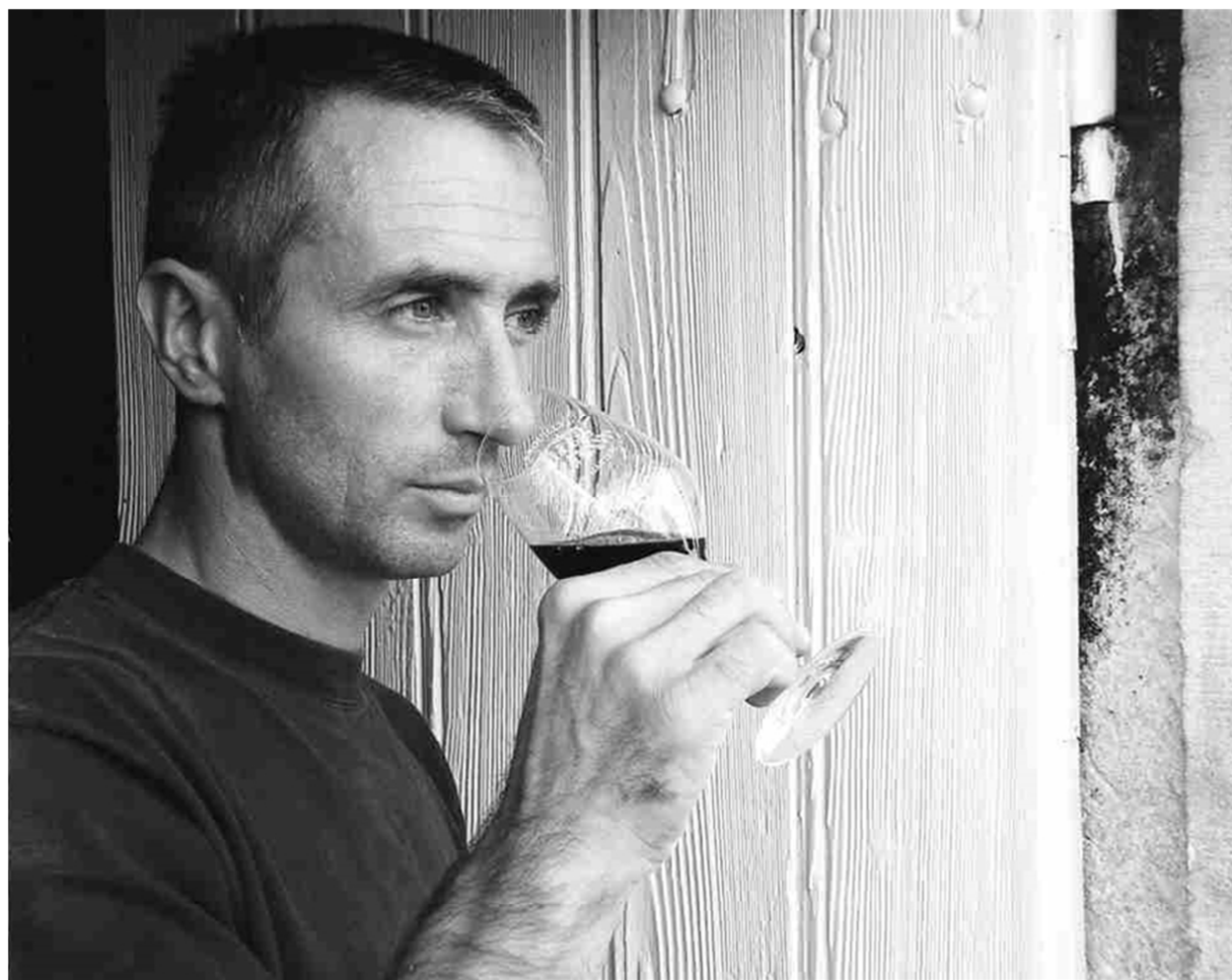
#### **2014 Morgon “Corcelette”- Domaine Daniel Bouland**

Several subscribers had asked me about the note on the 2014 Corcelette from Daniel Bouland, as I listed the wine in the last article on the 2014 Beaujolais vintage, but the sample had not yet shipped to New York and there was no note to go with the wine listed in the article. My proofreading of more than a hundred and fifty pages for that issue was obviously not precise, as I left the wine listed even though the sample did not show up to taste! Happily, it is now here in the states and is absolutely outstanding, jumping from the glass in a blend of black cherries, sweet cranberries, granitic soil tones, gamebirds, bonfires, and a bit of both cardamom and fresh thyme in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and gorgeously transparent down to its stony soil, with a sappy core, bright acids, modest tannins and laser-like

focus on the very long, intense and tangy finish. This will drink beautifully right out of the blocks, but the wine is still a puppy and it would be crazy to not let this wine age in the cellar for at least a few years and really start to hit on all cylinders. Gorgeous Morgon! 2018-2045+. **94.**

**2014 Morgon- Hospices de Belleville (Maison Joseph Drouhin)**

The Morgon from the Hospices de Belleville hails from a single plot in the village that comprised two hectare. The 2014 bottling, which was completely destemmed this year, is a fine example of its commune, wafting from the glass in a sappy blend of red and black cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of gamebird, youthful notes of pepper, nutskin, fresh herbs and espresso. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core, good acids and just a bit of backend tannin on the long and very well-balanced finish. I would give this a few years to really blossom. 2018-2040. **92.**



*Laurent Martray tasting outside of his domaine's cellar door in Brouilly.*

**2014 Brouilly- Hospices de Belleville (Maison Joseph Drouhin)**

The Hospices de Belleville owns six hectares of vines in the commune of Brouilly, scattered amongst several different parcels that have been donated over the years. Their 2014 bottling of Brouilly is very pretty and red fruity in personality, wafting from the glass in a blend of cranberries, cherries, nutskin, fresh herb tones, coffee and a fine base of soil tones. On the

palate the wine is medium-full, bright and tangy, with solid depth at the core, good focus and grip and a long, bouncy and nicely complex finish. Good juice. 2015-2025. **90.**

**2013 Brouilly “Corentin”- Domaine Laurent Martray**

The 2013 Brouilly “Corentin” from Laurent Martray is a very pretty and red fruity wine that jumps from the glass in a perfumed bouquet of cherries, strawberries, dusty rose, a bit of bonfire, a fine touch of soil, a dollop of mustard seed and a just hint of cedar in the upper register. On the palate the wine is medium-full, focused and quite soil-driven in personality, with a lovely core of fruit, soft tannins, fine focus and very good length and grip on the complex and classy finish. This cuvée is raised in older Burgundy barrels and it gives the wine a nice, juicy roundness on the attack, as well as just a bit of backbone from a dollop of wood tannin on the backend. Good juice. 2016-2025+. **90.**

**2013 Brouilly “Combiaty” Vieilles Vignes- Domaine Laurent Martray**

The Combiaty bottling of Brouilly of Monsieur Martray hails from a parcel of forty year-old vines that lie next door to the vineyards of the Château de la Chaize. The wine is raised in *foudres* and the 2013 offers up a deep and classic nose of red and black cherries, cranberry, woodsmoke, a bit of gamebird, fresh herbs and a nice base of soil. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely reserved and built for bottle age, with a fine core, excellent balance and grip and a long, tangy and modestly tannic finish. This deserves a year or two in the cellar to start to blossom and should prove to be a long-lived and very tasty example of Brouilly at its apogee. 2017-2035. **91+.**

**2013 Côte de Brouilly “les Feuillées”- Domaine Laurent Martray**

The 2013 Côte de Brouilly “les Feuillées” from Laurent Martray is also raised traditionally in older *foudres* and is an excellent example of this fine cru. The nose offers up a fine, youthful blend of red berries and black cherries, coffee, stony soil tones, fresh herbs, oak leaves, a bit of venison and campfires. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and intensely flavored, with a good core, a bit of ripe tannin and excellent soil drive on the long, complex and still fairly youthful finish. This is certainly approachable today, but I would be inclined to give it a bit of bottle age and allow some of its secondary layers of complexity to emerge. A very good example. 2017-2035+. **91.**

## A LITTLE HOLIDAY CHAMPAGNE



I know that I am writing a lot about Champagne these days, ever since folks voted to replace the annual Bordeaux *En Primeur* reports with more coverage of this region of rolling hills and sweeping valleys east of Paris. But, this is a vast and fast-changing region today and there always seems more bottles and more Champagne news crossing my path. I hope that the expanded coverage is not more than most subscribers can digest comfortably, but of course, as is true with all the regions I cover, I try to include plenty of background information, so that these articles can serve as solid reference material down the road. Since Bordeaux *En Primeur* was voted out in favor of more Champagne coverage, I have principally tried to write two big reports on Champagne each year, with one reflecting the time I spend on the ground here in the spring tasting and tramping around out in the vineyards, and then a follow-up large article on the current releases in the market a bit later in the year. However, as here in the US the vast majority of Champagne is consumed between November 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of the year, a lot of producers time the release of their new cuvées to arrive in the autumn and to be in place for the holiday season, so there have been a lot of bottles that have crossed my path since the last issue was sent out. The timing of my coverage of Champagne is not typical of most American wine journalists, as most writers stateside try to time their coverage for the wines of the region to match the peak of the market's interest in sparkling wines leading into the holidays. However, as I drink



Champagne the year round and do not really amp up my consumption at Christmas time (nor tone it down ☺ ), I try to write my articles during the “off season” for the wines here in the US, in the hope that this might provide a bit of advantage for subscribers in terms of advance notice of wines and producers that they should be on the lookout for in the market. This report, in addition to all of the last quarter new releases, also includes many of my notes from my visit to Krug back in mid-April of this year, which I had initially intended to feature in another article on this historical *maison*. However, seeing as this issue was already very long, I decided to hold off on writing another feature on Champagne Krug until the coming year and have included several of the notes from the April visit here. It does give the false impression that I was absolutely awash with bottles of Krug during the holidays this year, which was not the case (though I did of course drink a little Krug), but as some of these bottles are currently on the market and it made no sense to continue to save all the notes for a future feature and watch the wines sell through the pipeline in the meantime. I am presently working on a vertical report of Krug Grande Cuvée for the next article on the *Grand Maison*, as this is a wine that ages so magnificently and I have wanted to try and write about this aspect of this great bottling for several years, and consequently, I have only included a couple of notes on Grande Cuvée here and will save the notes on the older releases for that feature in the coming year.

### ***Non-Vintage Extra Brut and Brut Nature***

#### **Bruno Paillard “Prémère Cuvée” Extra Brut NV (Reims) Disgorged March 2015**

The current release of Bruno Paillard “Prémère Cuvée” Extra Brut is comprised of a blend of forty-five percent pinot noir, thirty-three percent chardonnay and twenty-two percent pinot meunier. The wine is from the base year of 2010 and was finished with a *dosage* of six grams per liter and included twenty percent barrel-fermented *vins clairs* in the cuvée this year. The wine is beautiful and still quite youthful on the nose, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, bread dough, lovely minerality, a touch of citrus peel and a gentle topnote of smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and racy, with a rock solid core, refined *mousse* and excellent length and grip on the focused and zesty finish. A beautiful bottle. 2015-2040. **93.**

#### **Champagne Savart “l’Accomplie” Vieilles Vignes Extra Brut (Écueil)**

The current release of Savart “l’Accomplie” non-vintage Extra Brut was disgorged in September 2015 and was finished off with a *dosage* of five grams per liter. The wine’s *cépages* this year is eighty percent pinot noir and twenty percent chardonnay, with half of the *vins clairs* raised in stainless steel and half barrel fermented. The wine is excellent, offering up a deep and complex nose of apple, tangerine, superb minerality, *patissière* and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with lovey focus and grip, delicate *mousse* and a long, vibrant and quite wide open finish. I really like the balance of this wine at its *dosage* level. Fine juice. 2015-2025+. **91+.**

### ***Non-Vintage Blanc de Blancs Brut***

#### **Champagne Doyard Blanc de Blancs “Cuvée Vendémiare” 1er Cru Brut NV (Vertus)**

The Cuvée Vendémiare from Champagne Doyard is aged four years *sur latte* prior to disgorgement, and is bottled at a bit lower pressure than many Champagnes. The *vins clairs* are partially barrel-fermented and aged in cask prior to blending, to give it a gentle touch of cask influence. The bouquet offers up lovely complexity in its developing blend of apple, warm bread, chalky soil tones and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely focused, with a good core, elegant *mousse*, bright acids and good, but not great length on

the fairly complex finish. I like all of the constituent components here, but would have loved to have seen just a bit more length on the backend. Perhaps this was just my bottle? 2015-2030. **89.**  
**Henriot Blanc de Blancs Brut NV (Reims)**

The current release of Henriot Blanc de Blancs is an excellent wine and is already drinking very well out of the blocks. This wine spends anywhere from three to five years aging *sur latte* and is usually a bit more open than the Brut Souverain as a result when both are first released. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a fine blend of delicious apple, pear, lemon zest, chalky minerality, brioche and a topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and starting to show the first signs of *crème patissière* which will come with bottle age. The wine has fine focus and a lovely core of fruit, with ripe acids, refined *mousse* and very good length and grip on the focused finish. This is really a lovely release of this fine Blanc de Blancs. 2015-2035+. **91+**.

**Bruno Paillard Blanc de Blancs “Grand Cru” Brut NV (Reims) Disgorged August 2014**

The Bruno Paillard Blanc de Blancs bottling has been redesigned in a clear bottle and is wrapped in a cellophane-lookalike wrapper that is actually made from organic material and is completely biodegradable. The wine was aged four years on its fine lees and is from the base year of 2009, with a *dosage* of five grams per liter. The bouquet is youthfully refined, offering up scents of green apple, pear, a touch of grapefruit, bread dough, chalky minerality and a topnote of spring flowers. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and tightly-knit, with a superb core of fruit, elegant *mousse*, brisk acids and excellent balance and grip on the long and youthfully complex finish. This still needs a couple of years in the cellar to fully blossom, but it will be excellent with sufficient bottle age. 2018-2035+. **93+**.

**Champagne Suenen Blanc de Blancs Brut NV (Disgorged March 2015)**

This release of the non-vintage Blanc de Blancs bottling from Aurélien Suenen is from the base year of 2010 has a *dosage* of three grams per liter, which is one gram less than the coming 2012 base year version. I really like the nose on the 2010, as it is developing beautiful complexity with a bit of bottle age, offering up scents of pear, fresh almond, chalky minerality, plenty of smokiness, just a whisper of buttery oak and a topnote of vineyard flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a fine core of fruit, elegant *mousse* and a very long, focused and bone dry finish. I would have loved to have seen just a touch more *dosage* here, which of course, the 2012 will have, as this is just a bit brusque structurally at this point in its evolution and really wants a bit more time in the cellar to blossom a bit more completely. But, it will be outstanding in another year or two and is a very serious bottle. 2016-2030+. **92.**

***Non-Vintage Brut***

**Duval-Leroy “Premier Cru” Brut NV (Vertus)**

The current release of Duval-Leroy’s non-vintage Brut is comprised of a blend of seventy percent chardonnay and thirty percent pinot noir. The wine is drinking quite well, offering up a complex nose of apple, white peach, warm bread, a good base of soil tones and a touch of almond in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and complex, with a good core, elegant *mousse*, bright acids and very good focus on the long and zesty finish. My tech sheets did not include information on how long this spent *sur latte* prior to disgorgement, date of disgorgement or *dosage*, but I would guess the range here is around nine grams per liter, as this gives the wine a bit of buffering for the sound acids from the chardonnay. This is a very

good bottle of basic Brut NV that is drinking well and should keep nicely for at least the next decade. 2015-2025+. **89.**

**Egly-Ouriet Brut Tradition “Grand Cru” NV (Ambonnay) Disgorged July 2015**

The new release of Brut Tradition from Egly-Ouriet offers up excellent depth and complexity on both the nose and palate. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a pinot noir-defined blend of apple, white peach, pastry, chalky soil tones, a touch of almond and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very well-balanced, with a fine core, elegant *mousse* and fine length and grip on the focused and complex finish. A lovely Brut NV. 2016-2030+. **90+.**

**Egly-Ouriet “Vieillessement Prolongé” Extra Brut NV (Ambonnay) Disgorged May 2015**

The Egly-Ouriet “V. P.” spent fully eighty-two months aging *sur latte* prior to disgorgement in May of 2015, making this base year 2008. The wine offers up a deep and complex nose of peach, apple, *patissière*, gentle smokiness, a lovely and complex base of soil tones and a touch of almond in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and nicely focused, with a fine core, still very good acids, sound bubbles and very good length and grip on the fairly mature and complex finish. Fine juice. 2015-2025+. **92.**

**Egly-Ouriet Brut Blanc de Noirs “Grand Cru” NV (Ambonnay) Disgorged July 2014**

This bottling hails from the famed les Crayères vineyard in Ambonnay, and having spent five years aging *sur latte* in the Egly-Ouriet cellars, it is from the 2009 base year. The wine is starting to drink beautifully today, offering up a deep and blossoming nose of peach, apple, a touch of hazelnut, complex minerality, wheat toast, caraway seed and a fine, smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, broad-shouldered, full-bodied and mineral-laden, with a rock solid core of fruit, fine focus and grip, elegant *mousse* and a long, brisk and complex finish. This is already starting to show the first elements of its secondary layers of complexity on both the nose and palate and is really an excellent bottle of bubbly. 2015-2035. **94.**

**Gosset Grande Réserve Brut NV (Épernay)**

The new release of Gosset Grande Réserve is an outstanding non-vintage Brut, with plenty of secondary layers of maturity on both the nose and palate. The *cépages* this year is forty-three percent chardonnay, forty-two percent pinot noir and fifteen percent pinot meunier. The wine was finished off with a *dosage* of nine grams per liter, but keep in mind that this is a non-malo bottling and the slightly higher level of *dosage* is necessary to properly buffer the acids. The bouquet is excellent, offering up a fine blend of apple, white peach, *patissière*, complex soil tones, warm bread and a floral topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and beautifully balanced, with a fine core of fruit, crisp acids, elegant *mousse* and fine length and grip on the nicely focused and complex finish. A lovely bottle for current drinking or keeping over the next fifteen years or so. 2015-2030+. **92.**

**Henriot Brut Souverain NV (Reims)**

The current release of Henriot’s “Brut Souverain” non-vintage is a lovely young wine, but it could do with a year or two in the cellar to really blossom structurally. As is customary for this cuvée, the wine is a blend of chardonnay, pinot noir and just a touch of pinot meunier. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, lemon, bread dough, a fine base of soil and a bit of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, bright and snappy, with a fine core, zesty acids, lovely *mousse* and a long, nascently complex and racy finish. This has as touch more generosity out of the blocks than last year’s version, but it is still a wine that will be an even better bottle with another year or two in the cellar. 2016-2035. **90+.**

**Krug “Grande Cuvée” Brut NV (Reims) ID #213035 Base Year 2006**

This was the current release of Grande Cuvée when I visited Champagne Krug back in mid-April of this year and it is a beautiful wine. The reserve wines here go back to 1990 and the wine was disgorged in the summer of 2013. The *cépages* on this release is forty-four percent pinot noir, thirty-five percent chardonnay and twenty-one percent pinot meunier. The bouquet is young and beautifully refined, offering up scents of apple, pear, complex minerality, a touch of orange zest, gentle smokiness and a topnote of cardamom. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a lovely girdle of acidity, superb focus and grip, a deep core, very refined *mousse* and excellent length on the complex finish. This is certainly a fine glass of Champagne today, but its real apogee is probably still a decade down the road. 2015-2045+. **94+**.

**Krug “Grande Cuvée” Brut NV (Reims) Disgorged 2007**

This beautiful bottle of Grande Cuvée was bought at auction over this past year in New York from the Roy Welland collection, and to the best of our collective knowledge, this bottle was disgorged in 2007, which would have most likely made this from the base year of 2002, as Krug did not age their Grande Cuvée as long *sur latte* back then as it does today. The wine is absolutely superb, wafting from the glass in a maturing blend of walnut, apple, *patissière*, stunningly complex minerality, a touch of orange zest and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and still very racy in personality, with a great core, elegant *mousse* and superb length and grip on the complex, poised and seamless finish. A beautiful wine. 2015-2040+. **95**.

**Marie-Noëlle Ledru Brut NV (Disgorged in January 2015)**

I had not tasted a bottle of the current release of non-vintage Brut from Marie-Noëlle Ledru since my visit to the domaine in late April in Ambonnay, so was very happy to find a couple of bottles to tuck in the fridge of my *gîte* in Beaune for my November trip. The wine is starting to blossom nicely with ten months out from its disgorgement and offers up a fine bouquet of apple, white peach, stony minerality, fresh-baked bread, smokiness and a nice touch of fruit skin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, broad-shouldered and complex, with a rock solid core of fruit, bright acids, very refined *mousse* and lovely length and grip on the vibrant and minerally finish. Readers may recall that this is from the difficult base year of 2011, but with fifty percent reserve wine in the blend. With five grams per liter of *dosage*, this is quite dry for a Brut, but is impeccably balanced. A superb bottle that is certainly approachable today, but will be better with a few more years in the cellar and was a perfect palate restorative after a long day in the cellars of Burgundy. 2018-2040. **92+**.

**Bernard Tornay “Carte d’Or” Brut NV (Bouzy)**

This was the first wine I had tasted from Bernard Tornay and it showed quite well. The bouquet offers up a lovely nose of white peach, apple, *patissière*, a lovely base of soil and a touch of fresh nutmeg in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and quite complex, with a good core, fine, pinpoint bubbles, brisk acids and very good length and grip on the still quite youthful finish. This is approachable today, but could use a year or two more in the cellar to more fully blossom. Good Bouzy volume on the palate. 2015-2030. **90**.

**Non-Vintage Brut Rosé****Duval-Leroy “Rosé Prestige” Premier Cru Brut NV (Vertus)**

The Duval-Leroy “Rosé Prestige” non-vintage blend is made from the *saignée* method and is made up of a blend of ninety percent pinot noir and ten percent chardonnay. The wine is a lovely salmon color and offers up a fine bouquet of strawberries, a touch of cranberry, chalky

minerality, rye toast, cloves and a nice touch of orange peel in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and well-balanced, with a fine core, elegant *mousse*, bright acids and fine mid-palate depth. The finish is long, minerally and quite wide open, with fine bounce and grip. A very, very good example of non-vintage Brut Rosé. 2015-2025+. **90+**.

**Gosset Grande Rosé Brut NV (Épernay)**

The new release of non-vintage Gosset Grande Rosé is a stellar bottle of bubbly. The wine is a blend of forty-three percent chardonnay, forty-two percent pinot noir and fifteen percent pinot meunier and spent three years aging *sur latte*. It was finished off with a *dosage* of nine grams per liter, but as this is a non-malo wine, the balance is impeccable and even the staunchest partisan of Extra Brut is not going to have an issue with this fine bottle. The very complex nose wafts from the glass in a blend of cherries, chalky soil tones, a bit of rye toast, orange peel, roses and *pain épice*. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and impeccably balanced, with an excellent core, lovely soil signature, elegant *mousse* and superb length and grip on the crisp and vibrant finish. Great juice. 2015-2030+. **93**.

**Henriot Brut Rosé NV (Reims)**

The current release of Henriot's non-vintage Brut Rosé is really drinking beautifully. As is customary with this bottling, it is comprised of a blend of chardonnay and pinot noir, with a slightly higher percentage of pinot noir in the blend for the Rosé bottling, but the precise percentages and the date of disgorgement are not readily shared by the *maison*. In any case, the wine is absolutely singing, jumping from the glass in a complex and classy blend of strawberries, tangerine, brioche, chalky minerality, gentle floral overtones and the first signs of the smokiness that will continue to develop with further bottle age. On the palate the wine is crisp, full-bodied and beautifully detailed, with a fine core, very elegant *mousse*, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the racy, complex and still fairly youthful finish. This is eminently drinkable today, but another year in the cellar will really let it blossom completely and the wine will be even tastier at that point in time. It should age very gracefully for at least the next fifteen years. High class non-vintage Rosé. 2016-2030. **91+**.

**Krug Brut Rosé NV (Reims) ID #213027 Base Year 2006**

The current release of Krug Rosé is a beautiful wine, which is comprised of a blend of fifty-nine percent pinot noir, thirty-three percent chardonnay and eight percent pinot meunier. It was disgorged in the spring of 2013 and includes reserve wines in the blend back to the 2000 vintage. The wine is beautiful and still very youthful and discreet on both the nose and palate, wafting from the glass in a lovely and blossoming blend of white cherries, tangerine, wheat toast, stunningly complex minerality, delicate spice tones and a topnote of dried rose petals. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and seamlessly balanced, with a lovely core, pinpoint bubbles, bright acids and exceptional focus and grip on the pure and still quite primary finish. This is very easy to drink today, but it deserves some cellaring time to really blossom. 2015-2035+. **95**.

**Bruno Paillard "Prémère Cuvée" Brut Rosé NV (Reims) Disgorged February 2015**

The new release of Bruno Paillard "Prémère Cuvée" Brut Rosé is primarily made of pinot noir, with a small percentage of chardonnay added to the blend. The wine was finished off with a *dosage* of six grams per liter and delivers a beautiful nose of white peach, tangerine, chalky soil tones, brioche, orange blossoms and incipient smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with very refined *mousse*, crisp acids and outstanding length and grip on the focused and very well-balanced finish. A lovely example. 2015-2035. **93**.

### ***Vintage-Dated Blanc de Blancs***

#### **2010 Champagne Doyard “Clos de l’Abbaye” Blanc de Blancs 1er Cru Extra Brut (Vertus)**

The 2010 Clos de l’Abbaye bottling from Champagne Doyard hails from a parcel of sixty year-old vines in from a Clos in Vertus. The wine is barrel-fermented and aged forty-eight months *sur latte* prior to disgorgement, and was finished off with a *dosage* of two grams per liter. The *vins clairs* for this bottling did not go through malo. The 2010 Clos de l’Abbaye offers up a fine nose of pear, almond, a touch of fresh apricot, a lovely base of chalky soil tones, a bit of buttery barrel influence and a topnote of brioche. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and really quite elegant in profile, with a good core, refined *mousse* and very good length and grip on the complex and quite wide open finish. This really is well-balanced and has the depth of fruit to carry its very modest *dosage* beautifully, so that the wine is generous and vibrant on the backend. A really lovely bottle. 2015-2030+. **92+**.



#### **2007 Champagne Doyard Blanc de Blancs “Grand Cru Millésime” (Vertus)**

The 2007 Champagne Doyard Blanc de Blancs spent six years aging on its fine lees prior to disgorgement and was finished with a *dosage* of four grams per liter. The *vins clairs* were barrel-fermented and did not go through malolactic fermentation. This cuvée is produced entirely from grand cru fruit from the villages of Le Mesnil, Avize, Cramant and Oger. The wine is excellent on both the nose and palate, offering up a deep and complex bouquet of pear, delicious apple, a bit of almond paste, lovely chalky minerality and a discreetly musky floral topnote. On

the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, crisp and complex, with a bit of barrel-fermentation roundness on the backend, a fine core, elegant *mousse* and very fine length and grip on the focused and blossoming finish. At eight years of age this wine is really starting to drink well, but seems likely to improve even a bit more with further bottle age. Impressive juice. 2015-2030+.

**92.**

**2004 Pierre Moncuit “Nicole Moncuit Vieilles Vignes” Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut**

This was the first time I could recall having the Nicole Moncuit Vieilles Vignes, which is really lovely on the nose in the 2004 vintage. The bouquet wafts from the glass in an excellent blend of pear, apple, chalky soil tones, a bit of almond paste and a musky floral topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and still pretty youthful, with good, but not great depth at the core, refined *mousse* and good length and grip on the vibrant, but still quite shut down finish. I imagine that there is more mid-palate amplitude here than is currently evident, but that this is hidden today behind the wine’s serious girdle of acidity and it will take another year or two in the cellar to start to show a bit more concentration at the core. 2017-2035. **91.**

**2003 Krug Clos du Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The 2003 Clos du Mesnil is a really lovely example of this vintage, which is better in Champagne than most other regions of France in this torrid summer. The vineyard was picked on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of this hot summer and is a fine success. The bouquet is deep, ripe and vibrant, wafting from the glass in a blend of fresh apricot, apple, gentle smokiness, *crème patissière*, chalky minerality, fresh-baked bread and an exotic topnote of saffron. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and wide open in personality, with a rock solid core, frothy *mousse*, lovely bounce and very impressive backend mineral drive on the long and complex finish. This does not have quite the customary lift on the backend as most vintages of Clos du Mesnil, but its cut and grip are exemplary. 2015-2035. **93.**

**2000 Krug Clos du Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The 2000 Clos du Mesnil is a lovely example of this vintage, and like the 2003, it is now drinking very well indeed- albeit, with plenty of underlying structure to carry it far, far into the future. The gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a classic blend of delicious apples, pear, orange zest, very complex, chalky minerality, almond pastry cream and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very mineral-driven, with a superb core, refined *mousse* and excellent cut and grip on the complex, vibrant and very, very long finish. This is far more classic in profile than the exotic 2003 Clos du Mesnil and should age long and gracefully, but like many top 2000 Champagnes, it is starting to drink beautifully at age fifteen. 2015-2045+. **95+.**

**1995 Charles Heidsieck “Blanc de Millenaires” Brut Millésime (Reims)**

I love the 1995 Blanc de Millenaires and the wine is drinking very nicely at age twenty. The bouquet jumps from the glass in a mature blend of apple walnut, warm bread, a superbly complex base of soil tones, a touch of *crème patissière* and plenty of smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very well-balanced, with a fine core, excellent focus and grip, elegant *mousse* and a very long, poised and complex finish. This is now at its apogee of peak drinkability, but still has decades of life ahead of it. Fine, fine juice. 2015-2035. **94+.**

**1985 Krug Clos du Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The 1985 Clos du Mesnil is at its absolute zenith today and drinking with stunning purity, complexity and style. The celestial bouquet wafts from the glass in a mature and vibrant blend of apricot, delicious apples, nutskin, chalky minerality, *crème patissière* and warm bread. On the

palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very complex, with a beautiful panoply of mature flavors, coupled to superb bounce and cut. The simply brilliant bouquet is long, bright and has excellent focus and grip. This is a perfect moment in its evolution to be drinking the 1985 Clos du Mesnil. 2015-2035. **96.**

### ***Vintage-Date Brut and Extra Brut***

#### **2007 Louis Roederer “Cristal” Brut (Reims)**

The 2007 Cristal is comprised of a blend of fifty-eight percent pinot noir and forty-two percent chardonnay, with fifteen percent of the *vins clairs* barrel-fermented this year. The wines did not undergo malolactic fermentation for the 2007. The wine spent five years aging *sur latte* and was finished with a *dosage* of 9.5 grams per liter. Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon is very pleased with the potential of the 2007 Cristal, which he feels hails from an under-appreciated vintage in Champagne. The wine offers up a beautiful young nose of pear, apple, *patissière*, a gorgeous base of limestone minerality, very gentle spice tones, hints of the smokiness to come, a touch of fresh almond and a lovely topnote of white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with brisk, well-integrated acids, laser-like focus, very elegant *mousse* and outstanding length and grip on the focused and still very youthful finish. The balance here is impeccable and the wine is certainly approachable today, but its true zenith is still a good eight to ten years down the road. A beautiful wine. 2016-2050+. **96.**

#### **2007 Roger Pouillon et Fils “les Blanchiens” Brut Nature (Mareuil-sur-Aÿ)**

The 2007 “les Blanchiens” Brut Nature from Fabrice Pouillon hails from a single vineyard in Mareuil that is planted with both pinot noir and chardonnay, with the cuvée made from a fifty-fifty blend of these two varietals. The *vins clairs* are barrel-fermented in older casks and the wine was aged more than six years *sur latte* prior to its disgorgement in the winter of 2014. The wine offers up a fine bouquet of apple, pear, warm bread, a complex base of soil tones and a touch of buttery influence from the older casks. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite broad-shouldered, with a fine core and soil signature, brisk acids and excellent length and grip on the focused and bone-dry finish. The bubbles here are just a touch coarse and the wine is still very young and a bit brusque, as there is no buffering from *dosage*. I really like the raw materials here, but would have loved to have seen a bit finer *mousse*, and I am not overly wild about the balance of this wine finished with no *dosage*, as it really seems that it could have benefited from just a bit of buffering of the snappy structural elements. Perhaps a bit more bottle age will round off the sharp edges on the backend and chase away some of the finishing notes of quinine, as the raw materials here are certainly exemplary. 2017-2030+. **89+?**

#### **2006 Gosset “Grande Millésime” Brut (Épernay)**

The 2006 Gosset “Grande Millésime” is comprised of a blend of fifty-six percent pinot noir and forty-four percent chardonnay. The wine spent eight years aging on its fine lees prior to disgorgement and was finished off with a *dosage* of six grams per liter. The wine offers up a fine and vibrant bouquet of apple, a touch of peach, warm bread, beautiful minerality, gentle smokiness, just a whisper of fresh nutmeg and a topnote of white lilies. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite racy in personality, with a lovey core, refined *mousse*, crisp acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and complex finish. This is drinking very well today, but it is still climbing and will be even better with a bit more time in the cellar. A lovely vintage of this fine cuvée. 2016-2035+. **93.**



#### **2004 Bruno Paillard Brut Millésime (Reims) Disgorged 2013**

The 2004 Bruno Paillard Brut Millésime is an excellent example of this fine and racy vintage. The wine's *cépages* is forty-eight percent chardonnay and fifty-two percent pinot noir and the wine offers up a superb bouquet of apple, pear, a touch of lavender, a very complex base of minerality, citrus zest, fresh-baked bread, gentle smokiness and a bit of walnut in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and really starting to blossom and drink well, with a fine core, bright acids, lovely soil signature, elegant *mousse* and a very long, vibrant and wide open finish of impressive complexity and breed. Fine juice. 2015-2035. **93+.**

#### **2004 Philipponnat "Cuvée 1522" Brut Millésime (Mareuil-sur-Aÿ)**

The 2004 Philipponnat "Cuvée 1522" was disgorged in march of 2013 and is comprised of a blend of seventy percent pinot noir and thirty percent chardonnay. The wine was finished off with a discreet *dosage* of five grams per liter. The very refined and gently leesy nose offers up scents of apple, toast, a lovely base of complex soil tones, a touch of peach, brioche and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, crisp and very well-balanced, with a fine core, elegant *mousse* and very good length and grip on the focused and complex finish. Fine juice. 2015-2030. **92.**

#### **2000 Henriot "Cuvée des Enchanteleurs" Brut Millésime (Reims)**

I am so accustomed to vintage of Cuvée des Enchanteleurs to start off life very tightly-knit and bound up in their structures that it was a very pleasant surprise to find the 2000 vintage of this superb bottling wide open and drinking very well indeed right out of the blocks. Of course, this is the nature of the 2000 vintage. The wine offers up a deep and complex nose of apple, melon, smoke, sourdough bread, a lovely base of stony minerality and a touch of hazelnut in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with a fine core, very refined *mousse*, lovely focus and grip and a long, crisp and wide open finish. This is a very lovely bottle of Champagne for drinking over the next couple of decades, but it is not quite in the same league as the 1995 and 1996 Enchanteleurs. 2015-2035. **93.**

#### **2000 Krug Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The 2000 vintage of Krug is a young wine that still needs some time in the cellar to start to blossom, but all of the constituent components are in place for a great wine with a bit more bottle age. The *cépages* of the 2000 Krug is forty-three percent chardonnay, forty-two percent pinot noir and fifteen percent pinot meunier. The very youthful nose wafts from the glass in a blend of apple, white peach, a touch of caraway seed, lovely soil tones, a bit of smokiness and a topnote of salinity. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with broad shoulders, great focus and balance, very elegant *mousse*, and great backend mineral drive on the very, very long and seamless finish. This is a young and stunning wine that is currently still a bit bound up in its structural elements and in need of a bit more bottle age to start to blossom, but it will be superb in the fullness of time. 2020-2055. **95.**

#### **2000 Krug "Clos d'Ambonnay" Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The new release of Clos d'Ambonnay is absolutely spectacular. The bouquet is deep, complex and utterly refined, as it wafts from the glass in a very pure blend of white peach, apple, a hint of white cherries, chalky soil tones, brioche, fresh almond, smoky Ambonnay overtones and a brilliant base of minerality. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and quite powerful in style, with a great core of fruit, striking transparency, brisk acids, elegant *mousse* and stunning length and grip on the very, very complex, seamless and still quite youthful finish. This is a breathtaking example of the 2000 vintage that is certainly approachable today, but is still a puppy and will be even better ten or twenty years down the road. 2015-2055. **97+.**

**1999 Billecart-Salmon “Cuvée Nicolas François Billecart” Brut Millésime (Mareuil-sur-Aÿ)**

I chanced upon this bottle of 1999 Cuvée Nicolas François Billecart while in Chablis tasting this past November, and after five big cellars that day, I just needed to try and drink something other than Chablis with the evening meal! The wine has truly excellent raw materials, but I found the winemaking a bit heavy-handed in this vintage and did not like the wine quite as much as I hoped prior to ordering it off the list. The bouquet is deep and complex, offering up scents of peach, a gentle touch of walnut, fresh-baked bread, stony minerality, a touch of leanness from *battonage* and a discreet shading of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with refined *mousse*, still very brisk acids and very good length and grip on the finish. The wine lacks just a touch of focus from its lees stirring, which is a minor demerit, and overall this is just a touch four-square today. Maybe more refinement will emerge with further bottle age? It is still a very good bottle, but I was expecting greatness. 2015-2035. 91+?

**1999 Bruno Paillard “N. P. U.” Grand Cru Brut Millésime (Reims) Disgorged 2012**

The 1999 Bruno Paillard “Nec Plus Ultra” *Tête de Cuvée* is comprised of pinot noir from the villages of Mailly, Verzenay and Bouzy, along with chardonnay from Vertus, Mesnil and Oger. The *vins clairs* here were barrel-fermented and spent nine months aging in older casks prior to blending and bottling, and the cuvée spent fully ten years aging *sur latte* prior to disgorgement. It was finished off with a *dosage* of four grams per liter in this vintage. The bouquet is superb, offering up a deep and complex blend of apple, warm biscuits, nutskin, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, citrus peel and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and very well-balanced, with a fine core, elegant *mousse* and fine complexity on the crisp, focused and very long finish. This is really a stunning bottle. 2015-2040. 95.

**1995 Krug “Clos d’Ambonnay” Brut Millésime (Reims)**

The 1995 Clos d’Ambonnay is an utterly refined and supremely elegant wine that is still fairly youthful at age twenty. The very complex and elegant bouquet delivers a marvelous constellation of white peach, apple, stony minerality, plenty of smokiness, fresh-baked bread, orange zest, gentle spice tones and a very delicate floral topnote of orange blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and laser-like in its focus, with a superb core, great mineral drive, and glorious length and grip on the impeccably balanced, refined and electric finish. A brilliant wine. 2015-2045+. 98.

**1982 Krug “Collection” Brut Millésime (Reims) Served From Magnum**

1982 was an enormous crop in the Champagne region, which at that time was the largest harvest since 1970. The 1982 Krug Collection bottling out of magnum is absolutely beautiful and at its absolute apogee at age thirty-three, soaring from the glass in a superbly complex constellation of apple, nutskin, wheat toast, lovely smokiness, caraway seed, a beautifully complex base of soil and just a touch of honeycomb in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and laser-like in its focus, with a bright and vibrant personality, great complexity, a lovely core, very elegant *mousse* and a very, very long, elegant and vibrant finish. Out of magnum, this wine has decades to go, but it is drinking so beautifully that it will be very hard to keep one’s hands off of this wine, if one is fortunate enough to have some tucked away in the cellar. 2015-2045+. 96.

## REQUIEM FOR PHILIPPE ROTY



Philippe Roty passed away on October 28<sup>th</sup> of 2015. He was only forty-six years-old. I received the sad news from his wife Patricia a few days after his passing. Domaine Joseph Roty will carry on in his absence, as it is truly an old school, familial domaine where each member of the Roty family plays an important role in contributing to the continued success of this fine Gevrey-Chambertin-based estate. Philippe's brother, Pierre-Jean Roty has already worked side by side with him in the vineyards and cellars for many years and there is no doubt that Philippe's children will one day take their own places at the domaine when generational change again arrives. But, Philippe's spirit was already missed when I stopped by to taste the 2013s here in November of 2015, as he had only succumbed in his three and a half year fight against cancer less than three weeks prior to my visit. I did not know Philippe as well as I know many *vignerons* in the Côte d'Or, but I did not have to, for that was the warmth of his personality, which made visitors feel so welcome from the very first moment that they crossed the threshold at Domaine Roty. I had the sense that Philippe was a shy man at heart and was most at home spending time with his family and his closest friends, or out on his tractor working his vines in Gevrey-Chambertin and Marsannay, and there is little doubt that he was a man that was absolutely passionate about his life as a *vigneron* in Burgundy. When it became clear to his doctors that further treatment would not prolong his life, Philippe returned to his home in Marsannay and was

able to spend a bit of time at the family domaine in Gevrey-Chambertin before his death on October 28<sup>th</sup>, and his brother Pierre-Jean brought me to tears recounting how only a day or two before his passing, Philippe took out the tractor in the vineyard of La Brunelle for one more ride through the vines and soaked in the atmosphere amongst the casks of 2014s and 2015s in the cellar before heading back home.

Philippe was in and out of the hospital over the course of his three and a half year battle against cancer, and during his times of remission, he could always be found back at the family domaine in Gevrey-Chambertin working in the cellars or lending a hand in the vineyards. Even during the harvest of 2015, when he was again hospitalized for another wave of the cancer and his health had become quite fragile, he was in constant contact with his family and the picking team at the domaine by telephone, and there is little doubt that 2015 was truly his last vintage at Domaine Joseph Roty, as he was an integral part of the team throughout the harvest. Philippe first began working with his father Joseph Roty in the late 1980s and by the 1990 vintage he was fully established at the domaine, and probably the fine 1993 vintage could be termed his first “solo” vintage at the estate. His father Joseph had put together the lion’s share of the domaine’s vineyard holdings in the 1960s (after receiving their parcels of old vines in the three grand crus of Griottes, Mazy and Charmes-Chambertin from his grandfather), but the family can trace their lives as *vignerons* in Gevrey-Chambertin all the way back to 1710 and Philippe and Pierre-Jean were the eleventh generation of Rotys to farm vines in the commune. Pierre-Jean and the rest of the Roty family will continue on the legacy left by Philippe and his untimely passing will not change the course of the domaine, but he will be missed here forever.

I did not start visiting Domaine Joseph Roty regularly until I became a full-time journalist in 2006, but have always been very warmly received by the Roty family during my annual visits. I had read prior to making my first visit that the domaine did not always welcome visitors and was very difficult to make appointments with, but I have never had that experience and the family has always been very generous with their time. What has struck me about the Roty family ever since I began to visit here regularly is that they are a very close family and are very much emblematic of the Burgundy which I first came to know and love when I made my debut visits to the region back in the late 1980s. At that time, Burgundy was a place where good things took time to unfold and one had to be patient, as the Burgundians wanted to get to know you a bit before really opening up. At most domaines at that time, it would take several visits over several years for the families to get to know you. Perhaps some of that has changed as the region has gotten more cosmopolitan in the last decade or two, but I have always felt very much at home in the Burgundy of that era (being originally from New England, this cultural style was quite familiar) and respected the way things were done in that traditional “Burgundian manner”. Consequently, I have always tried to view things through this perspective when I was in the region. I had read from some other journalists that the Roty family was “difficult”, but I would simply put this absolutely untrue notion down to these journalists misunderstanding the “proper Burgundian way to do things” and not having the patience to allow a relationship to build with the passing of time. Time will continue to pass in Gevrey-Chambertin, but now with Philippe Roty looking down from above over the vineyards, friends and family whom he so obviously loved. As his dear friend Denis Bachelet often said, “Philippe Roty, now, that is a great man.” A great man of the old school in Burgundy, and he will be very much missed as the years roll by.