

BURGUNDY 2019

After 16 days in Burgundy tasting 1,177 wines in all, **Charles Curtis MW** recommends 67 of his top-scoring whites and reds from this heat-affected but very well-received vintage

Describing the 2019 Burgundy vintage, François Labet, proprietor of Château de la Tour in Clos de Vougeot and co-president of the BIVB regional wine board, said: ‘2018 was Arnold Schwarzenegger, but 2019 is Maria Sharapova!’

If the 2018 wines were notable for their (albeit stylish) power and mass, the 2019s bring finesse and elegance without sacrificing concentration. The vintage takes its place alongside other exceptional recent years in Burgundy, carving out a niche for its outstanding balance of intense fruit, firm structure and supple texture.

Yields were low, however: 1.2 million hectolitres, according to BIVB, compared to an average of 1.5m hl – and the 1.8m hl harvested in 2018. The reds are generally ripe and

forward, with plenty of body and velvety tannic structure. The whites are also rich but show remarkable balance, despite the heat.

Weather conditions

The recent vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020 all share the heat in common, where a mild winter preceded the growing season. Predictions in 2019 were for another uncommonly early harvest as in 2018, when picking began on 20 August.

But temperatures turned colder in April, dropping below freezing on the night of 4 April, and the region saw scattered damage from frost. ‘In the regional- and village-level appellations at lower elevations we lost 60% of our harvest,’ said Frédéric Lafarge in Volnay.

May was warmer, and the vines started to grow in earnest. By early June, however,



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Above: Bertrand de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée Conti

Below: through the vines into the village of Vosne-Romanée

temperatures had dipped again, and it had started to rain, drawing out the flowering. This led to millerandage, further reducing yields – these bunches produce large and small grapes which give more concentrated wine because of the higher ratio of skin to juice.

By the last week in June, temperatures had become unseasonably hot, reaching 40°C, and Burgundy was plunged into the first of two

‘The 2019s bring finesse and elegance without sacrificing concentration’

heatwaves. ‘There was a reduction in yield of about 10% with each heatwave,’ said Louis-Michel Liger-Belair (Vosne-Romanée). The low yields and the heat combined to concentrate both acidity and sugar in the grapes, allowing both reds and whites to maintain a very fine balance of richness and structure.

Fortunately, the vines were refreshed by rain in mid-August, which brought on the start of veraison and helped them to ripen fully. The effect of the cool weather in April and June was to push the harvest date into September, in line with historical norms.

Comparisons and verdict

According to Beaune négociant Benjamin Leroux, the 2019s reflect the ‘new normal’ >



rather than what wine writers might describe as 'classic Burgundy'. They are friendly, ripe, open and lush. And thanks to the concentration of the year, they have found their balance. In terms of the vintage style, Bertrand de Villaine said 2019 was 'a bit like 2005 or 2009, but even more generous than 2009, and not as opaque as 2005.'

If you love great Burgundy, you should think about securing some 2019s quickly. Given current pricing trends, they will never be cheaper than they are now. Seek out wines from top producers working in cool spots and purchase with confidence. Although some people might find the reds a bit too fruity or the whites a bit rich, my advice is to relax and savour them: 2019 is a hedonistic vintage and these wines are a joy.

Around the regions

Côte de Nuits

In the Côte de Nuits, 2019 is a superb vintage. This part of Burgundy avoided the April frost, yet reaped the qualitative benefits of the break on yields imposed by the millerandage that



Above: Pernand-Vergelesses, close to the hill of Corton, avoided the serious frosts of April 2019

occurred at flowering. The Côte de Nuits suffered from the heat along with the rest of Burgundy, but older vines and more sheltered sites came through this well to produce some of the finest and most balanced wines in years, with particular successes in Vosne-Romanée, Chambolle-Musigny, Gevrey-Chambertin and Morey-St-Denis.

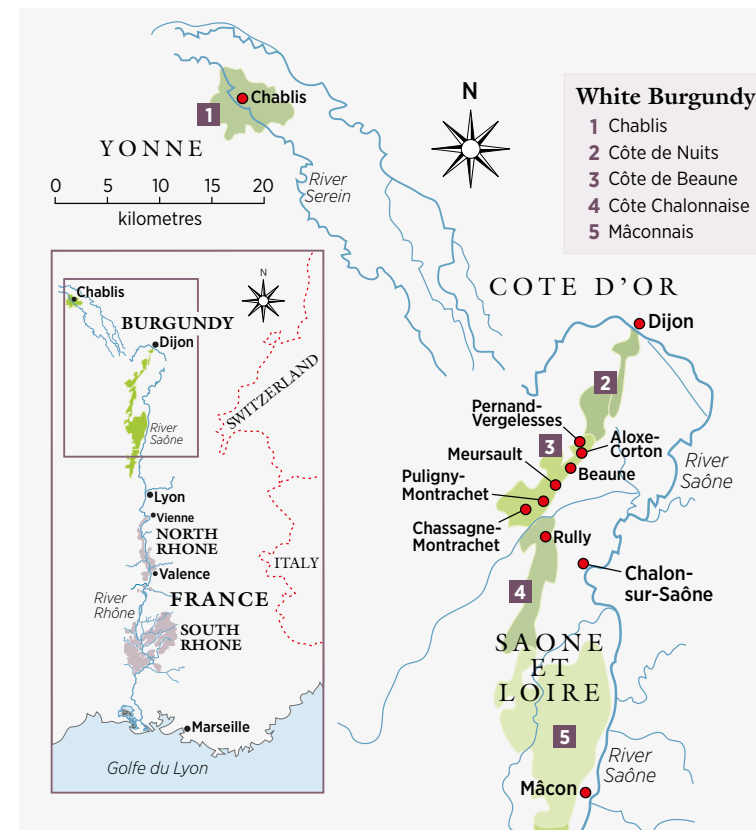
Best producers in 2019: Anne Gros, Armand Rousseau, Comte Georges de Vogüé, Comte Liger-Belair, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Domaine Dujac, Georges Roumier, Hubert Lignier, Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, Méo-Camuzet, Mugneret-Gibourg.

Côte de Beaune

In general, the Côte de Beaune experienced more frost damage than the Côte de Nuits in 2019, although regions that avoided both frost and sunburn produced excellent results, such as Pernand-Vergelesses.

Frédéric Weber, cellar master at Beaune-based Bouchard Père et Fils, said the overall crop was half the average due to the frosts, the disruption to flowering and the heat spikes. Potential alcohol was about 14% and the wines have plenty of fresh acidity. At Louis Jadot, head winemaker Frédéric Barnier blocked the malolactic conversion to maintain a lively freshness in the wines.

Generally, the reds from Pommard were more homogenous than those of Volnay, while



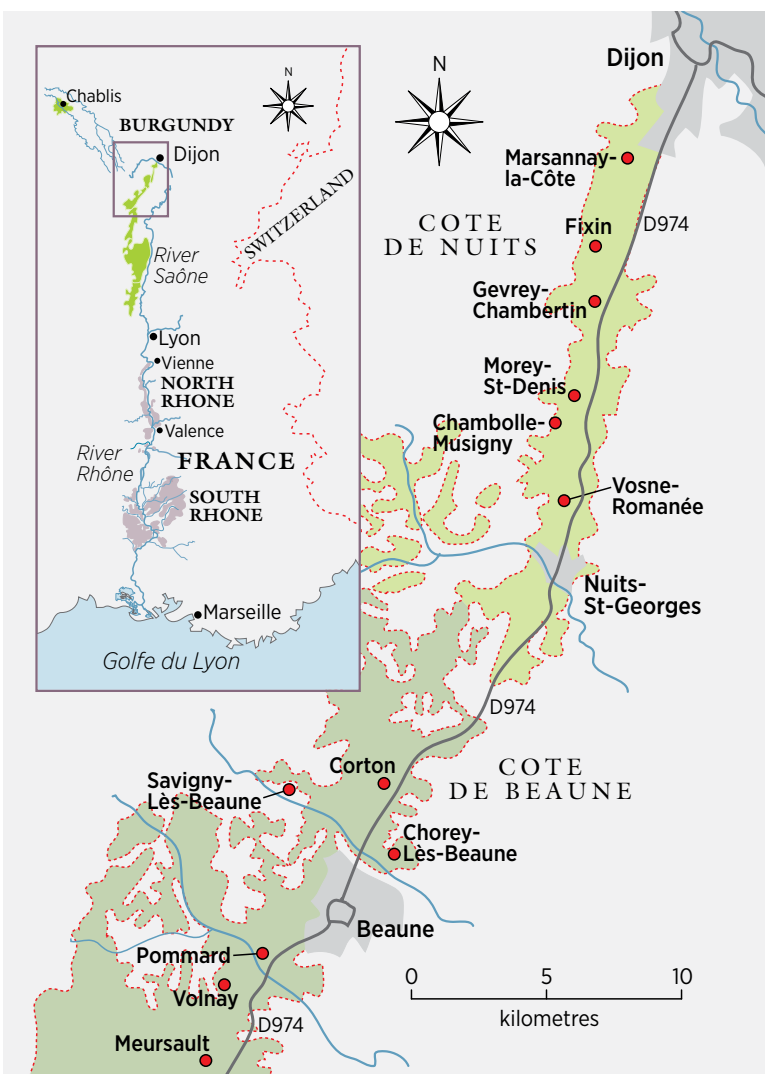
DECANTER VINTAGE RATINGS

COTE D'OR

Whites Reds



NB: Chablis is not included. This is a broad-brush indicator of overall vintage quality, where 5 is the highest possible score



Georges Roumier

in Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet, cooler sites at higher elevations tended to produce the best results.

Best producers in 2019: Bonneau du Martray, Domaine de Montille, Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Etienne Sauzet, Henri Boillot, Jean-Marc Roulot, Marquis d'Angerville, Michel Lafarge, Michel Niellon, Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey.

Côte Chalonnaise

Vintage conditions here were roughly similar to those in the Côte de Beaune, although hail that fell on 7 July complicated matters further. Budbreak was slightly earlier than in the Côte d'Or, but the flowering was later due to April's cool weather. However, after the heat and drought of summer, growers picked slightly ahead of those in the Côte d'Or, beginning mainly in the first week of September.

Stéphane Aladame in Montagny was delighted with the results, harvesting at an average 14.5% potential alcohol, with fairly classic pH levels. Pierre de Benoist at Domaine de Villaine picked a bit earlier, and found the best wines 'celestial, open to the cosmos and expressing their origin'.

Best producers in 2019: Clos Salomon, Domaine de Villaine, Domaine Gouffier, Michel Sarrazin, Stéphane Aladame.

Mâconnais

Audrey Braccini of Domaine JA Ferret in Pouilly-Fuissé found 2019 particularly challenging in the Mâconnais: 'It was a capricious season with an almost sinister softness.'

She might have been pruning in a t-shirt in February, but by May the cold weather had set in, and conditions were 13 days behind an average year. Flowering was extremely difficult, and some of the bunches were less than 50g, compared to a typical average weight of 125g or more. Usually, Braccini would pick early, but skins were so thick that she waited until 10 September for them to soften to avoid extracting bitter phenolic compounds at the press.

Eric Forest, also of Pouilly-Fuissé, works mostly with old vines and, in 2019, with yields as low as 10hl/ha in the most frost-affected sites. Although the harvest was small, he said the wines should age well.

Best producers in 2019: Bret Brothers/Domaine de La Soufrandière, Deux Roches (Collovray & Terrier), Domaine JA Ferret, Eric Forest, Héritiers du Comte Lafon. >

A taste of the top 2019 Burgundies

Wines are listed by commune, from north to south, then by score, then alphabetically by producer. The 2019s are bottled in January 2021, hence prices and stockists are not yet set. Contact specialist merchants for allocations, or to enquire about en primeur tastings

Gevrey-Chambertin

① **TOP QUALITY Domaine Armand Rousseau, Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru** 100

Rousseau Clos de Bèze is from three plots that total 1.42ha. Cyrielle believes the wine shows better in its youth than Chambertin, though both are vinified in the same way: destemmed, long maceration, gentle extraction, ageing in new François Frères barrels. The result is sublime: charming in its youth, with accessible notes of red and black fruits, spice, mineral and game but not velvety, dense texture that is firm but not forbidding. This has the substance to last 50 years if cellared well. **Drink** 2029-2069

Domaine Dujac, Chambertin Grand Cru 98

From 0.24ha of Clos de Bèze and 0.05ha of Chambertin, both parcels neighbouring Rousseau. In 2019, the vineyards in Gevrey were picked first because of the danger of water stress and sunburn. The wine is intense and perhaps a bit forbidding initially, but it's packed with cherry fruit and a mineral, almost saline edge. The structure is very tannic, but this a wine with potential for the future. **Drink** 2029-2049

Faiveley, Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru 98

From a 1.21ha domaine-owned parcel. After fermentation with a significant portion of whole clusters, the wine is aged 18 months in cask, 60% new. Super-ripe aromas of cassis and currant leap from the glass, with hints of mineral, smoke and spice. The texture is rich, almost fleshy, but despite the approachable feel, the fine-grained tannins carry this along to a lingering finish. This excels its peers in finesse and elegance. **Drink** 2024-2039

② **Denis Bachelet, Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru** 97

With vines planted 1907-1917, opposite where the Combe Grisard lets out at the limits of Griotte-Chambertin, this is a site that retains great freshness even in hot years. The results in 2019 are spectacular. Ripe red and black berry fruit aromas, savoury/mineral character, muscular and tense yet with a subtle, refined silkiness that is truly exemplary. **Drink** 2024-2039

Morey-St-Denis

Domaine des Lambrays, Clos des Lambrays Grand Cru 98

Opens with a dizzying array of aromas, ranging from high-toned red fruits to ripe plummy black fruit all touched with spice and a hint of wild herbs and fresh flowers. After blending there was an average of 80% whole-cluster fermentation. The texture on the palate is concentrated but not heavy. There is a charming, silky aspect to it and, despite the tannin and density, the overall impression is one of finesse and elegance. **Drink** 2029-2049

TOP QUALITY Domaine Dujac, Clos de la Roche Grand Cru 98

Dujac Clos de la Roche holdings include 0.58ha in the original Clos de la Roche heart of the vineyard. There are also 0.50ha in Monts Luisants, and 0.59ha in Les Chabiots, a total of nearly 2ha. In 2019, Dujac produced a spectacular wine, already very aromatic with ripe black cherry fruit and earthy spice notes. It is tannic and structured, but the texture of the tannins is silky, elegant and very refined. Marvellous. **Drink** 2029-2049

③ **PRODUCER TO WATCH Laurent Ponsot, Clos-St-Denis Grand Cru** 97

Produced from Ponsot's métayage agreement with the Mercier family, whose plot is 0.38ha with vines planted in 1905. Made as Ponsot believes wines were two or three centuries ago: destemmed, punched down, aged in old casks, no SO₂. The result is near the top of the list for the vintage: expressive red and black fruit, profound depths of flavour, and a texture that is lush, dense and long with plenty of lively freshness. **Drink** 2024-2049

Chambolle-Musigny

④ **TOP QUALITY Domaine Georges Roumier, Musigny Grand Cru** 100

Roumier's 0.1ha plot of Musigny is at the top of the slope between Jadot and Faiveley; in 2019 it made a single barrel, fermented with whole clusters. The result, tasted from barrel, is cathartic. For those who can afford it, it is an exceptional wine, and worth the price. Simply sublime, with

Curtis' top 10 producers to watch

- Benjamin Leroux (Beaune)
- Domaine Berthaut Gerbet (Fixin)
- Domaine Jessiaume (Santenay)
- Domaine Joliet (Fixin)
- Eric Forest (Pouilly Fuissé)
- Jean-Marc Vincent (Santenay)
- Laurent Ponsot (Gilly-lès-Cîteaux)
- Pierre Pacalet (Beaune)
- Stéphane Aladame (Montagny)
- Sylvain Pataille (Marsannay)

ripe, dense black cherry fruit edged with floral notes, a silky texture that cloaks a firm core structure, and an ethereal, penetrating finish. A model of finesse, elegance and power. **Drink** 2029-2069

TOP QUALITY Domaine Comte Georges de Vogüé, Musigny Grand Cru 98

From mature vines and a majestic site, the completely destemmed fruit gives a complete wine that is seductive even now and should continue to astonish with age. Layered, complex, the initial impression is of opulent black cherry fruit, liquorice and rose petals. It's surprisingly fresh and firm, yet it has an immediately appealing, voluptuous texture – a tightly packed wine that will likely benefit from as much age as you can bear to give it. **Drink** 2029-2069

Faiveley, Musigny Grand Cru 98

Faiveley farms two parcels in Les Musigny – one near the bottom of the slope at the northern extremity of the appellation, and one at the top of the slope next to Roumier. Half of the fruit was fermented as whole clusters. A massive wine, it is slightly reticent at first, but opens up with black fruit, liquorice and oak spice along with a *sauvage* note. The texture is lovely, subtle and long. The overall impression is somewhat dense and imposing, but very subtle and appealing. **Drink** 2029-2069

Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, Musigny Grand Cru 98

The 1.14ha jewel of the Mugnier estate is on the top of the ridge. The young vines

are declassified to village Chambolle, and this bottling is exclusively from old vines. The result is among the most massive and deeply structured wines produced in the appellation. It can take a few years to show its best, but fans will ultimately be rewarded with a lovely, compact, dense fruit character that unfolds in layers of flavour and complexity. **Drink** 2029-2069

Domaine Georges Roumier, Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Amoureuses 97

Just four barrels, produced from a 0.4ha parcel between Mugnier and de Vogüé in the steep, southern end of Amoureuses. One of the four casks was new; 65% of the grapes were included as whole clusters. An exemplar of finesse and elegance, with a delicate perfumed fruit character that shows the sensual side of this vineyard and a sultry, lingering finish. Marvellous. **Drink** 2024-2049

Vougeot

TOP QUALITY Domaine d'Eugénie, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 98

From a 1.37ha parcel in the section of the Clos known as Les Maretshauts. Made with a little more than half whole-cluster, gentle extraction and two winters in mostly new casks, this is a wine of superb elegance. Ripe black and red berry fruit, a silky texture on the palate along with a fresh, concentrated feel that lasts through the lingering finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

Benjamin Leroux, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru Petit Maupertuis 96

Leroux was able to secure enough from from this favoured section of the Clos for one large barrel, and the results were spectacular. Initially lush, forward fruit mingles with red and black berries and a suggestion of violets. Two-thirds of the grapes were fermented as whole clusters; the tannins are supple but very present. Perfect balance between grip, freshness, and bright, lush fruit. **Drink** 2024-2039

Vosne-Romanée

⑤ **RED WINE OF THE VINTAGE TOP QUALITY Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Romanée-Conti Grand Cru** 100

Bertrand de Villaine says Romanée-Conti resembles itself more than any given year. The 2019 shows explosive aromas that range from high-toned redcurrant to riper, darker mulberry notes with further complexity from the hints of wild herbs

and savoury, mineral undertones. There is fresh acidity but plenty of breadth and a powerful tannic structure. A testament to the winemaker's art, this never loses its balance of elegance and power, and the combination means it will age effortlessly for 50 years or more. **Drink** 2029-2069

TOP QUALITY Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, La Tâche Grand Cru 99

La Tâche reveals an entirely new level of wine. The initial impression is that the wine is slightly backwards and slightly reduced, but on the palate it shows incredible depth and concentration as expressive, inky dark fruit and spice aromas come to the fore with powerful reserves of flavour just waiting to develop. The texture initially is velvety and dense, yet shows powerful structure with time. This has the substance to age for decades to come. **Drink** 2029-2069

TOP QUALITY Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair, La Romanée Grand Cru 99

A beautiful equilibrium between tension and lush, hedonistic fruit. Liger-Belair starts with old vines: this year, 20% of the vines in La Romanée are more than 100 years of age, and a further 60% are more than 65 years old. 15%-20% whole-bunch fermentation and a gentle extraction delivers a sublime result, with a lovely, rich black cherry and plum fruit aroma marked by floral notes, and an earthy underpinning, coloured with oak spice. On the palate, firm tannins, generous extract and admirable freshness carry the wine to an extraordinary finish. **Drink** 2029-2059

⑥ **TOP QUALITY Méo-Camuzet, Richebourg Grand Cru** 99

Méo owns two parcels of Richebourg that

border Cros Parantoux, mostly in Les Verroilles. The 2019 is spectacular – among the highlights of the vintage. There is no lack of sweet red fruit, but it is very complex, with rich, earthy notes, a gamey, savoury side, and a strong mineral underpinning. This is among the most transparent reflections of the terroir of Richebourg. There is a beautiful tension between fresh acidity, firm tannins, and deeply satisfying concentration of extract. **Drink** 2029-2059

Domaine Anne Gros, Richebourg Grand Cru 98

A treat. Anne Gros owns 0.6ha of old vines (50-70 years) in Richebourg, most of it in Les Verroilles, with a little extending into Les Richebourgs. The fruit is completely destemmed prior to fermentation, and Gros relates that the Richebourg grapes are sturdy enough to continue to pigeage (punching down) longer than other parcels. The firm extraction yields a wine of marvellous density but not one that is lacking the trademark Anne Gros velvety, unctuous fruit character. A superb wine capable of decades of cellaring if desired. **Drink** 2029-2059

Domaine Dujac, Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru 98

Exceptional wine, from a parcel acquired from Moillard in 2005, down-slope from Romanée-Conti and next to Cathiard. Mostly whole-cluster fermentation and very gentle extraction. Massive wine, a bit of a chameleon, closed on the nose yet revealing with time a dense, compact plummy fruit, mineral and spice and a texture that is firmly tannic and very long. Tiny (two-barrel) production, spectacular results. **Drink** 2029-2059 ➤



Nuits-St-Georges

⑦ **Thibault Liger-Belair, Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru Les St Georges** 96

As close to grand cru as one will find in Nuits-St-Georges. Liger-Belair owns just over 2ha: the largest owner here. Planted more than 75 years ago, the vines yield a powerful, majestic wine with just a little *sauvage* edge. There is a compelling savoury note on the nose, along with the dense mulberry fruit; on the palate there are great density and firm tannins, but also exuberance and charm, even at such a youthful age. Will continue to improve for decades. **Drink** 2024-2039

Benjamin Leroux, Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru Aux Boudots 95

On the border with Vosne, Aux Boudots is always among the most elegant of the Nuits premiers crus. Half of the fruit is fermented as whole clusters, and the results are promising: ripe blackberry fruit with notes of spice, earth and a hint of smoke. Dense, masculine tannic structure allies with a velvety texture and rewarding length. **Drink** 2022-2034

Méo-Camuzet, Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru Aux Boudots 95

Méo owns more than a hectare of vines in Aux Boudots, just over the border from Vosne-Romanée Malconsorts. This wine combines the elegance of Vosne and the structure of Nuits to give a wine with rich, plummy fruit with an earthy undertone, and an opulent structure on the palate that combines density with well-managed tannins. The balance is strikingly good between the velvety texture, rich fruit and firm structure; it shows well now, but will improve with age. **Drink** 2024-2039

Other Côtes de Nuits

⑧ **PRODUCER TO WATCH** **Domaine Joliet, Fixin 1er Cru Clos de la Perrière** 96

Joliet's vineyard sections are fermented separately before blending, using 100% whole clusters on native yeasts, with two years in cask and no racking. Aromas of blackberry and plum, hints of wild herbs and menthol. Impressive density and firmly grounded tannins carry the wine to a persistent finish: silky but powerful, and built for ageing. **Drink** 2026-2049

⑨ **PRODUCER TO WATCH** **Sylvain Pataille, L'Ancestrale Marsannay** 96

From the 90-year-old vines in the Clos du Roy in Chenôve along with other parcels in the village planted in 1946. The grapes are fermented as whole clusters, receiving 24 months in cask, 50% new. An impressive concentration, with pronounced aromas of ripe plum and cassis, a floral edge, and a distinct minerality. Velvety, dense texture, with an abundance of fine-grained tannins and a superb, balanced persistence on the finish. **Drink** 2022-2029

PRODUCER TO WATCH TOP VALUE **Berthaut-Gerbet, Les Crais Fixin** 93

A 1.38ha parcel in Les Crais, just east of the village. The oldest vines here were planted in 1946, and the average age is 40 years. The wine is racked into casks, 20% new, and aged for 15 months. Perfumed and elegant, with haunting aromas of ripe red fruits and fresh flowers. The texture is silky, a bit soft, and very fine, with a lingering, ethereal finish. **Drink** 2022-2034

TOP VALUE **Laurent Pataille, Es Chezots Marsannay** 92

Pataille's 0.17ha parcel in Es Chezots ('Les Echezeaux', but in Marsannay) is a very cool site at the top of the hill in the Combe du Pré. Conditions produce an ethereal wine that is fragrant without being heavy. In 2019, the warm year also bestowed a rewardingly ripe cherry fruit and an earthy complexity. **Drink** 2021-2029

Corton

Bonneau du Martray, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 96

Complete and powerful: big but never awkward. Delicious delineated aromas of ripe apple and fresh white flowers on the attack with a strong mineral underpinning. Rich but with a surprising elegance and tension. The western exposure of the site

and the light crushing both help to retain a balancing freshness. Continues to evolve on the palate, leading to an impressively persistent finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

⑩ **TOP QUALITY** **Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru** 96

From grapes purchased from a parcel at the top of the hill in Les Languettes. The PYCM team does most of the work in the vineyard, and the results are lovely, with fairly forward ripe pear and floral aromas. Lively texture, despite a pretty significant amount of extract, and the wine never loses its crisp, dynamic edge, due in part to the lees work – the wine was not racked during the élevage. **Drink** 2024-2039

Domaine de la Vougeraie, Charlemagne Grand Cru 95

Very elegant yet quite powerful, this is produced from two parcels: 0.22ha in Le Charlemagne, facing south, and 0.28ha in En Charlemagne, facing west. Whole bunches are slowly pressed without SO₂, then fermentation begins in tank and finishes in barrel. Aged 16 months in cask and two in tank, this shows rich, detailed apple fruit, hints of citrus and a floral edge on the nose, and impressive breadth and snap on the palate. **Drink** 2022-2029

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Corton Grand Cru 96

Fruit from Clos du Roi, Les Bressandes and Les Renardes, partially replanted 10 years ago – the young vines were picked first. Fermentation is done almost completely with whole bunches, maturation in new casks. A north wind concentrated all the elements of the grapes and the principal challenge was not to over-extract. The result is superb, with a supple, forward cassis and plum fruit character and just a touch of menthol. **Drink** 2029-2049

Thibault Liger-Belair, Corton Grand Cru Les Renardes 95

The grapes for this bottling come from a 0.3ha plot in the centre of Les Renardes, below Le Corton at the top of the hill. 60% of the fruit was whole-cluster fermented, and the wine will spend at least two winters in cask (60% new). Supremely elegant, with effusive red and black fruit character on the nose and a distinctive mineral line. The tannins appear silky and fine, but with time one realises that there is a huge tannic charge and immense extract. A superb Corton. **Drink** 2024-2049

Pommard

⑪ **Louis Jadot, Pommard 1er Cru Les Grands Epenots** 94

Coming from a parcel at the bottom of the vineyard, the fruit is destemmed and fermented without a cold maceration before spending 18 months in casks produced at the Jadot joint-venture Cadus. The result is classic Pommard, with a slightly earthy, brambly character to the fruit, a touch of smoke and firm, grippy tannin. **Drink** 2024-2034

Château de Pommard, Clos Marey-Monge Chantrerie Pommard 93

The dense clay soils of the 2.41ha section known as Chantrerie hold this monopole's oldest vines, some planted in 1900. The fruit is completely destemmed, and following a careful extraction, the wine has an expressive cherry fruit character on the nose with a marked floral note and a bit of the firm, mineral earthiness of Pommard. The texture lacks any rustic notes, and finesse is the order of the day on the lingering finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

Domaine de Montille, Pommard 1er Cru Les Pézerolles 93

De Montille has two parcels of Pézerolles totalling 1.35ha just above Les Petits Epenots, nearly at the northern limit of the appellation. The vineyard delivers a most un-Pommardian sort of wine, supple with sweet cherry fruit and a tender, silky texture on the palate that recalls the wines of Volnay. Fermented with 50% whole clusters, the wine is approachable now, yet should age well. **Drink** 2022-2034

Volnay

Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Volnay 1er Cru Santenots du Milieu 95

Those who overlook Lafon's reds do so at their own peril. The Volnay Santenots du Milieu is a prime example. The domaine owns 4ha in this climat, considered among the greatest in Volnay. Only the old vines are used, some more than 80 years of age. Gentle winemaking gives the wine a lovely, perfumed ripe cherry character, floral notes, and a distinct minerality, while the texture shows elegant, fine-grained tannins, surprising freshness and a marvellous finesse. **Drink** 2024-2039

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville, Volnay 1er Cru Clos des Ducs 95

Clos des Ducs is the 2.15ha d'Angerville

monopole at the top of the premiers crus, nourished by underground springs. A little valley funnels cool air down from the Hautes-Côtes, keeping the wines very fresh: an advantage in a warm year. This shows marvellous bright blackcurrant and mulberry fruit aromas with plenty of earthy complexity. The tannins are firm but have a very silky texture. Lovely length on the finish. **Drink** 2024-2034

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville, Volnay 1er Cru Taillepieds 94

D'Angerville has 1.7ha of Taillepieds at the top of the premier cru section. The vineyard here is very stony, and the thin soils and fairly high elevation on the windy side of the slope, high on the hill, give the wine a bright, high-toned red fruit character, lively freshness and an elegant, airy palate texture. **Drink** 2024-2034

Meursault

⑫ **TOP QUALITY** **Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Meursault 1er Cru Perrières** 97

Lafon owns nearly a hectare in Perrières, mostly in the upper portion called Perrières Dessus on thin, white soils. This plot has old vines, and the fruit from this vineyard delivers citrusy aromas of exceptional purity, and an intense concentration on the palate that combines lemony acidity and unbelievable extract. In a year such as 2019, the concentration of the grapes gives a powerful wine, yet there is a silky, almost ethereal side to it as well. It's superbly balanced and infinitely engaging. **Drink** 2022-2034

TOP QUALITY **Domaine Roulot, Meursault 1er Cru Perrières** 97

From a 0.26ha plot on the northern side of Perrières Dessous, planted in the 1950s. The grapes are lightly crushed, pressed without SO₂ and settled overnight before being racked into cask with most of the lees. The wines are blended after one year and kept in tank for a further six to nine months. The result is complete and luminous, with ripe apple fruit, floral and mineral notes and a texture that is rich and dense yet still vibrantly fresh and very long. Masterful. **Drink** 2024-2039

Puligny-Montrachet

⑬ **WHITE WINE OF THE VINTAGE TOP QUALITY** **Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Montrachet Grand Cru** 99

Lafon's 0.33ha parcel in the southeast

corner of Montrachet on the Chassagne side faces south, bordered by the plots owned by DRC. As with its neighbour, it is often voluptuously rich. The 2019, however, seemed to stand apart for the lovely lemony fruit on the initial attack that developed in time to something a bit more tropical. Marked still by a bit of oak spice that complements without drowning the nuanced fruit character, the texture is lush almost to the point of decadence, but balance is retained thanks to a lively line of fresh acidity. **Drink** 2024-2039

TOP QUALITY **Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru** 98

Less rich than the Bâtard, even though it was picked on the same day. The soils are thinner, and it combines with higher elevation to produce a wine with a citrusy edge and an exquisite definition of flavour to the ripe apple fruit character. On the palate there is impressive freshness, extraordinary depth of mineral nuance, and above all an exquisite balance to this wine that bode well for its development in the future. **Drink** 2024-2039

TOP QUALITY **Etienne Sauzet, Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru** 97

A wine that manages to combine elegance and power, the grapes coming from a 0.12ha parcel whose oldest vines were planted in 1936, the rest from 1938-1942. The fruit is pressed very slowly without crushing, settled overnight, and run into cask with the lees for a year before racking and then a further six months in tank. The result is seductively exotic, with citrus and tropical fruit, floral notes and a hint of butter. The texture is rich but not heavy, and the finish rewardingly persistent. **Drink** 2024-2039 ➤



TOP QUALITY Henri Boillot, Montrachet Grand Cru 97

Boillot normally makes a single 350L barrel of Montrachet, using a basket press. The 2019 is absolutely beautiful. Ripe pear and fresh flowers dominate the initial attack, and there is a lovely intensity and richness, with a dense, creamy, buttery texture and huge reserves of substance that will keep this wine ageing for years to come. **Drink** 2024-2039

TOP QUALITY Michel Niellon, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

This superb parcel of old vines was originally planted in 1962. The 2019 shows aromas that meld citrus, tropical, and white stone fruits with a strong sense of salty minerality and notes of smoke and beeswax. It is firmly structured with lots of racy acidity and plenty of extract, but there is never a loss of elegance or finesse. A superb wine that will easily continue to improve over 30-40 years in a proper cellar. **Drink** 2022-2034

Chassagne-Montrachet

14 Etienne Sauzet, Montrachet Grand Cru 98

Produced with fruit purchased from two parcels on the Chassagne side, one exposed fully to the south and the second a bit east, neighbours with Lafon and DRC respectively. The result resembles these wines, with fruit on the exotic end of the spectrum enlivened by citrus and mineral notes. On the palate the texture is dense and rich but easily balanced by firm acidity that sustains it through an immensely long finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

Bouchard Père & Fils, Montrachet Grand Cru 97

Bouchard's holding here is superb: 0.9ha on the edge of the Puligny side, mid-slope between Ramonet and DRC. In 2019, Bouchard emphasised the richness by picking this parcel last. Ripe apples, white flowers and a touch of honey on the nose, unctuous texture on a palate that's deep without being heavy. There is still enough freshness to keep this lively through the intensely long finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

Paul Pillot, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Grandes Ruchottes 94

Pillot owns a 0.26ha parcel at the very top of the hill. Soils are very poor – much of it can't be planted for lack of topsoil – and the limestone gives the wines an intense

minerality and racy acidity. In 2019, the heat and the vineyard's southeast exposure delivered something richer than one might expect. Rewarding density and a lovely floral character. **Drink** 2022-2029

Other Côte de Beaune

Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, St-Aubin 1er Cru En Remilly 95

Colin owns three parcels totalling 0.65ha, two of them located mid-slope at the same altitude as Chevalier-Montrachet, and the third on the plateau at the top. This wine stuns with expressive initial aromas of ripe white peach, delicately coating the palate but showing no heaviness at all. The wine was racked off its lees after the first 12 months, but put back into barrel for an another winter before bottling. **Drink** 2022-2034

Chanterêves, Les Hautés Auxey-Duresses 92

From a north-facing parcel on the border with Meursault. The grapes are foot-trodden before a cask fermentation and ageing with the lees without racking, which brings a slightly reductive matchstick element to the ripe apple and citrus fruit on the nose. This gives the impression of a bit of smoke, although this comes from the reduction and not from the oak maturation as there is no new wood used here. Lovely. **Drink** 2021-2026

15 Bouchard Père & Fils, Beaune Grèves 1er Cru Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus 95

Beaune Grèves is often described as among the best of the premier cru vineyards in Beaune. This Bouchard monopole, however, is the heart of the vineyard, mid-slope with plenty of gravel in the soil to ensure good drainage. The fruit ripened early and well in 2019, and the results were delicious, with a very floral cast to the ripe black cherry fruit aromas. It fills the mouth with velvety tannins and lingers to a delightfully complex finish. **Drink** 2024-2039

PRODUCER TO WATCH Domaine Anne-Marie & Jean-Marc Vincent, Santenay 1er Cru Les Gravières 95

These 70-year-old vines represent Vincent's largest holding at 1.23ha. The vines are trained to reduce yields, and the fruit is fermented with a large proportion of whole clusters prior to ageing in 350L casks, one-third new. A wine of intensity and concentration, with deep, floral-

scented cassis fruit, mineral and earthy notes, finely honed tannins and an impressively long finish. **Drink** 2022-2029

Domaine Bruno Clair, Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru La Dominode 95

One of the jewels of the Bruno Clair estate, the 1.7ha here were planted in 1902 and were purchased by Bruno's grandfather. The parcel lies on east- and north-facing slopes, ideal in warm years such as 2019, when it produced a wine of truly profound concentration. Profuse aromas of ripe blackberry and cassis open up on the palate to reveal impressive tannic charge and exquisite length. **Drink** 2024-2039

16 PRODUCER TO WATCH Domaine Jessiaume, Santenay 1er Cru La Comme 91

La Comme is up-slope from Gravières; Jessiaume owns 0.18ha on the border with Chassagne. The fruit is destemmed and after fermenting aged without racking in 50% new casks. Has a compellingly pretty plummy fruit character with a rich, supple texture on the palate. There is plenty of extract, and smooth, well-managed tannins. **Drink** 2022-2029

Côte Chalonnaise

17 TOP VALUE Domaine de Villaine, Bouzeron 93

Blended from 17 parcels spread over nine lieux-dits, each vinified separately, the fermentation carried out in large, neutral casks. The wine is racked after a year in cask on the lees. In ripe vintages such as 2019, the slight bitterness of the skin of Aligoté can give complexity and balance to the honeyed note of the fruit. This is complex, sensual wine. **Drink** 2021-2029



PRODUCER TO WATCH TOP VALUE Stéphane Aladame, Sélection Vieilles Vignes Montagny 1er Cru 92

From four parcels, 40-85 years of age, this recalls the density and structure of much more expensive wines from the Côte d'Or. A pleasant citrus note is balanced by a lovely ripe white peach character. Lush and round, but with freshness to carry it through a lingering finish. Aladame's only cuvée to see some new wood, about 30%, in this vintage. **Drink** 2021-2026

TOP VALUE Clos Salomon, Givry 1er Cru Clos Salomon 92

The du Gardin dynasty has owned this 7ha clos since 1558. Southeast exposure and soil featuring Oxfordian limestone scree from the hills above deliver nuanced, complex fruit. Bunches are destemmed, but the grapes are largely kept whole. The wine is aged a year in cask, one-third new, and shows an expressive, forward cherry fruit upfront with textured, silky tannins and agreeable finesse. **Drink** 2021-2034

Mâconnais

18 TOP VALUE Héritiers du Comte Lafon, Clos du Four Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine 93

Perhaps the best of the Lafon holdings in the Mâconnais. 1.3ha of east-facing vines in a semi-circle in the middle of the slope, just outside the village. Fermented and aged for nearly a year in 500L-700L casks. Great elegance and breed, with a firm citrus underpinning to the ripe apple fruit. Rich and dense, but adequately balanced by the crisp acidity. **Drink** 2021-2029

TOP VALUE Domaine de la Soufrandière, Le Clos de Grandpère Mâcon-Vinzelles 91

This monopole is located at the base of



Pouilly-Vinzelles Les Quarts straddling the appellations of Mâcon and Pouilly, with some vines as old as 100 years. Mostly tank fermented, 10% in cask, yet the wine is rich and lush, with ripe forward orchard fruit and a hint of honey on the nose. The acidity is balanced at best, yet the wine has a winsome appeal. **Drink** 2021-2026

TOP VALUE Joseph Drouhin, Pouilly-Vinzelles 91

From an 11ha parcel with easterly exposure spread over four terraces, purchased fruit that Drouhin presses and then ferments in used 500L casks. The result has surprising definition, with notes of ripe green apple, citrus and a bit of spice. On the palate it has a creamy texture and a pleasantly persistent finish. **Drink** 2021-2029

PRODUCER TO WATCH Eric Forest, Clos des Charmes Mâcon-Pierreclos 90

A 1.4ha parcel in clay-marl soils with direct southern exposure, half of it planted to 90-year-old vines. It suffered greatly here from the frost in 2019 and only 1,300L of wine was produced from the entire site, thus 10hl/ha. The result has a pronounced lemony character with a bit of mineral and flint on the nose, though nice freshness and depth of flavour on the palate. Racy and refreshing. **Drink** 2021-2029

Bourgogne

Domaine Sylvain Pataille, Le Chapitre Bourgogne Blanc 94

Superb Chardonnay from a 0.7ha east-facing slope in Chenôve, renowned for its wines since the 7th century, but demoted in modern times to regional status. The 2019 spent a little more than a year in cask, sulphured only slightly at bottling. Aromas of ripe apple, beeswax, white flowers and mineral. The texture is dense, the length is exquisite. A delicious wine to discover. **Drink** 2021-2034

TOP VALUE Pierre Labet, Vieilles Vignes Bourgogne Blanc 92

From 65-year-old vines, this is lemony and very fine. The fruit is lightly crushed and pressed without SO₂ before racking by gravity into 350L casks. The nose shows a lovely citrus note with hints of smoke and mineral; on the palate it is incisively crisp and refreshing. Among the best of the vintage at this level. **Drink** 2021-2029

TOP VALUE Domaine de Montille, Bourgogne Chardonnay 91

Produced with fruit from Meursault, Puligny and Chassagne, fermented in a combination of large and small casks with a small percentage of new oak, racked once after a year, prior to bottling. Ripe orchard fruit and a slightly tropical note. The texture is a bit soft but the finish is satisfyingly long. **Drink** 2021-2029

Denis Bachelet, Bourgogne Pinot Noir 93

A superb example of type, among my favourites of the vintage, assembled from two lieux-dits, Grands Champs and Pressonier, across the main road from the grands crus of Gevrey-Chambertin. Pure and ethereal with a pronounced perfume of ripe cherries and blossoms. The texture is silky with a lovely, vibrant tension from the fresh acidity. An extraordinary find at this level. **Drink** 2021-2029

TOP VALUE Domaine Anne Gros, Bourgogne Rouge 92

From four parcels with young vines, all located in Vosne-Romanée. Grapes are destemmed prior to a gentle fermentation in concrete and ageing in cask, up to 30% new. Shows an impressively forward, ripe cherry fruit and floral notes, with a velvety texture and more grip and length than is often found at this level. **Drink** 2021-2029

TOP VALUE Domaine Michel Lafarge, L'Exception Bourgogne Passetoutgrain 91

Lafarge has two plots in Volnay on the way to Meursault co-planted with Pinot Noir and Gamay, the vines aged more than 90 years, picked and fermented together: 'a real Passetoutgrain', says Frédéric. Aromatic and forward, with pretty floral notes on the nose. On the palate there's more structure than you'd expect, even a slight astringency **Drink** 2021-2029

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