



Justerini & Brooks

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BURGUNDY 2023 CHARM IN ABUNDANCE



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AN EVOLUTION OF PEOPLE AND PLACE

If 2022 gave us cause for optimism, that great wines can be made in a changing climate, then 2023 takes this a step further. Yoyoing from one extreme to another, this was the warmest overall vintage in the past 25 years, but also one with less sunshine hours than eight other vintages in that period. It had a rain deficit in the spring, but plentiful rain in the summer. The grapes experienced ups and downs throughout the season, before completing their ripening under intense late August and early September heat.

If the last twenty years have taught us anything it is that Burgundian vines and vigneronns are having to adapt to ever changing climatic conditions with increased regularity and speed. But also, that they can. “Never before have we experienced such heat on almost perfectly ripe grapes” Guillaume Lavolee told us, “and yet my wines are fresh and perfectly ripe this year”.

You see, for all these weather-based exclamation marks, this was a vintage that provided almost perfect growing conditions for the creation of a generous potential crop. As Mathilde Grivot summed it up, “We had rain when we needed it and sun when we needed it”. Come harvest time, with a large and healthy potential crop, growers could be extremely selective about what made it into their blends.

The resulting experience of 2023 taken as a whole, is somewhat akin to drinking cool, ripe sunshine. These are wines of purity and transparency. These certainly do not feel like hot vintage wines. They do not display exotic tendencies. They are not overly dense, nor opaque in flavour. There’s a luminosity in 2023 that couples with a maturity of phenolics and a ripeness of acidity, to create a generally spherical, tapering feel to the wines, where fresh ripe fruit mingles with minerality in a very pleasing way.



THE PROOF IS ALWAYS IN THE TASTING

Comparing vintages is never easy and frankly often a fool’s errand. The factors that contribute to any given season are so infinitesimal that each new offering is necessarily unique. Average temperatures are a much-touted metric, but the truth is that heat in June affects a final crop completely differently from heat in September. A warmer than average February has a very different effect from a cooler than average July and early August (as was the case in 2023). Myriad factors all play their part.

Merely to set the scene, we came away from two weeks of tastings with a sense that perhaps these 2023 reds come across a little bit like 2017s but with a bit more of everything. More pleasure, more ripeness, more depth, but an equally engaging and inviting overall character. Perhaps a combination of 2017 and 2019, which, for those who know those two vintages well, sounds compelling; the generosity and sensuality of the 2017s with the depth and sapidity of the 2019s. It was Jacques Desvauges who said “This is a vintage that for consumers, has everything. You can drink them young or age them” and indeed, it does not feel like we’ll need to wait long to enjoy them.

For the whites, it’s harder to find an obvious analogue. Cool fruit flavours without angles or edges. Plenty of length. Plenty of extract and minerality. Maybe 2022 with a slenderer profile and more citrus driven fruit. Certainly there’s ripeness to the acidity that gives many of the wines a truly seamless feel, caused by a pH range that runs from normal, to ever so slightly higher than normal, but there’s also a sense of extract in many of the wines, a cool grip that you feel far more often than overtly ripe flavours.

THE FACTS OF THE VINTAGE

- The warmest vintage on record, just surpassing 2022. Rainfall was close to the historical average overall. Sunshine hours were less than eight other vintages in the past two decades.
- Budbreak and flowering coincided with clement weather and set the scene for a sizeable crop.
- Storms hit the region during the summer, providing plentiful rain. No one reported any hydric stress.
- Growers were faced with a very generous crop and much green harvesting was carried out in June, July and August.
- July was cool and August was a total mixture, with spells of real heat, then cool weather, and some rain.
- September signalled the arrival of a period of unseasonably hot weather, coinciding with many growers’ harvests.
- Many, indeed most, reported maximum appellation yields, with good levels of maturity in a generally very healthy crop. Sorting was required to select out less ripe bunches but incidences of rot were rare.
- The success of the vintage for many was determined by two major factors – managing yield, and selecting the right date to harvest.

DROP OF THE CROPS

Through a combination of debudding, green harvest and sorting prior to harvest, a large potential crop was brought to heel. “You had to really spend time in the vineyards”, Cyrielle Rousseau told us. “we dropped almost half our crop in July. You’d look at a vine and the more you looked the more fruit you saw!” For Laurent Lignier, 30% was dropped early in July, others dropped fruit in June, July and August.

Time and again we heard this. For many these were maximum permitted crop sizes, driven by large numbers of bunches as well as sizeable grapes. This is a dominant feature of the vintage, and indeed for many, particularly for the Pinot Noirs, managing this was the key to unlocking the potential of the vintage.

Get your yields right and the doorway leads to fine, juicy, expressive wines with balance and poise and plenty of vibrancy. Or go the other way and end up with low acid, rather soft wines. For many, the key was waiting for aromatic ripeness but then going extremely quickly, so as not to let anything drift into sur-maturity. You cannot help but wonder what would have happened had this been a tiny crop, ripening at

pace, under a blazing sun. I suspect we’d have a far less charming vintage on our hands....

For the whites the yields were less of a concern, indeed for many they were in line with 2022, 2020 and 2018, and certainly for those with old vines in good vineyards it was a case of setting correct yields early in the season and harvesting a full crop. Some higher cropping and young vine sites needed management, but that’s not unusual, and so for most growers, this was an easy white harvest with plentiful juicy grapes and very little rot or sorting to be done.

HARVEST – A FANFARE BLOWIN’ TO THE SUN

With a sudden and unexpected heatwave that arrived on the 4th September, decisions had to be made at pace. Many white growers had the majority of their crops in by this point, but for those harvesting Pinot Noir, this was a crunch period. Those ready to harvest with a full team of pickers, were happy to go early. Many growers told us they ended up harvesting up to a week earlier than they had planned. But early was not the only story.

Indeed we heard reports of some growers in one village starting harvest on the 28th August, while others in the same village starting in October (no one we buy from I’m pleased to say). This is a huge window, almost unheard of. The moment of harvest was clearly key, but with crop load having a huge bearing on ripeness, as well as general farming practices, a simple date was never entirely indicative of the quality of wine on offer. Rains that fell in the second week of September evidently had an impact for those harvesting after the 9th, when the heat abated. The correct moment was clearly specific to each Domaine.

One major benefit of such a large crop ripening in hot weather was that it allowed vigneron to sort Pinot Noir stringently. Most growers talked of very healthy fruit, with little incidence of rot, and so this was simply an exercise in eliminating less than perfectly ripe bunches. Francois Moriamez of Domaine JF Mugnier, as well as quite a few others, reported carrying out a sorting in the vineyards as well as a sorting on the table de trie in the winery. “Frederic couldn’t understand why we needed such a big team in the vineyards, but he soon understood. Any bunch that looked less than perfect we simply discarded”

The pace of harvest was very often the biggest challenge with everything ripening at once. Many growers reported harvesting solely in the mornings, starting very early to help protect their workers and to bring in cooler grapes. Many employed a greater number in the vineyards than ever before. Those that harvested after the rains on the 12th could do so at a less hurried pace, but for those picking in the eye of the heat wave, speed was of the essence.

For Chardonnay producers, the decision here was how early to go. Some started as early as the 24th August, others saw a window between the 28th and 31st. Those who went early universally reported relief at having had their grapes in the winery when the canicule hit.



VINIFICATION & ELEVAGE – SURPRISE AND DELIGHT

There is a good deal of surprise around at how fresh and fine the wines of 2023 taste with a year's *élevage* under their belts. Not being a psychologist, I hesitate to suggest this, but surely there must be a residual emotion from harvest that carries across into the first tastings of wines, in response to the state of the team at harvest, which must colour a winemaker's expectation of how a vintage is going to perform in the cellar. This brain's dependence on predicting the world around us must take some time to be overridden by the developing wines. Whatever the cause, this is one of those vintages that *vignerons* are astonished and delighted to have in the cellar – providing the morale boost of a full cellar with the joy of it being full of wine consumers are going to love drinking.

If the vintage caused people to vinify differently, it was in their efforts to cool the grapes just after harvest, or in their approach to whole bunches. By harvesting only early in the morning the effect on the grapes arriving in the cellar was enormous, while many also employed cool rooms or cooled tanks. For those who practice whole bunch fermentation many reported using less for practical reasons – they simply couldn't fit so many stems in the tanks given the volume of bunches to vinify – or so as to prevent a loss of acidity, in a vintage where preserving freshness was a goal. For most *vignerons*, *élevage* was standard and traditional, with some taking the wines to tank for assemblage a little earlier than normal – again to preserve freshness – but most following their usual winemaking timetable.

One last point that cropped up was the lack of summer heat in 2024. Several growers reported that their cellars remained cooler than usual. Whether this influenced the final wines is hard to prove, but certainly there were some who suggested that this slightly cooler than usual *élevage* may well have helped to preserve a sense of freshness in the final wines.



CONCLUSION A RETURN TO GOOD OLD FASHIONED BURGUNDY

Whether it is the evolution of the vine, or the evolution of the human, Burgundy's vines would appear to be finding ripeness and balance earlier and in a more relaxed fashion than they did at the start of the cycle of hotter years that began with the extreme and low yielding 2003 vintage. Years of heat and sunshine are both more common and less noticeable in the final wines. It is also possible of course that it's the tasters and consumers who are becoming more accustomed to these vintages. But the fact of the matter is that both analytically, and organoleptically, the wines produced in "warm" vintages, are increasingly able to attain those holy grail states of balance, restraint, complexity, depth and length, despite being harvested at the end of August or start of September – historically extremely early harvest periods. "A return to good old fashioned Burgundy" Francois Moriamez said of the Mugnier '23s, "a vintage about length and depth rather than scale and breadth". Whereas hot vintages in the early part of the 21st century very often imprinted themselves onto the wines at the expense of terroir definition, today, as in the case with 2023, one is far less likely to find hot fruit that clouds a vineyard's characteristics.

If there are occasional wines that bear the hallmarks of having been harvested too late, they are the exception. For the great majority, the markers of place that we Burgundy lovers seek out are there for all to see in 2023. If it's the rocky core of a Meursault Perrières you seek, you will find it. The seductive grace of a Vosne Suchots, it's there. The basic wines are driven by juicy fruit and often a light crunch to the tannins, while the majesty of Burgundy's Grand Crus is evidenced less by scale in '23 and more by layers of fine complexity, and long lingering finishes. Ripe perfumes, engaging and open fruit profiles, supple tannins and plenty of terroir defined minerality. There is a huge amount to love in Burgundy's bountiful and rather beautiful 2023 vintage.

Jules Campbell

Jules Campbell
BURGUNDY BUYER



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LATE RELEASE DOMAINES

Please note that while a number do appear in this brochure, the following Domaines will be released later this year:

Domaine Armand Rousseau (by invitation only)

Domaine Boisson-Vadot (Pierre Boisson & Anne Boisson)

Domaine Cécile Tremblay (by invitation only)

Domaine Coche-Dury (by invitation only)

Domaine des Comtes Lafon (by invitation only)

Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair (by invitation only)

Domaine d'Eugenie (by invitation only)

Domaine Hubert Lamy

Domaine Hubert Lignier

Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier
(except Clos de la Maréchale) (by invitation only)

Domaine des Lambrays

Domaine Paul Pillot



MÂCONNAIS





DOMAINE DE LA CHAPELLE, SOLUTRÉ-POUILLY

Pascal Rollet and his son Thomas run this gem of an estate from their winery amongst the vines in Pouilly. With holdings of around 7.5ha, spread across St Veran and the heart of the Pouilly sector of Pouilly-Fuisse, they give boutique levels of attention to their vineyards, many of which are comprised of vines aged between 50-100 years old. 2023 was a very pleasant surprise for the Rollets, whose wines tend to display an uncommon level of finesse for wines from this part of the world. Favouring a shorter, firmer pressing of the grapes, with no turning, Champagne style, they send as pure a juice as possible to tank and barrel, with little need for settling, and no sulphur at all until after fermentations are complete. Customers seeking fine boned, elegant, crystalline wines from this part of the Maconnais should look no further.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ St Veran, Madame Noly	2023	2025
Fruity and pure and with a pleasing sense of flesh – clearly excellent ripeness but also cool fresh flavours of conference pear and fine salt and confit lemon. This is easy to enjoy, but there’s good intensity and finish to it too. It was Madame Noly who sold them the vineyard, a single parcel of vines of around a hectare, planted on the pure limestone of the plateau of the Mont de Pouilly at around 400m altitude. Fermented and aged exclusively in tanks.		
○ Pouilly-Fuisse, Les Grands Climats	2023	2025
A classic Domaine de la Chapelle Cuvee of shapely finesse and fine clarity. White fleshed fruits here dance with a salty minerality and a sense of easy charm and elegance. Aged half in tank and half in barrique, of which just 25% is new. From 2023 the VV cuvee has been absorbed into Grands Climats, making for a bigger palate of expression from which to create this cuvee. Blended from numerous parcels, primarily limestone, with some marne and clay.		
○ Pouilly-Fuisse, ‘Ax-B’	2023	2026
The Rollet’s did two passes through this vineyard in ’23. bringing fruit in at two levels of ripeness, allowing for a wonderful balance of freshness and fruit in the final wine. A huge success, with floral notes, fine yellow fruits, a touch of Mirabelle and mango, a lovely fruit complexity and the smoothest of actions. An extremely good Pouilly Fuisse that hails from the excellent, east facing, clay and marne soils of the 1er Cru Aux Boutieres vineyard, but that also includes a section of the same vineyard that was not classified – thus the Ax-B naming.		

LES HERITIERS DU COMTE LAFON, MILLY-LAMARTINE

Thanks to a healthy crop of ripe fruit, 2023 is a beautiful and balanced vintage here. Initially expecting to pick a week later, the team at Heritiers Lafon reacted to the quickly evolving tropical conditions by bringing the harvest forward to the 27th August. The heatwave meant alcohols could have increased rapidly had they not been so responsive, but in the end, degrees were relatively reasonable, averaging between 13 and 13.5 of potential alcohol. The wines are juicy and fresh, veering more towards white fruit, orchard fruit and citrus compared to the riper, more yellow fruits of last year. A classically styled year with just a hint of late summer sunshine.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine	2023	2025
Very pretty, floral, orchard fruit and a hint of ripe stone fruit – nothing more than a subtle and cheery nod to the warm end of season conditions. Expressive and spritely, fleet-footed and “digeste” as the French would say, fruit that dances brightly across the palate. Two-thirds aged and fermented in wooden foudres, the rest in tank. From the sub-zone of Milly where the wines tend to be very mineral and taut, this is Héritiers Lafon’s highest Mâcon vineyard at an altitude of 350 metres.		
○ Mâcon-Bussière, Le Monsard	2023	2025
As you’d expect, there is a little more substance and fleshiness here compared to the Milly, but it crucially retains that very attractive, floral and juicy vintage character. Bright fresh citrus and yellow plum fruits with a hint of butter and a touch of brioche. A more delicate style of Le Monsard. From vines at the southern end of Mâconnais planted on rocky soils, at 350 metres altitude, well exposed to the sun.		
○ Mâcon-Chardonnay, Clos de la Crochette	2023	2026
Its northerly location makes Clos de la Crochette a completely different style of wine to Lafon’s other Mâcons, expressing cooler and calmer tones – more orchard fruit than stone fruit or citrus. A little more restrained than usual. Fresh apple and Conference pear fruit dominate the palate, distinctly more orchard fruit than the stone fruit of some of the other wines. Poised and juicy, quietly persistent and fresh, if a little reticent. The wine is aged half in large oak foudres and half in oak demi-muid barrels. From the northern sector of the Mâcon, near to Uchizy.		
○ Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine, Clos du Four	2023	2026
More muscle and middle compared to the daintier Clos de la Crochette – a nice, ripe touch of mango adds a bit of joy and sunshine to a Mâcon of serious underlying power and minerality. Complex, fresh and multi-dimensional. The lowest of the Milly vines but planted on very poor, rocky clay soils giving intense, crisp, minerally Mâcons. Clos du Four is the most mineral and least Mâcon-like of the Héritiers Lafon wines. The only wine to be aged in demi-muid only (the rest of the wines are half aged in demi-muid and half in foudres).		
○ Viré-Clessé	2023	2026
Fragrant orchard fruit and notes of apple blossom jump out of the glass. These aromatic ripe white-fruit characteristics are replicated on the palate, firmed up by a guiding citrus fruit freshness. From a selection within a 7ha plot that was originally part of the Château de Viré estate that Dominique Lafon acquired in 2009. Only a small proportion actually goes into this wine, the rest being declassified into Mâcon Villages. The vines are old – up to 75-years-old – and are a massale selection of the rare muscat variety of Chardonnay.		
○ Pouilly-Fuissé, En Chatenay	2023	2026
A step up in intensity from the rest of the range. A very complete, multi-faceted wine, this has Côte d’Or levels of depth and breadth. Textured, buttery, golden fruit, hints of Mirabelle and honeysuckle with a firming citrus freshness; touches of hazelnut add complexity to the elongated finish. Sumptuous and satisfying. A fabulous single-vineyard plot in Vergisson, this is north/north-east facing, giving a wine of tension and minerality.		



CÔTE CHALONNAISE



DOMAINE DE LA FOLIE, RULLY

Constant refinement is the name of the game at Domaine de la Folie, all in service of enhancing the purity and drinkability of the glorious Rullys that the domaine has garnered such a following for. Utilising only domaine yeasts, cutting back the oak on certain cuvees, selecting lighter toast barrels – all small tweaks but together meaningful steps that have contributed to a wonderful vintage for Clemence and Baptiste Dubruille. The whites have more precision and purity than we’ve seen before, moving from the white fruited purity of the Clos Folie, up to the serious Côte de Beaune-esque Clos St. Jacques, a wine that turns heads whenever we pour it.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne, Aligoté	2023	
Now featuring a very smart new label in line with the rest of the range, the Folie Aligoté comes from a 100-year-old parcel of Aligoté Doré, which accounts for the flesh and breadth that accompanies the classic Aligoté lines. Fermented in tank to enhance the fine fruit flavours, this is a beautifully white fruited rendition, all pears and white flowers with dried lemon pith notes enlivening the finish. A gentle pleasure and just 12% abv.		
○ Rully, Blanc, Clos de la Folie	2023	
Now fermented with its own yeasts, this is a particularly fine and precise Clos de la Folie, gentle but with a gentle tension too. This always strikes me as spherical wine, but there’s a little crispy note too this year, and surprising persistence for such an effortless delivery. Lovely. A north, north-east clay limestone Monopole vineyard of Domaine de la Folie with 40-year-old vines, fermented and aged in steel tanks only, no oak		
○ Rully, Blanc, Clos du Chaigne, 1er Cru	2023	
A little less new oak used in 2023 means this is especially expressive, with white fruits, white berries and lemon balm. Where there’s been a richness to Chaigne in the past, now this is rendered with more structure and architecture, with fruit filling the gaps. The grip and focus add to the sense of purity and drive. Quite possibly the best yet. A due east-facing vineyard on clay-dominated limestone soils.		
○ Rully, Blanc, Clos St. Jacques, 1er Cru	2023	
The tweaks here involve a finer selection of barrels with lighter toast, refinement rather than a change, and the result is a wine with the finest of shapes in the range. Elongated, impeccably balanced with a very fine extract and an intensity that creeps up on you. Gently handled, grown-up Rully that marries fine, ripe confit citrus notes with touches of smoke and fine oak. Top stuff. Another Domaine de la Folie Monopole. A splendid, east-facing stony vineyard of vines aged between 70 and 80 years old. Aged in oak barrels, 20% of which are new.		
● Rully, Rouge, Clos de Bellecroix	2023	
Juicy bittersweet fruit, a touch of white pepper and summer pudding notes. A certain creaminess across the mid palate, tapering into a supple juicy finish. Tender, pretty, and remarkably easy drinking. Pigeage is done by foot to facilitate very gentle infusions. This is never meant to be a structured wine. An east, north-east facing vineyard planted on clay and limestone soils. Ageing is predominantly in tank, with a small percentage of used barrels, to give a light and pure expression of Rully.		

DOMAINE DE LA MONETTE, MERCUREY

A young domaine with a talented vigneron at the helm, making wines to bring recognition to the Mercurey appellation. A new project offering wines that punch above their weight, at fair prices. A first time on these shores. If that sounds like tonic in today’s world, read on... Finding something new and exciting in Burgundy is an ever-harder task, so when one comes along you grab it with both hands. 2023 is Pierre Etienne Chevallier’s first complete vintage at Domaine de la Monette, an estate he purchased in December 2022. Holdings comprise 12.5 hectares, mostly in Mercurey, all of which are currently in conversion to organics. Single vineyard Mercureys in both colours form the majority of the production, with exceedingly good value Bourgognes offering an entry into the range. Winemaking for whites involves large demi-muid barrels, very little new, and a style that is both clear eyed and characterful, with a leaning to freshness over opulence. Reds are totally destemmed, gently extracted, and see similarly low levels of new oak. After stints at Domaine de Vougeraie, and then six years working both in the Cote d’Or, and as far afield as California, Pierre Etienne felt his skills were sharp enough to embark upon his own project. Having tasted his 2023 on multiple occasions now, it is clear to us that this is Domaine with a very bright future, already producing wines that offer real pleasure and do away with any notion that the clay soils of Mercurey can only produce rustic wines. A new source of deliciously drinkable Burgundy is always nice to find, and when it is one as affordable as this, its cause for celebration.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bouzeron, Aligoté, Les Fias	2023	
An aligoté of immense charm and genuine polish, with a clear-eyed crystalline character, but also some engaging flesh and depth. Lemon and salt on the finish. This comes from an excellent, steep south-east facing plot in the heart of the appellation, where Pierre Etienne farms 0.4ha.		
○ Bourgogne, Blanc	2023	
A classy little Bourgogne Blanc, aged in 20% new oak, mostly 4-500lt barrels, with very little battonage, and just a tiny hint of smoky reduction as a counterpoint to the clear and crystalline fruit. Stylish, energetic, and saline. A smashing debut.		
● Mercurey, Les Bourguignons	2023	
The red clay soils of Mercurey can lead to gutsy wines, but while there’s power here, there’s also lots of class and interest and a sense of measured control. Hedgerow fruits layered with spice and sweet earth, and then darker fruits towards the finish. The tannins are genuinely refined and contribute to the long finish. Characterful and affordable .		

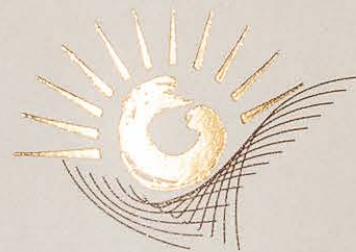


A&P DE VILLAINES, BOUZERON

Pierre de Benoit, is always on chatty form when we visit; a thinker and a dreamer who is as at home letting the conversation drift into Philosophy as he is discussing the various sources of energy that feed into his final wines. He also cares deeply about his corner of Burgundy, stewarding excellent vineyards and gently tending old vines. His carefully crafted wines have been quietly raising the profile of Bouzeron and Rully for some years now, with a legion of fans who admire his gentle-handed, traditionally made wines.

		Vintage	Drink From
● = Red	○ = White		
○ Bouzeron		2023	2025
An atypically aromatic Bouzeron with fine orchard fruits and blossom leaping from the glass. Williams pears and russet apples and white flowers covering, for now, the mineral saltiness this bottling is known for. An excellent overview of the appellation, hailing from 17 vineyard plots spread across 11 lieu dits.			
● Bourgogne, La Digoine		2023	2026
Fruity with a touch more depth of fruit than the 2022 displayed at this time. This is a big hearted Digoine, with ripe cherry fruit, chewy tannins and a little core of earth below the fruit. A bright and bold Bourgogne, something of a rough diamond, from a cool terroir that is often the last to be harvested before the Aligote comes in. “I’m looking for the memory of the sea that was here millions of years ago” Pierre told us, remarking that the name Digone is a very old word meaning a place where we celebrate the qualities of water. Fermented with 40% whole cluster.			

CÔTE DE BEAUNE



BACHELET-MONNOT

PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1^{ER} CRU

Appellation Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Contrôlée

LES REFERTS

GRAND VIN DE BOURGOGNE

2018

BACHELET MONNOT, DÈZIZES-LES-MARANGES

The Bachelet brothers were another team who harvested from 6am to 1pm, bringing in as much cool fruit as possible before the day’s heat arrived in earnest. Here, it was a full harvest, but not more, Marc Bachelet suggesting that their organic farming contributed to smaller and more concentrated berries. It would certainly the explain the excellent sense of grip and control that so many of their wines display this year, in both colours. Once again, this is domaine that simply gets it all right, an unflagging source of excellent value and sheer drinking pleasure.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne, Côte d’Or	2023	2025
Lovely yellow fruit and a fine mineral line. A sophisticated and composed Bourgogne that is two thirds from the Puligny commune and one third from Chassagne.		
○ Maranges La Fussière, 1er Cru Blanc	2023	2026
Another very smart Fussière, with wonderfully salty citrus fruit, fine detail and great freshness and tension throughout. With the cool flesh of the vintage, we’re at a stage now where this cuvee would vie for attention amongst many a lesser grower’s Pulignys...		
Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months, before six months in stainless steel. This comes from the higher part of the Fussière vineyard where the poor soil is well suited to producing white wines.		
○ Saint-Aubin, en Remilly, 1er Cru	2023	2026
From a top notch south-facing vineyard, just behind the woods above Le Montrachet, on the road to Saint-Aubin. The soil is dry and stony, whilst the Combe has a cooling influence. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet	2023	2026
Such an inviting nose, fine sweet yellow fruit with spiced cream, a touch of spice and toast. Calm and serene, yet generous too, with a buttery Chassagne texture that sends this gliding across the palate. Seamless and very lovely. From numerous limestone influenced parcels on the Puligny side of the Chassagne appellation; one just below Criots, another underneath Maltroie and finally one just above Caillerets. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet	2023	2026
A very fine extract here brings a wonderful control and freshness, and sets it apart structurally from the brothers’ Chassagne this year. Delicate citrus and stone aromas abound in this cool and intricate white Burgundy. From numerous plots including a particularly fine parcel on a slope called les Meix, near the Grands Crus, next to Enseigneurs. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel.		

BACHELET MONNOT, DÈZIZES-LES-MARANGES

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Referts, 1er Cru 2023	2024	2027
An irresistible Referts with excellent fruit focus, fine peachy finesse and some real depth. Open and engaging yet with a surprisingly long finish. There’s lots to love and you will not need to wait all that long to love it. From prime-situated vines next door to those of Sauzet, where the large clay content of the soils yields generous round wines of beautiful fruit. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Folatières, 1er Cru	2024	2027
A fabulous note of crushed stones and anise and confit lemon, while on the palate there’s richness, depth and density, but also great control with a very fine intensity of fruit. One of the top vineyards in Puligny, next to Caillerets, from a high up parcel where the soil is poor and stony but well exposed to the sun, situated in the northernmost corner of this great vineyard, right next to the Leflaive vines – above Clos de la Garenne. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel.		
○ Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	2024	2029
A fine parcel of Bâtard on the Puligny side of the vineyard near Pierre Morey’s vines, abutting Montrachet. Fermentation and élevage take place in 350 litre barrels, with no bâtonnage, for 12 months before six months in stainless steel. Unfortunately the Batard was not able to be tasted when we visited due to the stage of élevage it was at. With reds we’ve tried to make wines very supple and fresh. gentle extraciton with different proportions of whole		
● Bourgogne	2023	2026
A very pretty raspberry scented Bourgogne, with crisp red fruit on the palate, and a satisfying crunch of tannin at heart. A great delivery of fruit, there’s plenty of wine here. This is in fact one third declassified Maranges villages, one third declassified Hautes Cotes de Beaune and one third Bourgogne from the Puligny commune. 40% whole bunch fermentation. Aged in 25% new oak barrels.		
● Maranges La Fussière, 1er Cru, Rouge	2023	2026
This is really very good, with a line of minerality here running through the crystalline red fruits and real tannic finesse. Wonderfully cleansing mineral notes over crisp cherry fruit. Cleansing and very complete. This excellent cuvee hails from 7 different parcels in La Fussière, with vines aged between 10 and 85 years old, energy coming from the former, complexity from the latter. Fermented with no whole bunches in 2021, and rearing is in 25% new oak barrels.		
● Santenay, Les Charmes, Rouge	2023	2027
Floral with tiny violets and rose – lovely ripe perfumed fruit, a fine sweetness and a lovely note of minerality to cleanse the finish. A vineyard on the Maranges side of the appellation, abutting Boutieres.		
● Santenay, Les Prarons, Rouge	2023	2027
Less intense but perhaps more refined than the Charmes, a focussed Santenay with a bracing line in red fruits and a firm stoniness that comes from the limestone soils. A haunting, lifted finish brings this to a fine end.		

JEAN NOËL-GAGNARD, CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

The continued move to a fresher style continues chez Gagnard, enhanced further in 2023 with the introduction of Diam Origin corks across the range. Furthermore, following tests in 2022, three large amphora fill one corner of Caroline’s diminutive cellar, while a number of inox tanks are also dotted around the place. Along with the traditional oak barrels, most wines are now composed from elements across these three ageing vessels. Having started harvest on 1st September Caroline has captured all the energy of the vintage in these 23s, a range with bright backbones of ripe acidity and extract. “For me 2022 is ice cream while 2023 is sorbet” Caroline explained, noting that they expressly harvested to guard freshness in the ‘23s. Picking early they had little sorting to do, and you can feel that in the clarity of fruit these wines display. A highly successful range of vibrant and charming Chassagnes.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Masures	2023	2026
Vinified half in cuve and half in barrel this has hugely alluring buttery citrus notes, a touch of lime leaf and very good energy on the finish; a salty wagging tail full of life. The purity and clarity of flavours feel like an evolution. This will make for very enjoyable drinking.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Chenevottes, 1er Cru	2023	2026
Lovely bright fruit with a little more leaning to white fruits and stone fruit rather than Masures’ citrus. Plenty of taut tension and salty energy across the mid-palate with supple stone fruit and pear on the finish. Harmony and balance. A vineyard located at the northern edge of the village, on the Saint-Aubin side towards the bottom of the hill. The slope is gentle but enough to ensure good drainage. The soil is light clay mixed with iron-rich pebbles. Organically farmed. Ageing for 18 months one third in steel, one third in barrel and one third in amphora.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Petits Clos, 1er Cru	2023	2027
Delicate aromas and fine features with some extract and structure, which gives a bit of bite and tension. Citrus fruit, rock salt and rock below that. Impressive freshness and precision. Morgeot is a big vineyard that has the propensity to make very full and sometimes dull and heavy wines, however Caroline’s parcel is from the higher part of the Morgeot on a slope where the wines show more finesse and distinction. This parcel is called Les Petits Clos, which has appeared on the label since the 2011 vintage. Bordering the Santenay road “Les Petits Clos” consists of white clay soil with limestone outcrops and has a good south-east exposure.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Caillerets, 1er Cru	2023	2027
The most backward wine in the cellar by some margin, with a reserved yet dense core of rich fruit, almond blossom, blanched cashew and white spice. Almost Grand Cru in dimension, patience will be required here for the weight and power of this to resolve. Situated at the southern end of the “en Caillerets” sector, Caroline’s vines are planted on a steep slope of shallow pebbly soils with a fine south-east exposure. The most precise, mineral and intense of Caroline Lestime’s Chassagnes from her oldest vines (over 60 years old.)		
○ Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	2023	2030
Truly wonderful definition on the nose, fine layers of aroma, while the palate has a certain bold opulence to it – a demonstrative and broad-shouldered sweep of flavour with touches of struck match alongside confit citrus and poached pears. Powerful yet controlled, and truly Grand Cru in scale and ambition, with a lovely finish and persistence. A vineyard plot on the Chassagne-Montrachet side, planted on brown limestone and clay soils with some broken stones in the upper part of the vineyard. A gentle slope results in good drainage. The exposure to the sun is an ideal south to south-east.		

JEAN NOËL-GAGNARD, CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Santenay, Clos de Tavannes, 1er Cru	2023	2026
Small wild strawberry fruits, supple, gentle and digeste with some mineral grip on the finish. This is luminous and ripe yet also delicate and quite gentle. One of Santenay’s most prestigious Premier Crus situated east of the village next to Chassagne-Montrachet. Rarely more than 100 cases of this fine red Burgundy are produced each year. Ageing is in used oak barriques.		



PAUL PILLOT, CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

It’s hard to describe what an enjoyable tasting this was – as good a range of whites as we saw all week, each rippling with excellent acidity, fine extract and clear vineyard characteristics. Thierry’s vision is laser like – with exceptional vineyards at his disposal and a knack for teasing out great nuance in his range of Chassanges, he’s established himself as a producer at the very top of the Burgundy hierarchy, with a growing army of fans to prove it. 2023 proved to be a quick harvest here, starting on the 31st August and finishing a mere five days later, despite harvesting only from 6am to 1pm each day. Admitting that deciding on a start date of harvest was a challenge this year, Thierry nevertheless conceded that he had probably got is spot on. These are unmissable white Burgundies.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne	2023	2025
Smells ambitious, with lovely oak and fruit integration. Lemon tart, fine smoke and a touch of salt. Impeccable definition for a Bourgogne. The fruit comes from the Chassagne and Remigny communes and ageing involves no new oak barrels.		
○ Saint-Aubin, Les Pitangerets, 1er Cru	2023	2025
This is a fabulous Pitangerets showing beautifully balance; on the one hand cool fruit and inner tension, but the flesh of ripe fruit and cool polished stones. Very charming and open already. Pitangerets is a cooler vineyard with slightly poorer soils than the Charmois producing firmer, more savoury wines.		
○ Saint-Aubin, Les Charmois, 1er Cru	2023	2025
More intense and less serene than Pitangerets at this early juncture, with a touch more ripeness, more acidity and more salt, but also more sweetness of fruit. One to drink when you’ve finished your last bottles of Pitangerets (which is not always the case). The soils are a little deeper here than in the Saint-Aubin Pitangerets and the vines better exposed, facing south. The wines tend to be riper, fruitier and more generous in their youth as a result.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet	2023	2027
Ripe, flowing and supple, with white fruit and salt and a fine sleek texture. This is cool yet generous, and ultra-pure throughout. Textbook and top notch Chassagne from two plots in the Morgeot sector. The soils here are a little deeper than Thierry’s higher 1er cru vineyards.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Masures	2023	2024
The Masures displays inviting notes of struck flint and roasted nut, with bright, keen citrus fruit and a fine mineral edge. Tension and poise. Exceptional villages. One of the great Chassagne village parcels, just below Champs Gain, but with a stonier soil type.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Clos St Jean, 1er Cru	2023	2027
Tasting like bottled cool sunshine, with sleek mineral notes, touches of blossom and cool blanched nuts. Sleek and fine boned, there’s a touch more clay in the soils of Clos St Jean which gives a calm gliding feeling to this. A Chassagne of shapely finesse.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Caillerets, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A racy high definition with a sense of sunshine focussed on rocks. Focussed and deep yet with a core of stone and crushed rock. There’s great power but also flesh notes of fine citrus and butter. Salt on finish adds to the focussed cleansing feel. A high, stony vineyard, one of the very best in Chassagne.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Grandes Ruchottes, 1er Cru	2023	2028
This is all crystalline minerals, where Cailleret’s tasted like rocks, this is all minerality. Less expressive, built around great tension and this long, streamlined shape. Patience required here, but wow does it feel very grown up. The Pillots have a small 0.26 hectares in this magnificent vineyard that yields very stony, concentrated, statuesque Chassagne, situated right next door to Caillerets.		

PAUL PILLOT, CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, La Grande Montagne, 1er Cru	2023	2027
The rocky notes here are exposed and mineral at once, a saline, rocky lime character that commands your attention. This is a towering peak to be scaled. Top drawer. From a tiny, rocky 0.26-hectare plot of vines in a little-known chalk clay vineyard next to La Romanée, one of the highest vineyards in Chassagne.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, La Romanée 1er Cru	2023	2029
More backward, but also clearly highly layered but long. This has such purity and such length. Multi-faceted and powerful yet utterly composed. To some extents, this feels like the elemental core of Chassagne. Terrific, but don’t rush to pull corks. The Domaine’s oldest vines lie in this vineyard, on average 75 years old, on stony soils with a little more clay content than the Grande Montagne, Grandes Ruchottes and Caillerets. Thierry’s parcel is situated at the very top of the vineyard where the soils are at their stoniest.		
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2026
Juicy red berry fruit on the nose with crisp crystalline fruit on the palate, crunchy tannins and real freshness. This is a joyous, pleasure giving, lifting Pinot. Fermented with 50% whole bunches, it hails from a parcel in Chassagne underneath the village. No new oak is used.		
● Santenay, Vieilles Vignes	2023	2027
Really lovely fruit delivery here with fine tannins coalescing around ripe yet elegant red hedgerow fruit. Crunchy yet full. 50% whole bunch, the fruit coming from vines situated adjacent to Les Prarons.		
● Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge, Clos St Jean, 1er Cru	2023	2029
One of the great hidden gems of the Cote d’Or, this is all class, with a complex perfume that offers up wonderfully ripe floral aromas over fine red fruit. Tender, elegant and full of transparency and lift on the palate. This is extremely smart and irresistible. Fermented with 50% whole bunches, Clos St Jean is a vineyard with a great reputation for making red wine. A stunning Clos with poorer soils than many of the other, more clay dominated vineyards in Chassagne such as Morgeot resulting in wines of greater finesse.		

ETIENNE SAUZET, PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

Sauzet winemaker Benoit Riffault took the decision to start the Sauzet harvest early, beginning on August 28th and wrapping up on September 5th. He was delighted he did, though admitted choosing the date was a challenge. “You never know what more you might get,” he smiled. But in the end, with sugars rising rapidly, Benoit was happy having his entire harvest safely into the winery when the heatwave arrived. Yields are good, if not massive. “Our yields were actually pretty similar to 2022,” Benoit told us. “We didn’t carry out green harvest, our old-vine plots just gave us a natural balance.” And it is perhaps the phrase “natural balance” that best defines these wines. Each a clear representation of its site, these are reference point Pulignys, offering elegant, flowing profiles and flavours that meld minerality with saltiness and cool fruits. This is a superb range of wines; a masterclass in the varied terroirs of Puligny-Montrachet seen through the lens of some very sensitive winemaking.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne Blanc, ‘La Tufera’	2023	
Impressive definition on the nose. There’s a sense of backlit freshness here with extract and salty citrus-rind fruit, along with plenty of persistence. A calm delivery but surprisingly intense and long. Very open and ready to go. An elegant Bourgogne that emanates from three parcels in the Puligny-Montrachet commune. Aged in used oak barrels and steel tanks.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet	2023	
A wonderfully translucent, transparent Puligny Villages that majors in all that you’d wish for from this appellation; elegant, silky, flowing fruit, the finest of textures and great purity. A knockout, extremely high-quality villages. A blend of seven parcels vinified separately then aged in 10% new oak, more than a third comes from Les Meix, one of the top Puligny lieux-dits.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, La Garenne, 1er Cru	2023	
Very slight smoky reduction notes, more as crushed stones than struck match, a subtle nuanced flintiness that precedes an attack that is broad and sleek, but tapers to a fine saltiness, with a touch of umami. More stones than fruit. Very smart. Aged in 10% new oak barrels. One of the estate’s and Puligny’s highest vineyards, planted on poor, stony soils.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Referts, 1er Cru	2023	
Excellent aromatic definition with fine, mineral citrus notes and a crystalline minerality, then on the palate a touch more energy than Garenne; a lemon-tart note, with lime leaf and sweet peach fruit. Silky and supple, with fine extract at its core. Very attractive, very pure and calm but with a lively sense of jostling energy. A brilliant Referts. The clay soils here resemble those in Bâtard and the wine has a similar capacity for ageing. From vines older than 50 years planted on heavier, more compact clay soils than Perrières and Garenne, the resultant wine is often therefore at the richer end of the spectrum.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Perrières, 1er Cru	2023	
Here the aromatics lean more to grapefruit and bitter lemon notes, with a core of fine stony extract that gives this a little more bite and structure than the Referts. Coiled and powerful with a core of corseted minerality. A well-drained vineyard situated next to Referts, but very different in style, with a similar clay content but more compact and scattered with small, rocky stones. The resulting wines are invariably more mineral than Referts.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Champs-Canet, 1er Cru	2023	
More ripeness here to the flavours with touches of singed lemon, grilled peach, beurre noisette and crème caramel. A sense of texture and gloss pervades this and gives a more supple, seductive, rich feel to the Champs Canet than anything that’s come before. Sun-kissed fruit with a glow and a ripeness that gives it more immediate volume and scale. Very long. A great Puligny vineyard situated mid-slope, above Combettes and next door to Meursault Perrières, planted on a well-balanced mix of clay and limestone soils. The vines average 50 years old.		

ETIENNE SAUZET, PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Puligny-Montrachet, La Truffière 2023	2023	
With a very tight-knit, salty profile on the nose, and a tight knap to the texture, this offers up flavours of yellow fruits and fine stone, and is all sophisticated, classy, poised intensity. With more discreet reserve than the Champs-Canet, this is a wine that majors on fine structure, tightly wound flavours, and serious length in a highly refined package. The smallest production of all the Sauzet cuvées, a tiny parcel in the south-western corner of Truffières Bas.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Combettes 1er Cru	2023	
A very fine nose, and a really salty intensity on the palate. A wine of intention and power, with tightly wound flavours amongst a highly saline minerality. Driving, powerful, long, with torque and depth in spades. Muscled, yet fleet of foot. A marvellous Combettes.		
Sauzet’s example of Combettes is one of the great premiers crus of Puligny, up there with Caillerets and Leflaive’s Pucelles. From two adjacent plots, one of 30-year-old vines, the other 85 years old, neighbouring Lafon’s vines in Meursault Charmes. A supremely well-exposed vineyard, mid-slope like Champs-Canet but with a little less limestone and more clay.		
○ Bienvenue-Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	2023	
Initially quite discreet, a wine to spend time with – what you might describe as a slow burner. Full-on finesse and seamlessness defines the palate, delivering layer upon layer of fine fruit and mineral detail, expanding through to the finish where the nascent aromatic complexity reveals itself in glimpses. Neither shouty nor demonstrative, but all the more compelling for that. High definition, high art. A truly beautiful Bienvenue. This is the domaine’s oldest vineyard, planted in 1936; a parcel that runs the length of the vineyard with more limestone than Sauzet’s Bâtard parcel.		
○ Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	2023	
Incredibly, both Bienvenue and Bâtard have almost identical analytical numbers, and yet they could not be more different. The beautiful mystery of terroir means Bâtard is a wine of muscle, depth and power, with tightly knit, dense flavours that are girded with structure and stones and spicy, deep mineral notes. A wine of scale and dimension and ambition. The plot sits directly above Bienvenue, though with a greater level of iron rich clay in the soils, giving a wine that is invariably more driven by power and density.		
○ Montrachet, Grand Cru	2023	
While Montrachet can often be a big wine in youth, Benoit is now keeping the barrels with full lees for a little longer than other wines in the range, in an attempt to lend extra freshness to the wine. It seems to be working, with a cool mintiness at the heart of this and the sense that this is a little more lifted, airy and high-toned than is the norm. A long, dancing finish seems to validate the theory. Embryonic, but seemingly full of joy and vivacity. A Montrachet on the Chassagne side of the vineyard, so technically a “Le Montrachet”, although Sauzet label this as “Montrachet.”		

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CHÂTEAU DE MEURSAULT, MEURSAULT

Emmanuel Escutanaire is a softly spoken winemaker who generally lets his whites speak for themselves, as well they can. Harvest here started on the 5th September for the reds and the 7th for the whites, with a healthy crop, in both size and condition, arriving into the winery. Choosing to crush a little harder than usual, to extract as much as possible from his Chardonnay skins, and then taking plenty of lees to barrel, but eschewing battonage, Emmanuel has crafted a range of wines with impressive structures and flowing fruit profiles. They are built in the classical Chateau de Meursault mould, with rich deep fruit, plenty of body, but also tapering finishes. An ever-reliable estate.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne Clos du Château	2023	2025
Ripe silky buttery salty driven richness. A bold, plump and hugely accessible White Burgundy with plenty of character and magnetism. Without a doubt one of the Signature wines of the estate, Clos du Chateau comes from an east facing Clos in the grounds of the Chateau. Top drawer Bourgogne, aged in15% new oak barrels for 12 months.		
○ Meursault, Limozin	2023	2026
Fine definition on the nose, then a softer than expected wash of fruit on the palate. Grapefruit and stone fruit notes to the fore, a juicy, fruit driven open knit Meursault that should drink well on release. An east facing clay-limestone vineyard just below Genevrieres. Aged in 20% new oak.		
○ Meursault, Clos des Grands Charrons	2023	2026
Fine definition on the nose with a touch of apple blossom alongside buttery pastry and fine lemon zest. Extract and structure at the heart of this bring freshness and zip. A fine mineral layer below the fruit. This has some body but also impressive intensity and drive. A very well-situated Monopole lieu dit from the mid-slope, on the same level as Perrières, that shows more intensity and precision than most Meursault villages. Aged for 15 months in 30% new oak.		
○ Bourgogne, Terroir d’Exception	2023	2026
Crisp and pixellated aromas that precede a mineral infused palate with stones and a linear cool drive. Salty, restrained, tightly wound fruit set amongst a very fine structure. This hails from a plot of 40-year-old vines between Albert Grivault’s Clos des Perrières and Perrières itself. A premier cru site if ever you saw one but for the fact that it was a quarry up until 1977, which has meant that it was never classed as such. Aged in 30% new oak.		
○ Meursault, Les Charmes Dessus, 1er Cru	2023	2027
This has ample weight and a texture to it, as you would hope and expect, though it is less expressive and more taut and tightly wound than the rest of the Meursaults in the range, with beurre noisette, toasted brown rice and sicilian lemon rind flavours that slowly unravel on the finish. This is going to need a couple of years to relax into itself. From four specific parcels vinified separately high up in the Charmes Dessus vineyard, just below Clos des Perrières and abutting the vines of Dominique Lafon, this represents a clear step up from the straight Charmes and is one of the estate’s flagship wines. Aged in 30% new oak.		
○ Meursault, Les Perrières, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A very precise, crystalline note, and waves of extract and grip on the palate. Similarly tightly wound to Charmes Dessus, but there’s a greater sense of energy and focussed power here, a point as opposed to a wash. Yellow fruit and stones on the finish. Superb. From two parcels within Perrières Dessus, just above their Bourgogne Terroir d’Exception, planted with 55-year-old and 45-year-old vines. Aged in 30% new oak.		

CHÂTEAU DE MEURSAULT, MEURSAULT

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Champs Canet, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A nose replete with a rush of golden minerals, on the palate refined, finessed, terrifically Puligny, with a flowing gliding quality and plenty of gentle power behind the starry façade. The keen edge of minerality cuts through the tight knit fruit on the finish. A cracker. From a 0.5ha parcel next door to Meursault Perrières.		
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2028
A Corton Charlemagne of spicy minerality, broad yet highly mineral, with touches of raw nut and a driving powerful finish. There’s a lot here but it’s packed tight at this juncture. This comes from a parcel of vines situated just below the Cross in Le Charlemagne sector.		
○ Beaune Grèves, Les Trois Journeaux, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Gorgeous, fresh, mineral soaked fruit with a sense of polished flagstone below. There’s class here, a sense of energy and detail as salty red fruits merge into notes of dried flower and briary hedgerow fruit. A one-hectare plot, brilliantly situated just below the Enfant Jesus vineyard.		





PIERRE GIRARDIN, MEURSAULT

Young, talented and much in demand, Pierre – Vincent Girardin is riding a wave of popularity at the moment. With an enviable collection of vineyards at his disposal and a knack for turning out intense, taut and mineral whites and high-toned floral reds, it is no surprise that people are paying attention. The philosophy here is a standardised approach to winemaking, to let each site speak. For whites that is exclusively double sized barrels, full lees taken to barrel, no battonage, then 12 months in barrel followed by 10 months in tank. The reds are entirely whole bunch fermented, handled very carefully in the vats with no punch downs or pump overs, and aged in very low to no toast barrels for up to 12 months. An advocate for much higher than average canopies – to speed photosynthesis and thus hasten ripening – he’s able to pick early; in 2023 he began his white harvest on 24th August, with just Leroy and Leflaive ahead of him. These are excellent wines, from reference point vineyards. Burgundy has a new star in its midst.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Eclat de Calcaire, Vin de France	2023	2025
An electric Bourgogne (bottled as a Vin de France), smoky, salty, lean and lively, with firm zippy acidity and a real brightness to the fruit. Followers of Pierre-Vincent’s wines will find his signatures all over this.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Clos de la Maltroie, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A flintiness on the nose, with a greater sense of depth and richness on the palate (than Les Chenes), crisp citrus fruit mingling with rocky, smoky notes, flecks of butter and ripe lemon below that gunflint note. Hugely attractive and impressive, yet also very much Chassagne at heart. New to the PVG stable in 2023, having taken a lease on a number of sites from Chateaux de Maltroie (along with Pierre Yves Collin Morey). An early ripening site that was picked first in 2023.		
○ Meursault, Narvaux	2023	2027
Salty and racy and very detailed, with a mineral finesse and energy and delicacy this is really good. A fine, laser like power, high-definition Meursault with seamless transition from attack to finish. Very long. From the splendid Gorge de Narvaux section of this excellent lieu dit, abutting the forest.		
○ Meursault, Les Perrières, 1er Cru	2023	2027
With Perrières, after Charmes, we return to a keen sense of crushed rock, racy, stony, almost monastic in its minerality. Laser like, long, lean and driving with great precision and an extremely tightly-knit, compact, yet long finish. Exceptional. From the Dessous part of the vineyard.		
○ Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	2023	2028
Large scale, but such definition, vibrancy, and detail. It may not actually be noticeably bigger than the top 1er Crus, but it has an even more pixellated sense of precision, and it grows, gaining in momentum, and building to a hugely long, true peacock’s tail of fruit and stone on the finish. Muscled yet lean. Sensational.		
● Pommard, Les Rugiens, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Typically Rugienesque notes of irony minerals and blood orange, with a backbone of firm tannin but a sleek fruit set above it. Plenty of drive and energy here. Very complete. Pierre Vincent’s parcels is part of the great Rugiens Bas, a contender for the finest vineyard in Pommard and a source of long-lived wines of real stature.		



GÉNOT-BOULANGER, MEURSAULT

Where to begin with Génom-Bou langer in 2023? For starters, I don’t think we tasted a more consistent range of excellence across both reds and whites this year. The overall quality at this domaine has undoubtedly been on the up-and-up in recent years, but to have achieved such consistency while harvesting at pace demonstrates not just skill, but also feel – not to mention the wherewithal to devote a great deal of resource to the harvest period. But then, in Guillaume Lavollée’s words, “Every step of the cycle had gone well prior to harvest.” Habitually operating two teams, one for whites and one for reds, Guillaume was able to mobilise a double team of pickers for the reds in the most crucial phase of the harvest. The results are clear to see in this range of wines that average a pretty perfect 12.5-13% ABV. His whites have extract, intensity, structure and genuine length; Guillaume took the decision to take slightly more lees to barrel than usual, and employed extremely light battonage only after malos were complete. The reds are translucent, elegant, refined and très Pinote. Sorting was exacting and demanding, but the results are wines of purity and brilliant fruit, full of ripe perfumes and medium bodies with the domaine’s typically light and delicate extractions lending themselves brilliantly to the charming expression of the vintage. A tour de force.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Nosroyes	2023	2026
Utterly Puligny in the seamless texture that guides this gently across the palate, a calm, gliding precision to the flavours leading to a fine and persistent finish. Cool citrus pulp and touches of fine beurre. A very fine Puligny village vineyard towards the top of the slope on the north side of the village, just underneath Les Perrières, here there is a predominance of limestone. Les Nosroyes is a well-drained vineyard that typically yields finely etched but ripe-fruited wines with a chalky finish.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, La Garenne, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A cool-fruited, neat yet precise Puligny with a firm– yet fine-boned structure that comes from the high altitude and poor soils of La Garenne. Poised, precise and beautifully symmetrical. A south-east facing vineyard, high up the hill just below the forest planted on white, rocky limestone soils with fossils in the subsoil, this is a cool and mineral terroir. Aged in 20% new oak for 12 months followed by 6 months in tank.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Folatières, 1er Cru	2023	2028
This smells superb, with molten minerals amongst rich yet crisp fruit, plus tons of dry extract and savoury non-fruit character that brings complexity to the salty, citrus-driven fruit. There’s an intensity here, a mouth-filling quality but also great inner tension and poise. Effortless power and drive. From a south-east facing plot called “au Chanriot” abutting Montrachet, in the south-east corner of Folatières, touching Cailleret and Pucelles. Here the soil is an even mix of limestone and marne clay. Aged in barrel for 12 months followed by 6 months in tank.		
○ Meursault, Clos du Cromin	2023	2026
A full yet crisp Meursault of great character with ripe stone fruit notes then a touch of salt and honey. Pretty delicious already, there’s a rich concentration at its core, but no lack of shape, driven by extract and a certain structural architecture. A real success. A vineyard that works particularly well in warm, dry vintages because of the clay-rich topsoil. 40cm down you hit the mother rock, adding a balancing sense of complexity to the naturally full, open-knit fruit that characterises this wine.		
○ Meursault, Les Meix Chavaux	2023	2026
A higher-acidity, more linear offering than the Clos du Cromin, with excellent energy and finishing intensity. Citrus-driven and cleansing Meursault that should flesh out with just a couple of years in bottle. With its north-east exposure and poor, sandy and stony soils, this is not your typical Meursault. Taut and mineral with an intensity coming from limestone terroir planted in 1950, this is typically a village Meursault of great class. Aged in 20% new oak for 12 months followed by six months in tank.		

GÉNOT-BOULANGER, MEURSAULT

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Meursault-Bouchères, 1er Cru	2023	2027
An extremely smart nose melds fruit and stones and smoke and crisp rock salt notes. This was the first vineyard to be picked, on September 4th, in line with the normal picking order. There’s a real sense of depth and completeness to this, with flesh and fine, polished minerality. A classy, grown-up and beautifully balanced Meursault with plenty of excitement waiting to unwind. An excellent vineyard, surrounded by Poruzots, Goutte d’Or and Genevrières, and the biggest appellation in the Génot-Bou langer holdings (only Roulot have a bigger parcel of Boucheres than them).		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Vergers, 1er Cru	2023	2026
A little smokier and less bodied than the Chenevottes, with more of a leaning to stones and salt. While the plots are adjacent, the soils here are more limestone-dominated, which gives a leaner attack and notes of fresh lemon, grapefruit oil and fresh verben a. The bite and grip of extract provides wonderful control. A fine east-facing vineyard with poor soils on the Saint-Aubin side of the village.		
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2028
Very fine oak integration here, with a natural sense of power and breadth that plays out more horizontally than the Pulignys tasted just before. Nutty citrus notes, with that cool mineral dimension that Marne often brings, and plenty of salt on the finish. Much more to come here. This is from a small parcel of 0.29ha right in the heart of “Le Charlemagne” that was planted in 1940, facing south-west. The soils here are marney limestone, shallow and with a stony top soil.		
● Mercurey, En Sazenay, 1er Cru	2023	2026
Translucent style Pinot Noir, with fine-boned fruit and a definite leaning to red berries and cherry. This is really rather sophisticated and a very complete proposition despite being just 12.5% abv. A cut above your average Mercurey. From a 1.81ha parcel situated at the top of a steep, east-facing slope. De-stalked and aged in oak barrels for 12 months followed by 6 months in tank.		
● Pommard, Vieilles Vignes	2023	2028
A combination of early-picked Cras, and later-picked Vignots and Chagnieres that offers beautifully pale and fine-boned fruit with touches of hedgerow berry alongside cherry and rosehip notes. There’s real finesse here. An extremely fine Pommard. A veritable old-vines cuvée split across three lieux dits – Cras, Vignot and Chanier e – half of the parcels were planted in the 1950s, the rest in the 1980s.		
● Pommard, Clos Blanc, 1er Cru	2023	2028
A remarkably tender Pommard with the most beautiful balance and delicacy, this is a caressing, refined wine that has plenty of stoniness from the chalk, but none of it firm, just polished and refreshing. A beauty. This comes from the northern sliver of Clos Blanc, adjacent to Grands Epenots. Half the plot is on white calcaire de Nantou soils, the other half on redder soils, similar to Grands Epenots.		

GÉNOT-BOULANGER, MEURSAULT

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Beaune, Les Grèves, 1er Cru	2023	2027
One of the more backward wines we tasted in the cellar, but you can see a similarly fine structure to the Clos Blanc, with perhaps a touch more tension and fine, sweet, briary berry fruit, then peach skin, and fine red strawberry notes. Such a great cuvee, and one that deserves more attention that it gets. Half of the Genot Grèves was uprooted in 2022, which means this is exclusively produced from their oldest vines, planted in the 1960s. Well exposed and well drained, an early-ripening plot that sits above L’Enfant Jesus. A mid-slope, south-east facing parcel planted on sandy clay and limestone soils spread over one hectare, one part planted in the 1960s, the remainder in the 1980s.		
● Corton, Les Combes, Grand Cru	2023	2029
This is layered and long and finely pitched, with a beautiful combination of sweet fruit and cool stoniness that sits at the heart of the wine. Grand Cru not in scale, but in its haunting persistence and high-pitched intensity. Impossible not to love the grace and flow of this. A parcel that sits close to Chapitre, facing south yet cooled by the Pernand combe. Relatively deep clay soils invariably produce a Corton of approachability and a certain plumpness.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2029
The elegant style of the Génot reds works very well here as notes of Griotte cherry and autumn raspberry meet sweet earth and a rich, broad minerality. A long, palate-staining finish promises much to come. A Clos Vougeot of refined elegance and harnessed power. A parcel planted in 1986 that comprises a 150-metre-long row of vines that passes over a range of soil types, more clay in the lower part and rockier limestone in the higher part.		

DE MONTILLE, VOLNAY

Brian Sieve was justly proud of his 2023 vintage when we visited in November 2024, explaining “Our white pHs are a little lower than last year, while our reds are almost identical, but in each colour the ‘23s have a sense of being crisper and fresher than their 2022 counterparts.” After an early June green harvest, picking started on the 28th August and lasted for 17 days, with a team of 70 Italian pickers harvesting only in the mornings. Using a little less whole bunch than usual, mainly due to a lack of space in the vats, and employing a little saignee on some of the reds, this is an excellent range of De Montille wines, in both colours, with characterful, fresh and nicely-structured reds, and extract-laden, cool-fruited whites. Alcohols top out at 13.2% across the board.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne, Blanc	2023	2026
Gentle cool citrus flavours, a sleek grapefruit scented Bourgogne which glows with charm – not big or impactful but not without a certain finishing persistence. A Bourgogne that hails exclusively from the commune of Puligny, two of the plots within Clos du Chateau, and the third further from the village..		
○ Beaune, Blanc, Les Aigrots, 1er Cru	2023	2026
Habitually the first vineyard to be picked, this has some oak toast alongside buttery citrus notes. Decent freshness and some innate tension keep this from feeling soft, though it just needs to absorb a little of its 20% new oak. The remaining elevage should do the trick.		
○ Meursault, Saint-Christophe	2023	2027
Hailing from two plots, the higher altitude Les Casses Tetes and the lower Les Petites Charrons, the 2023 St. Christophe smells like mountain herbs and sicilian lemons, with a lightly gripping palate and plenty of brisk citrus driven fruit on the palate. An athletic, tonic Meursault with lovely herbal inflections. Raised in a combination of demi-muid and barrique, of which just 20% was new oak.		
○ Meursault, Les Perrières, 1er Cru	2023	2027
Great definition on the nose of this Perrières, followed by an intense, serious, yet nimble palate of great focussed power. The focus here, unsurprisingly, is stones rather than fruit, with long crushed rock notes that linger long on the palate. Perrières by name...a wonderful wine that repays some concentration, revealing a little more depth with every sip. From the higher part of the Perrières vineyard, so particularly mineral even for Perrières. Raised in a combination of demi-muid and barrique, of which just 20% was new oak.		
○ Puligny-Montrachet, Les Caillerets, 1er Cru	2023	2027
The most backward of the whites initially, then hitting the palate with a really fine-boned character, a dancing steely core of concentration that provides this with a huge sense of kinetic energy. Fine stones, airy fruit, all saline, mouthwatering fruit with a fine grip and structure and a high toned ethereal feel to the finish. There’s more finesse here than in Perrières, but just as much length and persistence. A baby Chevalier in many respects. Caillerets is an exceptionally well-situated vineyard with Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet as neighbours. Only 20% of this is aged in new oak and the barrels are a mixture of barriques and larger demi-muid barrels to minimise their influence. The vines are 50 years old.		

DE MONTILLE, VOLNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2028
A very clear and well-defined nose. This has a real class to it, less starry-eyed than the caillerets, with more body and structure and architecture, but there’s also a real balance and purity here. There’s a finishing tension that gives this some real interest. From behind Pougets, a mid-slope, south, south-east facing vineyard of 35 years old, aged in a mixture of small barriques and larger demi-muid barrels to minimise oak influence.		
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2026
Offering up a fine succulent sweetness on the palate with fine grip and a herbal crunch to the crisp red fruit. A brisk Bourgogne of some interest. From two plots, the oldest of 80-100 year old vines, fermented with around 50% whole bunches.		
● Beaune, Les Sizies, 1er Cru	2023	2026
Impeccable pure cherry fruit, very open, easy, gentle and bright. A charming Sizies, with sleek polished red fruit and plenty of up-front appeal. A bottling that hails from 35 year old vines on clay soils, fermented with one third whole bunches and 10% new oak. Invariably designed to be broached young.		
● Beaune, Les Grèves, 1er Cru	2023	2027
Lightly smoky with complex savoury briary sweet mineral fruit and fine persistent tannins threaded throughout. Smart stuff, layered with fine complexity and notes of blood orange and irony minerality on the finish. Four distinct soil types feed into this cuvee, and the complexity and interest bear that out. Very good. From 65 year-old vines planted on more soils with more clay than the Domaine’s Beaune Sizies giving a denser wine. Fermented with 50% whole bunches and aged in 15% new oak.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Aux Thorey, 1er Cru	2023	2027
This sits at the sweeter-fruited end of the Nuits spectrum, with spicy tannins and concentrated fruit on the finish. Raspberry bon bon and sun-warmed strawberries complete the picture. A fruity, if a little simpler Aux Thorey this year, hailing from marne and clay soils, fermented with 60% whole bunches.		
● Pommard, Les Pézerolles, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A blend of two plots within Pezerolles, Les Plants and Le Clos, the former destemmed, the latter fermented whole bunch, owing to vine age. A relatively creamy, velvety offering this, with bittersweet fruit, fine gripping tannins. Aged with 30% new oak.		
● Volnay, Les Mitans, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Lightly smoky with darker fruits and a cool stony intensity. There’s a structure and tension to this, a tight-knit intensity that gives it the impression of being coiled, sprung-loaded. Full of dark cherry and mineral vitality but density and drive. Entirely whole bunch this year. De Montille’s vines in Mitans are 55-60 years old; they produce tiny (millerande) berries every year that are highly concentrated. The vineyard’s soils are light and shallow with a strong limestone content. The grapes and bunches ripen very well most years so this often is fermented with a lot of whole bunches.		

DE MONTILLE, VOLNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Volnay, Les Taillepieds, 1er Cru	2023	2028
This smells rather good, a stony, restrained nose that draws you into its rocky lair, with hints of red fruits, fine floral notes over a deeply mineral core. So very Taillepieds in its combination of fruit and stone. Serious stuff. An iconic De Montille cuvee, Taillepieds has gravelly topsoil over limestone resulting in tight-grained powerful wine. These are the domaine’s oldest Volnay vines at 70 years old. Fermented with two thirds whole bunch and 25% new oak.		
● Pommard, Les Rugiens-Bas, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Typically Rugiens-Bas on the palate with more structure and more complete tannic inclusion and interweaving than the Pezerolles. Darker-fruited, with touches of irony blood orange, its nigh on impossible to separate the fruit from structure here. 65% whole bunch fermentation and aged in 33% new oak. From the iron-rich “Bas” part of the vineyard considered the prime part of Rugiens. The vines are fifty-five years old.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2029
At our tasting the De Montille Clos Vougeot was all about earth and sweet mineral notes rather than fruit. Cool and earthy, with sparks of wild hedgerow fruit and a firm core of powerful tannins. There’s freshness here by way of structure, and while it isn’t showy, the overall balance here is excellent. A savoury, restrained very successful Clos Vougeot. Aged in 45% new oak and fermented with 30 percent whole bunches, this comes from a single parcel of vines on the Northern side of the vineyard, half way up from the road.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Malconsorts, 1er Cru	2023	2030
This has real sophistication and refinement, a lifted fresh and supple Malconsorts, with beautiful translucency to the flavours and a real sense of both delicacy and depth. With extremely fine melting tannins and a sense of calm and poise, this feels very at home with itself and offers much to look forward to in the future. Around 60% whole bunch with 50% new oak.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Malconsorts, Christianne, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Deeper and more sensual than the regular bottling, with the same flowing fluid line of tannins and a really deep and gorgeous fruit character. This is sumptuous and sleek with a wonderfully mineral character at heart. Darker in profile (than the regular Malconsorts) with salt flecks and a sense of sparking electricity on the finish. Picked on the same day as the Malconsorts. From a very special part of the Malconsorts vineyard, a parcel that is the other side of the road to the main Malconsorts block, surrounded by the original part of La Tache. Aged in a little more new oak than the classic Malconsorts.		





PRUNIER-BONHEUR, MEURSAULT

Pascal Prunier has the hands of a winemaker – always a telling sign of a vigneron who spends a lot of time in his vines. And what vines they are. Pascal is the fifth-generation winemaker to run this estate, and as such, it is an estate blessed with a huge proportion of old vines that have been tended by the same family for over a century. With humble appellations at his disposal, it’s this old vine material that sets the Prunier-Bonheur production apart, which Pascal vinifies without fuss in his cool Meursault cellars. The whites are crushed firmly to extract lots of material. After a very short settling the go to barrel with most of their lees and see no battonage. The reds see varying proportions of whole bunches, never enough to stick out. “I’m looking for terroir” Pascal states. And terroir he has, many of these punching well above their weight in terms of complexity and depth. Overall a range of surprisingly persistent, characterful

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Saint-Romain, La Combe Bazin	2023	2025
Clearly an appellation that in the right hands is benefitting from the warmer vintages, Pascal’s St Romain comes from 35-year-old vines on poor soils and offers up an impressive amount of material and depth for the appellation. Clear eyed and fresh with a sense of concentration through the mid-palate and a fresh, yet oak touched finish. Always a vineyard that provides plenty of acidity. A most impressive St Romain.		
○ Auxey-Duresses, Les Crais	2023	2026
Confit citrus and sun warmed chalk with gun flint notes and then fine mirabelle on the finish. An easy balance with a gentle attack and much purity throughout. Long too. Really smart. An excellent and singular Auxey Duresses vineyard that sits to the west of the village, on the way to St Romain. Despite facing due South, it sits in a cold combe that makes for a terroir that is almost two degrees colder than the village. The 50-60-year-old vines sit on very chalky soils, thus the name Les Crais.		
○ Auxey-Duresses, Vieilles Vignes	2023	2026
Quite a smart struck match note frames a combination of salt and fine, just ripe peach notes in this energetic, tear-drop shaped, old vine Auxey. Tastes a bit like a Meursault! Classy. A north-east facing vineyard of 70-year-old vines, on soils with more clay in them than found in Les Crais. This is right on the limit with Meursault.		
● Monthelie	2023	2027
A touch backward on the nose but that’s no bad thing at this early stage, while on the palate it’s all finesse and lifted red fruited delicacy. Pretty, very pretty, with salty, hedgerow, red fruits and rosehips. In many respects, this bears the hallmarks of a baby Volnay. From a selection of parcels on clay limestone soils, averaging 45-year-old vines, fermented with 10-15% whole bunch.		
● Auxey-Duresses, Les Duresses	2023	2029
A true wine of terroir, you can taste the limestone this is planted on, with sleek covering of silky red and black hedgerow fruit and a great sense of energy. Crushed minerals on the finish. The estate’s oldest vines, at 90-years-old, planted on sand and gravel over limestone, always a produce a complex and highly impressive Auxey-Duresses of real pedigree.		

MARQUIS D'ANGERVILLE, VOLNAY

While 2023 was a little larger than 2022, it was not as big here as in 1990, 1999, or 2000; a generous rather than bountiful crop. A heatwave arrived suddenly and the effects were rapid, so harvest was carried out promptly from the 4th September onwards, with potential alcohol levels ranging from 13.5 to 14. There are no changes to winemaking here, the fruit is all destalked and very little new oak is used for élevage. Guillaume d’Angerville’s only concession to the vintage is bottling the wines a little earlier than usual, to capture their youthful fruit – and this is something they have in abundance. There is a distinct charm and openness to these ‘23s, the fruit has a welcoming glow to it while a satisfying juiciness provides a balancing sense of freshness – but more pleasing still is how each vineyard is as clear and distinct as ever. Terroir triumphs over vintage, despite nature’s best attempts!

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Bourgogne, Blanc	2023	2025
A tremendous wine that offers all you could hope for in a Bourgogne. Lovely, expressive fruit, beautifully balanced, engaging and easy to enjoy and with a bit of something to it. Ripe Sicilian-lemon and herb fruit, a touch of butter and flesh with some good-quality dry extract giving this a bit of snap and energy. A tiny parcel of Bourgogne Chardonnay within the Volnay commune.		
○ Meursault Santenots, 1er Cru	2023	2027
As pretty as the Bourgogne is, this represents a clear step up – not only in ripeness but in refinement and sophistication. Silky and suave, cool white-fruit character with a riper, richer touch of Mirabelle. As spherical and creamy-textured as this is, there is a lovely poise and brightness. Smooth and stylish through to an extended, expansive finish.		
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2026
Smooth, fruity and appealingly juicy. Pure, uncomplicated Pinot notes of cherry and red berry, a damson note and a hint of herb. A stylish Bourgogne from the Volnay commune, with vines averaging 30 years.		
● Volnay	2023	2028
While the Bourgogne gives immediate pleasure, this Volnay will demand an extra year or two in bottle, with its extra grip and structure. Nonetheless it still offers the alluring juiciness that is a feature of this vintage, which plays a part, lending an open and fresh feel to counterbalance ripe Victoria plum fruit. From two plots within Volnay, Les Pluchots and Les Grands Champs, abutting the premiers-crus vineyards.		
● Volnay, Clos des Angles, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Fleshy and generous, this is rounded, silky-textured Volnay of body and charm. A curving shape and ripe, sweetly-scented damson-and-plum fruit make this one of the more instantly seductive Volnay 1er crus in the line-up. When the chance to purchase vines in this fabulous clos came up in 2006, Guillaume d’Angerville jumped at it, making it the domaine’s first vineyard expansion since 1906. The first vintage under its own label was 2008. The vineyard’s soil is deep but there is a gentle slope to ensure good drainage.		
● Volnay, Fremiet, 1er Cru	2023	2029
The compact muscularity and minerality of Fremiet and the luscious openness of the vintage make a very good marriage here. Dark hedgerow fruit notes of bullace and damson, plus a touch of earth rock and mineral add dimension to the wine without weighing it down too much – for there is plenty of joy and energy here too. A handsome, well-groomed Fremiet. This hails from a clay-dominated vineyard on the north side of the village, further up the hill from Clos des Angles, where the soil is less deep. The resulting wine is more structured and mineral.		

MARQUIS D'ANGERVILLE, VOLNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Volnay, Caillerets, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Such a distinctive vineyard character that consistently shines through, regardless of vintage. This ‘23 is no exception – lithe, silky and hauntingly refined, with a creamy, pure red-fruit character that echoes on the finish far longer than you expect. There is a persistence and intensity that belies this wine’s elegance. Situated on the south side of village, Caillerets’ steep, well-exposed slope and poor, stony soil make it one of the finest crus in the commune. Part of the blend is from vines planted in 1990, while another part is from 50-year-old vines bought by Guillaume in 2013.		
● Volnay, Taillepieds, 1er Cru	2023	2030
An altogether darker, more brooding proposition than the Caillerets. Intense, small dark-berry fruit, notes of bilberry and sloe with a crushed stone and mineral undertow. Velvety but gripping and driven. From a parcel in the high, southern part of the village. The slope here is very steep and well exposed, the soil is very white, poor and stony, giving wines that are racy and tightly packed in their youth and reward hugely given time.		
● Volnay, Champans, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Perennially true to type, and the ‘23 is no different – extrovert, charming and full of joy. The fruit is sumptuous and mouth-filling, the texture a soft caress on the palate, the fruit sweet but bright and fresh – centred on notes of wild red berry, plum and damson. Attractive and sensual but even-keeled. Highly accomplished. A big vineyard in the middle of prime premier-cru Volnay territory on the south side of the village below Taillepieds, well exposed to the south-east. The soil is redder here than higher up the slope. At the top of the vineyard the soil is very rocky but becomes deeper and more clay-influenced towards the bottom of the slope, giving some of the most complete Volnays that, despite ageing very well, can be extremely rewarding in youth.		
● Volnay, Clos des Ducs, 1er Cru, Monopol	2023	2030
Profound and brooding, earthy, dark hedgerow fruit framed by a solid structure. Whilst the dense-packed millefeuille of flavours will need time in bottle to unfurl, there is already a clear sense of detail and intricacy amid the more obvious power and strength of this wine. Robust yet refined, like a very deft and finely etched solid wood carving. The 52 ‘ouvrées’ or 2.15 hectares that this great clos spans measures exactly the same as it did in the early part of the 16th century, its earliest recorded mention. The poor soils and steep, well-drained slope of this limestone and marl vineyard tilts towards the south and south-east. The wines typically boast contrasting elegance and structure. Complex and harmonious, they have a great ageing capacity.		



DOMAINE DE LA COMMARAINES, POMMARD

The development of Domaine de la Commaraine continues apace, both in qualitative terms, but also with regards to the renovation of the buildings at the Clos in Pommard. Viticulture was carried out along usual strictures, with particular attention paid to crop management. Elevage will be slightly shorter than normal, to preserve the fresh open characters of the wines. Degrees were slightly lower than in 2022, while pHs were ever so slightly up. Tasting with Paul Krug is always enjoyable; he's a confident yet humble winemaker who is very much looking to the future. With every passing visit we hear more about their discoveries in the Clos, how they are ever better understanding the varied terroirs and subsoils of this great vineyard. In 2023 harvest started on the 5th with the whites, a day later for the reds, and required moderate sorting due to their efforts green harvesting. The Grand Vin is a shining example of top quality Pommard in excellent hands, while the cast of supporting vineyards that we have selected, increasingly make this estate a fully complete proposition. The only way is up.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Saint-Aubin, Les Murgers des Dents de Chien, 1er Cru	2023	2026
A sizeable 1.5ha holding in this top Saint-Aubin vineyard, though with a full third of their holdings currently uprooted, to be planted in 2026. Paul Krug favours a small amount of crushing and a gentle but very long pressing, his Champenois roots peeking through, so as to extract plenty of extract and material. This opens up with golden fruit, apricots and pastry, and perhaps its psychosomatic but also a touch of champagne like savoury yeastiness. Golden roasted butter notes on the finish, which is where all the intensity and structure currently reside. Expect this to firm up in bottling and offer lots of character for the appellation.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Roncières, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A fragrant Nuits with a tremendous sense of freshness and driving structure. There's grip and control and rigour to this, as you'd expect from a stony Nuits vineyard, and as a result the fruit is focussed and precise, from dark cherry to wild hedgerow to wildflower. Salt and fine earth touch the finish. A great shape, very good. A superb, steep vineyard with poor soils neighbouring Pruliers.		
● Pommard, Clos de la Commaraine, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Clos de la Commaraine brings together the two distinct soil types that are found across Pommard: one a redder high iron content soil, the other much whiter and more calcareous. These two soils span three distinct vineyard zones, which are then subdivided into 8 smaller plots. Each of these plots is approached as unique, from the cover crop decisions, to how much debudding, when to prune, which moons to follow, what kind of compost, how many pumpovers and so on. It's a bespoke micro vinification approach that allows the very best attributes of each plot to emerge. In 2023 this is born out with aplomb. A wine of gorgeous texture and salinity, with an energetic, mineral but also sumptuous and rich tapestry of fruit and fine stones. Starts off fine and lifted, then on the finish that red earth structure comes through. This is a grower, sleek and refined and seamlessly layered.		

JOSEPH DROUHIN, BEAUNE

Drouhin’s extensive range of wines always provides a good overview of a given vintage across their multitude of appellations. As a dedicated Biodynamic operation, yields were on average 30% below the maximum in each appellation, further decreased by Philippe Drouhin’s propensity for green harvesting. “We call him the golden scissor” Christophe Thomas chuckled. Harvested first, the whites in general lean towards the richer end of the spectrum, with bold ripe fruit and plenty of mouthfeel, while the reds display a supple suaveness with plenty of fruit density. Drouhin fans will find lots to love here.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Chablis, Les Clos, Grand Cru	2023	2028
Fruit forward with an almost tropical yellow fruit character. Textured and rich with dense fruit reverberating across the mid-palate and then this salty touch on the finish alongside touches of almond and something almost approaching a red fruit note. Grand Cru in dimension, though at this early stage, fruit is very much the dominant feature.		
○ Chassagne-Montrachet, Morgeot, Marquis de Laguiche, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A sleek, fresh, rather beautifully silky offering that offers up a typically broad sweep of flavours; sweet, peachy fruit with plenty of fine mineral line, gentle roasted nut notes, fresh butter and confit lemon. Another gorgeous Morgeot Laguiche, with a fine fresh persistent finish that brings it all to a neat finale. A prestigious and dependable bottling produced from start to finish by Drouhin, but the vines themselves have been owned by the Laguiche family since the French Revolution. Aged in less than a quarter new oak barriques.		
○ Beaune, Blanc, Clos des Mouches, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A bit less on the expressive fruit side than the Morgeot, with a sense of earthy complexity and notes of fresh almond and spice that lead to a rich, deep, ripe palate that runs from sun kissed confit lemon, to roasted nut and cinder toffee. Drouhin’s flagship vineyard, half of which is planted with Chardonnay and half to Pinot Noir. Situated mid-slope with a fine east and south-east exposure, producing intense, spicy, round wines. Ageing is for 15 months in 25% new oak barrels.		
○ Meursault	2023	2026
Of the three village bottlings we tasted Chez Drouhin the Meursault was by far and away our favourite of the three. Fruit was dominated by salt and stones in this demure and cleansing Meursault villages.		
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2028
Waves of polished, pristine yellow fruit set upon a honed marble type minerality. Sleek and seamless with good finishing olfactory reverb. This is impressive. All domaine fruit from a south-east facing plot called Les Languettes high up on the hill.		
○ Le Montrachet, Marquis de Laguiche, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Layered and indeed grand, as one would expect, though this is certainly not the weightiest example of Drouhin Montrachet we’ve encountered. But there’s no shortage of impact and intensity. Indeed this feels like a Montrachet that’s been to the gym and toned up, offering firm layers of salt, nut, confit citrus, smoke and warm spice. Long and persistent, as it should be. Refined power the order of the day here. The Laguiche Montrachet parcel is in the northern part, on the Puligny side bordering Puligny Caillerets.		

JOSEPH DROUHIN, BEAUNE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Beaune, Clos des Mouches, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Polished Christmas spice scented sweet fruit with a warm and enveloping feel to it, with gripping tannins that hold the fruit in check. An expressive, ripe, bold Clos des Mouches with some real tannic power, dark fruit and virile spice in the mid-palate, and plenty of creamy damson fruit on the finish. Drouhin’s flagship vineyard, half of which is planted with Chardonnay and half to Pinot Noir is situated mid-slope with a fine east and south-east exposure, producing intense, spicy, round wines. Ageing is for 15 months in 25% new oak barrels.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Petits Monts, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Heady with red fruited Vosne aromas before the palate takes off with lifted red fruits and a saline mineral inflection that comes alive on the mid-palate illuminating a burst of high toned, high-definition Petit Monts fruit. This has the high vineyard excitement one looks for with Petit Monts. Salty and energetic. A first-class vineyard, high up in Vosne overlooking Richebourg, adjacent to Cros Parantoux and Aux Reignots.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, 1er Cru	2023	2028
A spicy, herbal Chambolle that feels more backward than some others in this range. Nevertheless, the palate is silky and suave, with touches of earth and wild meadow herb, cracked coriander, wild hedgerow fruit and rosehip. A fine 1er Cru blend that comes from five high quality parcels; Les Combottes, Les Borniques, Les Haut Doix, Les Feusselottes, and Les Fuées.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Clos Prieur, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Cloves and sweet spice at first, with crystalline fruit below. On the palate this is vital, savoury, saline and high quality. If the élevage is a bit front and centre today, there’s plenty of brightness and lift beyond it, as confirmed by the persistent finish.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2031
A very well-situated Domaine-owned parcel of vines located on the north-eastern side, halfway up the vineyard from the route nationale.		
● Griotte-Chambertin, Grand Cru	2023	2031
From the smallest of the Gevrey Grand Crus comes a succulent and polished offering, with a firm stony dimension that makes the elegant fruit feel more vertical and less seductive than some others in the range. The rigour is enjoyable.		
● Chambertin, Clos de Bèze, Grand Cru	2023	2031
Where Griotte is upright and stony, this is driven by dancing sweet berry fruit, a nimble yet layered Grand Cru with a sense of ripe luminosity. Disarmingly charming and engaging, with a lively energy and a crumbly mineral dimension underpinning the fruit. Complexity will come in time, for now this is all about joy.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Amoureuses, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Aromatically lifted and expressive, albeit in a tighter wound package than the Beze, with tremendously fine-grained tannins, velvety fruit and a sense of classic sensuality. The texture here sets it apart, a wine of sheer velvet, and whispered length that veers into sweet earth and dark richness. Essential, and quite profound, with just a touch of whole bunch lift across the mid-palate. Mouth filling, three dimensional yet ethereal. Entirely from domaine fruit, from two parcels, one at the top by the road, the other further down the slope.		
● Musigny, Grand Cru	2023	2033
Less expressive than either Amoureuses or Bèze, with a darker fruit set and more mystery to it. There’s also more spice and a touch more tannic angle, around which coalesces sumptuous velvety textural fruit. This is clearly a slow burn Musigny, one that requires patience and needs time to relax into itself. For now it’s all about deep, sonorous flavours built out of bass and reverb.		

REMI ROLLIN, PERNAND-VERGELLESSES

Simon Rollin was on excellent form when we visited to taste his 2023s. Noting that his Chardonnay yield was big but not much bigger than in 2022, it was a huge Pinot Noir harvest that primarily contributed to this being the biggest vintage in the history of the estate. “Everything was ripe,” Simon remarked, with a shy smile. Potential degrees measured 12.5–13%, pretty textbook, following a season that saw huge amounts of green harvesting in the Pinots. When the time came to harvest, beginning on the 7th September, they took the decision to pick only in the mornings, to preserve freshness in both the grapes and the harvest team. A first for the estate. This remains one of the best value estates on the Cote d’Or, offering wines that are understated yet no less pleasurable for it. Expect rich but bright and salty whites, and reds that have all of the fruit of their 2022 siblings, but more crunch and tannic bite to keep them focussed and fresh.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Pernand-Vergelesses, Blanc	2023	2025
Nice precision on the nose. On the palate, a flattering fruit set with ample concentration to hold the vintage warmth. There’s a seam of freshness at the core of this that keeps the creamy, charming, polished fruit in check. Engaging and succulent. Vinified with just 10% new oak.		
○ Pernand-Vergelesses, Blanc, Sous Frétille, 1er Cru	2023	2026
There’s an extra level of sophistication and ambition to this, the oak a little more evident, with flashes of smoke and toast over rich citrus and salt. On the palate, however, this is more focused and tauter than the village bottling, with great intensity and drive. A great success and a Sous Frétille of real character and distinction that finishes with a hugely cleansing lick of salt. From three parcels within this fine, south-facing vineyard, perched at the top of a small hill adjacent to Corton. One of Burgundy’s lesser-known gems.		
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Complex and deep with sun-warmed ripe citrus skins and touches of earth and confit lemon pith. A deep voice that’s bathed in sunshine. Less out-and-out energy than the Sous Frétille, this is a more layered and thoughtful offering that needs time to unwind. From two fine parcels, one in the north-west facing En Charlemagne and the other in the south-facing Le Charlemagne, which can, incredibly, be harvested up to two weeks apart.		
● Pernand-Vergelesses, Rouge	2023	2026
Aged for nine months in used oak barrels, this is one of the great value reds of the region. In 2023 it’s all fine red berries with a crunchy, crisp mineral side to its personality; a fine bite that brings a lovely sense of freshness. This is Burgundy made to be enjoyed with simple food in happy company – the bottle will not last long.		
● Pernand-Vergelesses, Ile des Verglesses, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Fine flowing red fruits with a touch of peach and orange peel. Some complex earthy notes but they’re fine and well-integrated with the fruit. Fine-boned and very Pinot on the palate, mineral at its core with fine berry and floral fruit garlanding the supple tannins. Really lovely energy and momentum to this. A superb effort. The south-east facing Ile des Verglesses vineyard is composed of poor, very rocky soils and the resulting wine always has a firm mineral dimension with suave fruit above.		

TOLLOT BEAUT, CHOREY-LES-BEAUNE

For Nathalie Tollot, harvest date was everything in 2023. Guiding us through her cellars with precise harvest dates to hand, Nathalie explained that she was happy, despite it being an unusual year. “I think it’s a vintage you’ll drink before the 2022s. For us it’s a bit like 2018 but with more energy.” Ten days separated the first from last pickings at Tollot-Beaut, and the range of styles in the cellar is quite wide. If you appreciate fruit and density then the Bourgogne and Choreys will appeal, whereas for the finer end of the spectrum it’s Beaune Grèves and Savigny Lavières. Switching their normal harvest order in the face of the heat meant that the grand crus from the hill of Corton were picked earlier than usual, and the resulting wines are extremely impressive as a result – powerful, yet full of energy and vitality.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2027
Aromatic, fruit-driven with plenty of texture and a long, pulsing finish. Dense with extract and grip. Some patience will be required here. An east-facing plot right at the top of the hill, from vines planted in 1965 on very poor soils. Invariably a Corton Charlemagne of energy and racy precision. Aged in 60% new oak.		
● Bourgogne	2023	2025
One of the last wines to be harvested and as such, a Bourgogne with broad shoulders and plenty of presence. Hearty, ripe, dark fruit with plenty of warming spice and broad tannins. A large 2ha chunk of these vineyards used to be Chorey-les-Beaune before the appellation lines were redrawn. The vines are old and the yields low, resulting in excellent value Bourgogne.		
● Chorey-Lès-Beaune, Piece du Chapitre	2023	2027
Sweetly spiced with notes of crème de mure and mulberry on the nose, juicy black fruits and a concentrated core. Salty notes on the finish give a sense of momentum to the richness. From 70-year-old vines. Aged in a third new oak. Piece du Chapitre is a fine Chorey single parcel, a monopole of the Tollot-Beaut estate, that is influenced by the cool Pernand valley and as such, always one of the last to be harvested.		
● Savigny-Les-Beaune, Lavières, 1er Cru	2023	2027
A note of baking spice alongside sun-kissed red fruits, this is fruit-forward yet with a fine tannic backbone and a real sense of line. Less body and density than the Chorey. Still on the fruit but it’s all red fruit dotted with salt and flowers. Bags of charm. The soils of Lavières are shallow and sandy resulting in supple, elegant wines that are often very expressive in their youth.		
● Beaune, Grèves, 1er Cru	2023	2028
A Grèves of wonderful composure and textural sophistication, with plenty of salty, savoury umami and fruit; less immediately expressive than some of the other wines in the cellar, but also more composed and reserved and balanced. This has layers of salt and fine briary fruit. A great success. The Tollot-Beaut Grèves parcel is one of the oldest in the domaine, on fractured limestone, situated just below Bouchard’s famed Vigne de l’Enfant Jesus parcel. It’s an emblematic wine for the domaine, a parcel first bought by Nathalie and Paul Tollot’s great, great grandfather. The current vines were planted in 1968.		
● Aloxé-Corton, Les Fournières, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Bright, candied raspberry, with tons of fruit sweetness and a sense of brilliance to the fruit. Full of up-front appeal and ripe red fruit. This was harvested straight after the Beaunes at the start of the harvest cycle, so as to preserve freshness. Tollot-Beaut’s Fournières vines average 50 years old, planted on poor stony soils, and yield intense but velvety Aloxes.		
● Corton-Bressandes, Grand Cru	2023	2031
Wild dark fruits with a crisp, tannic, sweet spice and a sense of poise and sweet fruit. A very measured Bressandes that shows its stature on the long, driving finish. From two parcels which, combined, equal just one hectare, with the oldest vines planted in the 1950s. Nathalie’s Bressandes tends to yield refined wines of great finesse.		

CÔTE DE NUITS



“These are quite different from the 2021s, of course, but they similarly feel like a return to the good old days of Burgundy. They are more about length and depth, than scale and breadth”

FRANCOIS MORIAMEZ
DOMAINE J-F MUGNIER



JACQUES-FREDERIC MUGNIER, CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

We had a stunning tasting chez Mugnier in November 2024. The entire range felt detailed, glowing, and fine, with hugely animated finishes and plenty of transparency to the flavours. It was a year where they took a huge team to the vineyard come harvest, sorting stringently, discarding bunches, so that only the most perfect fruit graced the sorting tables. They started on the 7th, and harvested over almost three weeks, stopping periodically to ensure perfect ripeness in each plot. Degrees are half a point lower than in 2022s, and the wines feel wonderfully controlled and fresh. “These are quite different from the 2021s, of course, but they similarly feel like a return to the good old days of Burgundy. They are more about length and depth, than scale and breadth” Francois Moriamez mused. While the whole range was standout, it is Clos de la Maréchale that gets released in this offer, and it is exemplary – an emblematic monopole from a reference point Domaine. Don’t miss it.

● = Red ○ = White

Vintage Drink From

● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Clos de la Maréchale, 1er Cru

2023

2029

Being poured after a Musigny is never an easy job but this year’s Clos de la Maréchale handled the task admirably. It is an especially silky, fine boned Maréchale with a greater emphasis on red fruits than in recent years, and wonderful tannic finesse. Open hearted, with bags of charm, and a tiny touch of gripping Nuits structure towards the finish. Clear and luminous, a hugely attractive wine. At 9ha it is the largest monopole in the Cote d’Or, with an average vine age of 50 years old. Based in the Premeaux Prisse commune, where the wines are very structured, Clos de la Maréchale is built for ageing. Freddy Mugnier’s skill has been in taming the naturally tannic character of the wines without supressing any vineyard expression.



HENRI GOUGES

The ‘new’ style of Gouges wines has been in place for some years now, yet still it is satisfying to walk away from a tasting of their new vintage with a sense that the wheels of refinement continue to turn. Cousins Gregory and Antoine Gouges are clearly very much on the same page when it comes to seeking elegance in their wines, which they manage while retaining all the vineyard character you would hope for. In 2023, they found that despite the solar conditions, they were able to harvest their old vines at an average of 13 degrees potential alcohol, while retaining great freshness in the flavours. Malos happened quickly, and seeking to use as little sulphur during the élevage as possible, they’ll be bottling most things a month or two earlier than the norm, to harness all the vibrancy of the vintage. There’s much to enjoy here in 2023.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Nuits-Saint-Georges	2023	2028
Open knit, engaging, brambly fruit, with some plum too. A neat spine of ripe tannin provides shape and a touch of stony Nuits character cleanses the finish. Unlikely to take long to drink well, is almost approachable already, with bags of delicious backlit fruit and a juicy overall style. An open, gourmande, characterful Nuits that is a far cry from the firm old Gouges of yesteryear. A Nuits village that hails from eight plots across the Nuits commune with the South side of Nuits having the most influence on the blend.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Clos des Porrets, 1er Cru	2023	2028
In vats now. A peppery nose with black spice over rosehip and much more stoniness to the finish. This has a firmness at heart and a different type of fruit, less sweetness, more of a leaning to crushed stones. This is a real, if refined, Nuits St Georges, with a cool heart of stone, but a finishing impression of dried flowers and fine bramble fruits. Contrary to the village, this will take a bit of time to come round. A Gouges Monopole that sits just under Perrières, and is almost as stony. Facing full east, it is habitually one of the first sites to ripen.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Pruliers, 1er Cru	2023	2028
A deeper, darker set of fruit defines the Pruliers, with supple, sleek tannins, dark cherry notes, mulberry, but also surprising freshness. Very fine tannins threaded throughout. A parcel of 50-year-old vines close to Clos des Porrets that, like its neighbour, also produces classic mineral Nuits but with a touch more roundness. The soils are similar although in Pruliers the stone elements are a little more broken down.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Vaucrains, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Fine hedgerow fruits and pain d’épices, a more sophisticated structure, a weave of tannins that give a silky flow to the cool creamy fruit that is propelled across the palate. This has gravitas, but also a sense of easy seamless freshness. The firm, vertical character of Vaucrains is present, but currently subsumed by the sophisticated fruit forward feel to the wine. One of the great vineyards of Nuits, the Gouges old vines parcels in Vaucrains always produce very small berries, making for a very powerful, intense wine. The vineyard is influenced by its red stony clay soils and the cooling effect of the forest.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Saint-Georges, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Brimming with spicy red and black fruit notes on the nose. On the palate, a broader, more creamy, more hedonic approach than Vaucrains, layered with sweet minerals and ripe plummy notes. Layers of fruit and spice, with sweet ripe tannins and more ripe perfume than anything else in the range. A long fruit filled finish adds to the sense of dimension, scale and grandeur. The outstanding vineyard of Nuits, situated mid-slope and with a great balance of clay and limestone soils – many people believe it should be elevated to Grand Cru status.		

ROBERT CHEVILLON, NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES

Bertrand Chevillon was surprised, but ultimately delighted with the way his 2023s evolved in the cellar. Likening them to 2017, but with more matter, he was particularly happy with the combination of fruit and structure the wines display. Yields here averaged around 40hl/ha, the result of a typically rigorous de-budding programme early in the season, of having a high proportion of old vines, and a good deal of sorting come harvest. Picking began on the 11th September and was over within a week, a big haul of healthy grapes with which to fill the cellar. A range of big-hearted wines, with plenty of Nuits’ character across the range, each site clearly defined, but also very pleasing suppleness to the structures.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Passetoutgrains	2023	2025
Crunchy, bright and full of bittersweet cherry juice, orange peel and crisp plum. Just the thing for washing down a country terrine or other hearty fare. Plenty of wine here this year. An expressive blend of two-thirds Gamay and one-third Pinot Noir.		
● Bourgogne Rouge	2023	2026
A wave of crisp raspberry and black cherry fruit buoyed up with an impressive sense of vibrant freshness. A thoroughly juicy and moreish Bourgogne with clear-eyed fruit and a refreshing acid/tannin balance. Really rather good. A truly lovely Bourgogne that hails from a single parcel in Nuits.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Vieilles Vignes	2023	2028
A particularly expressive rendition of this sometimes dark-fruited Nuits villages, full of raspberry and plum fruit with fine supporting tannins and a touch of sweet toast. Lucid, more red-fruited than normal, and, overall, a very elegant expression. From multiple plots of 50 to 60-year-old vines, aged in 15% new oak.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Chaignots, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Creamy plump fruits with touches of ripe earth and sweet tannins. Still some way to go in élevage but there’s admirable fruit concentration and decent freshness in a dark-fruited, sumptuous yet typically silky Chaignots style. A Nuits premier-cru vineyard on the Vosne side of the appellation and thus usually one of the silkier and lighter wines of the Chevillon cellar.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Bousселots, 1er Cru	2023	2028
The richer Bousселots soils have imbued this with a ripe, sun-kissed, strawberry-and-summer-pudding feel, with greater tannic richness and depth. A bold and expressive Nuits 1er Cru. Like Chaignots, this is on the Vosne side of the appellation, but is an entirely different beast. hailing from richer soils.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Perrières, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Spiced and concentrated red-fruit aromas. Open and generous aromatically, with a firm spine of tannin and crushed rock bringing control. The typically strident minerality of the vineyard gives great focus to the fruit. This is no shrinking violet but there’s some definition to the fruit and a very long finish. Rather good, full of impact. From the poor stony soils of Perrières, this is a Nuits that often produces wines in the classic mould – robust, but streamlined and mineral.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Pruliers, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A gloriously fine yet firm Pruliers with floral notes, lovely energy and refined tannins. Salty, small-berried fruit and wonderful Pinosité. Displaying wonderful control and depth with great reserves of stony minerality, impressive freshness and firm, cleansing fruit. Impressive. One of Nuits’ unsung heroes, Les Pruliers is well situated with a gentle slope and a good mix of clay and stones, consistently producing very complete, structured, mineral wine in the typical Nuits mould.		

ROBERT CHEVILLON, NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Cailles, 1er Cru	2023	2030
A highly sophisticated Nuits offering that has greater creaminess and silkiness as well as more flesh and tannin than Pruliers, but not at the expense of finesse. The texture here is glorious, sleek and flowing, with driving length as the luxurious tannins unwind, releasing fruit as they go. Very complete. An exemplary, stony vineyard situated mid-slope next to Les St Georges, Chevillon’s is a fine parcel of 80-year-old vines, the oldest on the estate.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Vaucrains, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Aromatic splendour, with stones and mineral notes mingling with very pure fruit tones. Hugely compelling, with a very fine freshness to the fruit and all the mineral exactitude you would expect from Vaucrains. Long and fine, with persistent, tightly grained complexity. Seriously good Pinot Noir. One of the great vineyards of Nuits that often rivals Les St Georges, above which it sits directly, albeit in a more brooding and muscular style.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Saint-Georges, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Layers of complex fruit wash across the palate, a velvet wave shot through with shards of minerality. High-definition hedonism here, with more scale and grandeur than Cailles or Vaucrains. A mouth-filling, vinous, complex, broad wine of multi-dimensions. Powerful, yet sheathed in rich, caressing fruit. The great vineyard of Nuits Saint Georges, perfectly situated mid slope, that has the potential to be the region’s only grand cru.		

SYLVAIN CATHIARD, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

Sebastian Cathiard started harvesting his vineyards in the Côte d’Or on the 13th September, picked for four days then moved straight up the Hautes-Côtes for a further four days, with his whole crop coming in between 12 and 13.5% abv. Relying on a gap in the picking schedules between the Côte proper and the cooler Hautes-Côtes is no longer possible, such is the state of the changing climate. If things continue in this vein, hedging one’s bets with the higher altitude later ripening parcels of the Hautes-Côtes looks like quite a canny move. Indeed, Sebastian’s domaine is now over half comprised of these higher vineyards, all of which are vinified and aged at the Domaine in Vosne-Romanée. These new Cathiard holdings offer a more accessible taste of a great Domaine; the two single vineyards Chaumes and Dame Huguettes, both on high limestone soils, certainly have plenty to say this year.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Aligoté 24	2024	2026
A simple crisp and well balanced Aligoté, with a touch of creamy lime bon bon and confit grapefruit pith on the finish. Easy drinking with the right amount of edge to it. Fermented and aged in steel tank and bottled in the Spring following harvest, this is always released a year before the rest of the range.		
● Coteaux Bourguignons, Les Croix Blanches	2023	2026
An almost ‘apéritif’ style rouge with sweet crunchy fruit and easy tannic network. Creamy mid-weight fruit at heart and plenty of snap. A candidate for chilling. A co-fermented blend of 70% Pinot noir and 30% Gamay, situated between Vosne and Nuits.		
● Bourgogne Rouge	2023	2026
A creamy charming supple Bourgogne with plenty of velvety fruit defining the mid-palate. Supple and generous yet with cool berry fruit flavours. Open and inviting already. From vines situated between Vosne and Clos de Vougeot that are between 30 and 60 years old, aged in one-year-old oak barrels.		
● Hautes-Côtes de Nuits	2023	2027
Sweet, easy and velvety. Purrs rather than builds. This is supple and not hugely complex, rather a wine of easy drinking pleasure. From plots in the village of Villers-la-Faye up on the plateau, the vines here are planted on slightly deeper soils with more clay than Sebastian’s other Haut Côtes cuvees.		
● Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, Aux Chaumes	2023	2027
A more structured and controlled proposal, offering up impressively transparent flavours of sweet red fruit with notes of blood orange and tangerine. Charming with a little rigour too, helping to keep its shape through the finish. Planted on the plateau on poor limestone soils. The vines are planted north to south.		
● Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, Les Dames Huguettes	2023	2027
This is markedly more mineral and linear than Chaumes, with a keen edge and plenty of luminous energy to the pretty red fruits. Long, and impressive. A vineyard situated at the top of a slope above NSG whose rows are planted east to west, neighbouring Chaumes, with an even greater proportion of limestone in the soils.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin	2023	2028
Floral and sweet fruited and with a cool berry core – silky yet not without a core of Gevrey stone and grip. A wine of earthy depth with a little polish of Cathiard gloss. Hailing from a single parcel to the east of Gevrey.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges	2023	2028
Bright, brambly fruit with touches of sweet cherry and orange peel. Lots of freshness and energy here. The fruit for this cuvee comes from a parcel called Aux Athees, from the North side of Nuits, and the wine generally reveals more than a hint of the style of neighbouring Vosne.		

SYLVAIN CATHIARD, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée	2023	2028
Very often firmer than the Nuits, the Vosne this year is more seductive than usual, with notes of violets over creamy, ripe, yet cool fruit that’s silky and polished with a gripping keel of tannin. Habitually a Vosne showing distinct “Nuits” traits, though much less so in 2023. Aged in 50% new oak barrels originating from five parcels of vines aged between 30 and 60-years-old.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Clos de L’Orme	2023	2029
All Chambolle on the nose with pale, fine, red fruits and flowers, great expression, delicacy and translucency, which grows in richness on the finish. A slender start with a rich, glowing finale. From 70-year-old vines, that always yield small, concentrated “millerande” berries, situated just below the premier cru Les Plantes. The mother rock is close to the surface here adding a minerality and tension to the wine. Aged in 50% new oak.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, aux Thorey, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Brimming with small berry, dark fruits with a touch of Nuits rock and some sweet earth notes. A certain richness on the mid-palate gives a sumptuous feel before a mineral element takes over. A parcel of Nuits vines planted in 1953, situated on the Vosne side of the appellation. Au Thorey catches the cool breezes from the Combe and tends to darker fruits and more elegance than Sebastian’s Murgers.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Aux Murgers, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Less on the fruit and more on the mineral strength, with more prominent though silkier tannins than Aux Thorey and an innate sense of concentration and power, the result of a high proportion of millerande berries in the harvest this year. From the oldest vines on Cathiard’s estate, aged between 70 and 75-years-old, Murgers is a vineyard on the Vosne side of Nuits that produces full-flavoured wines similarly silky to those of its neighbouring commune.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Reignots, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Pale and translucent red fruits, with a touch of noix de coco that will resolve. High toned tannins, delicate crystalline fruit and plenty of crushed rock minerality. A cuvee from 26- year-old vines (planned 1997) planted on the traditional clay limestone soils of the area but with a sandier topsoil than neighbouring vineyards making it the best drained terroir on Cathiard’s estate. The roots can descend deep below the earth quickly and pick up trace mineral elements. Aged in 60% new oak.		
● Vosne-Romanée, En Orveaux, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Wonderfully fragrant and expressive Pinot aromas create a hugely charming aromatic profile, a fine, ripe perfume of Pinot, which is matched by real energy and finesse on the palate. Superb. A first rate but lesser known 70-year-old Vosne vineyard that sits in the cool Combe d’Orveaux on the Chambolle side of the appellation directly above Echézeaux, facing east, north-east. Aged in 50% new oak.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Suchots, 1er Cru	2023	2030
Huge amounts of fruit and sweet spice on the nose, with sun warmed red fruits and a sense of silky, flowing ripeness on the palate. No shrinking violet, this is a plump and rich Suchots with some real volume. A lower slope clay-influenced 50-year-old vineyard that produces voluptuous silky Vosnes.		
● Vosne-Romanée, aux Malconsorts, 1er Cru	2023	2033
A generous, gregarious Malconsorts, with layers of serious complexity and a fresh dark fruit character. Brighter and more powerful than the Suchots with more tannic rigour to it. Really persistent and long. Serious stuff. One of the top Vosne Premier Cru vineyards situated next door to the Boudots of Nuits Saint Georges, making wines that show a similar power but with a silky Vosne refinement. The vines are 45 years old.		
● Romanée-Saint-Vivant, Grand Cru	2023	2033
Rather shy from barrel, with tightly wrapped up flavours that give little away before culminating in a fine lifted finale. Indeed, that’s where the interest is at this stage, as red fruited finesse and elegant floral notes haunt the finish. Patience will be required here. The Cathiards own a small plot of just .17ha, positioned at the southern end of the vineyard.		

JEAN GRIVOT, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

“They are magnificent, these 2023s,” Etienne Grivot proudly announced halfway through our tasting. “Bon bons!” And bon bons and bons vins they truly are. Our old friend, Etienne’s daughter Mathilde, was pouring the wines and she explained that their biggest challenge in 2023 was managing yields. Having carried a green harvest in the summer, they observed the vines compensating with growth in the grapes, so they stopped dropping fruit, and instead relied on their sorting table to eliminate under-ripe bunches – removing between 12 and 21% of the yield depending on the cuvée. With a larger crop to ripen, harvest here started on the 12th September, with degrees ranging from 12.5% for the Bourgogne, up to a maximum of 13.4% for the grands crus. This was a wonderful tasting; the wines sleek and deep yet fresh, full of style and with clearly defined vineyard signatures.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2026
A broad and juicy Bourgogne full of character and fun, with a charming, supple and fruit-driven palate, sweet tannins and plump cherry fruit delivered in mouthcoating sweeps of flavour. An old-vine Bourgogne from the Vosne-Romanée commune.		
● Vosne-Romanée	2023	2027
A dark-fruited and salty Vosne, with lots of tannic finesse and a fine mineral structure. 20% of this cuvée comes from a parcel near Nuits-Saint-Georges called Aux Raviolles, which has white soils and brings the minerality and structure. From 12 different parcels spanning seven lieux-dits across the appellation.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, La Combe d’Orveaux	2023	2028
Much paler and redder-fruited tonally than the Vosne village, with sweet red-cherry fruit and raspberry coulis. A touch of Etienne’s bon bons here. On the palate this is open and caressing with very sleek tannins and a gentle, translucent feel to it. Very fine-boned at heart with a salty finish that gives resonance. A high-up vineyard influenced by the cooling effects of the Combe d’Orveaux.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Les Pruliers, 1er Cru	2023	2028
A dark-fruited and seductive Nuits with sweet spice notes and ripe, red-cherry accents. A touch of savoury, wild earth mingles with the sweet fruit, giving this a ying-yang character, while a string of fine yet firm tannin runs through the wine’s core. On the darker side, yet beautifully balanced. Les Pruliers, one of the unsung heroes of Nuits Saint Georges situated on the south side of the appellation, yields classic, complete Nuits that combines power, freshness, richness and minerality.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Aux Boudots, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Dark cherry and sweet spice. More on the pure fruit side than Pruliers, with breadth and structure and spice. Less open across the palate, with more in reserve, and a greater sense of drive and concentration. Serious, brooding, yet with impeccable poise and the gorgeous texture that recalls the great wines of its neighbouring appellation. Boudots is well situated next to Vosne-Romanée Malconsorts and produces some of the bigger, richer and broader styles of Nuits whilst keeping a silky texture.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Brûlées, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A south-facing terroir – one of the warmest in Vosne – producing voluptuous, fruit-rich wines. This was not available to be tasted when we visited.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Beaux Monts, 1er Cru	2023	2029
This has a mineral tang to it, a sleek and stony core which holds complex sweet and savoury fruit in suspension. Poised, balanced and very harmonious – a wine of beautiful équilibre and confidence. Gorgeous Pinot Noir. One of the cooler, stonier vineyards of Vosne producing fine, silky, mineral wines.		

JEAN GRIVOT, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Suchots, 1er Cru	2023	2028
The finest fresh framboise confiture signals the arrival of Suchots in the glass, an open-knit, boisterous nose of delectable red fruits with a sweet charm to them. Flowers arrive with air. Structurally this is as smooth and supple as they get, with an inner luminosity giving freshness. Pretty irresistible. A top-flight premier cru where the clay-dominant soils give typically smooth, voluptuous Vosne-Romanées.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Reignots, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A noble nose that’s moved beyond fruit to some sort of Pinot Noir essence – briar and berry and the land. And then on the palate, wonderful vibrancy, with crystalline fruit, salt and near invisible, melting tannins. This is electrifying. Such energy and life. Really takes things up a notch. Tops. Sadly, just a barrel and a half is made.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2030
Following on Grivot’s fabulous Reignots is no easy task, but this Clos Vougeot does the job admirably. Very supple and languorous, less electric than Reignots, but with more of a horizontal sweep to the very salty fruit and then sappy and savoury, spherical, clay-driven tannins. The texture is the key here. Clos de Vougeot from a single large parcel on clay soils over what Etienne describes as “Musigny” bedrock. A wine of classic scale, vigour and remarkable freshness.		
● Echézeaux, Grand Cru	2023	2030
Dark and full of exotic spice yet not without great energy and drive. There’s a mineral tension to this, yet it majors on elegance and finesse. Discreet, dark, mineral planes cut through the fruit, which require careful unpicking as they travel across the palate. Very long and detailed and layered. A rather fabulous Echézeaux from two prime plots, Les Rouges and Cruots.		
● Richebourg, Grand Cru	2023	2032
There’s a touch of exotic spice to this too, then this ultra fine palate, a millefeuille of flavours seamlessly stacked together. There’s so much in reserve here, yet the texture is ultra velvety. After a discreet start this has a gentle glowing length that goes on and on: this is where the Richebourg tea leaves can be read; a haunting persistence that promises wonder in years to come. The most ethereal expression of Richebourg we taste, and one of the finest grand-cru bottlings in all Burgundy.		

MÉO-CAMUZET, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

Jean-Nicholas Méo’s teams started their harvest on 5th September with Corton Rognet, and had originally planned to pause before leaning into their Côte de Nuits vineyards, but the heat prevented that. “It was a vintage where we had to adapt”, assistant winemaker Nacha Navarra told us. That meant rigorous sorting, a four-to-five-day cold soak, less pump-overs during fermentation than usual, cooler fermentation temperatures and a little bit of saignée on the higher yielding plots. All of which helped to preserve freshness in a range of wines that have slightly higher pH than in 2022, with slightly higher degrees of alcohol too. The results are highly successful, with classically stylish Méo-Camuzet sensibilities, accessible fruit, soft tannins and open, generous characters.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Hautes-Côtes-de-Nuits, Blanc, Clos Saint Philibert	2023	2025
A well-placed clos of poor soils sitting in the hills above Echézeaux, facing east/south-east. Fermented in barrel and then aged in a mixture of barrel and steel tank.		
● Vosne-Romanée	2023	2024
Showing a similarly sumptuous structure to the Chambolle, but simultaneously much higher toned and more on the purple/red fruit and floral register. A mineral-rich, tannic spine gives this control and a sense of vitality – flowing, focused and fresh. Lovely. A blend of two plots: 80% of the blend comes from the high-altitude, calcaire-and-limestone plot Les Barreaux, a vineyard not dissimilar to Aux Brûlées in character – all freshness and mineral spine; and 20% comes from Aux Communes, a low vineyard close to the village that always provides volume and density. Aged in half new barrels.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Feusselottes, 1er Cru, Méo-Camuzet Frère et Soeurs	2023	2029
Having lost some of their source fruit in 2023, this cuvée is now down in quantity by about 60%, though that does not appear to have altered the quality. Aromatic and fine-boned, with charming, lifted, floral flavours and a lovely sense of refinement and elegance. This is beguiling; not profound, but profoundly Chambolle.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Aux Boudots, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Rich, ripe, dark fruit and sweet spice. This is bold and sweetly structured with notes of black plum and dark black cherry; a sultry, sleek, succulent Nuits that plays to its strengths and is true to style. The vines were planted in the 1950s and 1960s, Méo-Camuzet have 1ha of vineyards in Boudots, which can be found on the Vosne side of the Nuits appellation, next door to Malconsorts. The argilo-calcaire soils here yield very silky and expressive wines of considerable breadth and force.		
● Nuits-Saint-Georges, Aux Murgers, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A vineyard on the northern (Vosne) side of the Nuits appellation that yields similarly silky wines to that of its neighbour. The vines were planted in 1965 and 1972 so produce intense, concentrated wines that need plenty of élevage in new oak barriques and then bottle age to reveal their complexity. Aged in 50% new oak barrels and destemmed.		

MÉO-CAMUZET, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Chaumes, 1er Cru	2023	2027
Juicy red-fruit compote with sweet spice and a more fulsome structure than the Boudots tasted before. Fully of sleek, gripping, talc-like tannins and a certain density that needs to unwind with time. A relatively rich and generous Vosne that comes from a vineyard with a good amount of clay in the soils, situated just below Malconsorts.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Brûlées, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Méo-Camuzet own a 0.5 ha plot on the Richebourg side of the vineyard that always produces wines of a certain full richness. This wine was not available to taste when we visited.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Près le Cellier, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Excellent brightness and definition on the nose. A satisfying grip to the tannins. A sweet berry character is met by a sweet earth note giving a lovely savoury/sweet interplay to the flavours. An energetic, vital and hugely engaging Clos de Vougeot that is held in place and given great dimension by the excellent tannic framework. Méo-Camuzet has brilliantly situated vines in Clos de Vougeot and in 2023 they have decided to produce two Clos Vougeot cuvees. Près le Cellier comes from one big parcel is just in front of the château at the north-west end of the vineyard. A third of the vines were planted in the 1920s, a third in the 1960s and the rest replanted 20-30 years ago. The wine can withstand a large proportion of new oak during its élevage in barriques, which in this case is 80%.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Le Passage, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Méo-Camuzet has brilliantly situated vines in Clos de Vougeot and in 2023 they have decided to produce two Clos Vougeot cuvees. The Grand Maupertuis cuvee amounts to just four barrels, hailing from a highly regarded sector of the vineyard, sitting just below Grands Echézeaux.		
● Echézeaux, Grand Cru	2023	2030
Due to changes in labelling law, this will no longer carry the Les Rouges du Bas name, but the source remains exactly the same 0.40 ha plot. Sophisticated, suave fruit that is all sleek polish, this combines dark fruits and red-berry notes and a sense of easy, effortless symmetry that continues through the long, haunting finish. Elegantly intense. From a parcel that produces some of the lowest yields on the Méo-Camuzet estate, these small berries produce intense wines. This is from one of the higher Echézeaux parcels in Les Rouges du Bas lieu dit, giving wines of finesse and pronounced acidity.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Au Cros Parantoux, 1er Cru	2023	2031
A mythical parcel with just two owners, made famous by the legend that was Henri Jayet. The wines of Cros Parantoux, hailing from poor, hard, rocky soils, are some of the most mineral in Vosne-Romanée. This wine was not available to taste when we visited.		
● Richebourg, Grand Cru	2023	2031
What texture! Utterly grown-up and sophisticated, with finely woven fruits that flow forth effortlessly. Long, haunting, floating length. Utterly pure and seamless and captivating, yet also somehow unshowy. An effortless Richebourg of incredible class. A 0.45 ha parcel, abutting the domaine’s Cros Parantoux parcel that tends to give more acidity than other Richebourgs. The oldest plantings date back to the 1950s.		

DOMAINE DU COMTE LIGER-BELAIR, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

The sort of stellar line-up we have come to expect from a domaine at the very top of its game, the 2023s here show the very best side of the vintage – silky textures, ripe fruits and a poised freshness combining in perfect harmony. Louis-Michel Liger-Belair considers harvest date and yields to be the two keys to success in ‘23. He pointed out that in the village of Vosne alone, vintage spanned over six weeks – starting on the 28th August and finishing as late as October – so you can only imagine the potential disparity in style and quality. Not here, though, for right across the range these consistently deliver stylish textures, bright, open fruit, and vineyard nuance. The potential crop was abundant and Louis-Michel remarked that green harvesting was important and crucially, had to be carried out in July. “August was too late, as all that happens is the sugar levels increase but the fruit ripeness does not,” he told us. “This was even more important in 2023 when a late heatwave concentrated the grapes, and therefore the sugars, but if the fruit was not ripe, you also concentrate the effect of the green tannins.” The other danger in this vintage, he added, was picking fruit that lacked freshness. Natural alcohols here span from 12.8 degrees to 13.5. Viticultural know-how and perfectly judged picking dates have resulted in the best range of reds we tasted in 2023 – they are jubilant, graceful and designed for pure pleasure.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Nuits Saint Georges, Blanc, Clos des Grandes Vignes	2023	2027
Impressive. A good, concentrated yellow and stone fruit core with a nice energy rippling through it. Touches of sea salt and dry extract offer a savoury counterpoint to the delicious, juicy, ripe fruit. A compelling and assured Nuits Blanc. A fabulous parcel of Nuits in the Premeaux-Prissey commune bought by Louis-Michel in 2012. The white, of which rarely more than four barrels are made, comes from the lower part of the clos and this is the one wine in his cellar that only gets a quarter new oak rather than the usual 100%.		
● Nuits Saint Georges, Les Lavières	2023	2028
Silky, Vosne-like fruit with a gentle hint of Nuits edge and drive, the Lavières 2023 is a real charmer and a more sensual and tactile rendition than the ‘22. This is all about texture, dark cherry and sloe fruits with a satin like feel and remarkable persistence. A Nuits that comes from the Vosne side of the appellation and it shows in the silky, round shape of the wine. A tiny amount of wine is made from this small parcel of 75-year-old vines, never more than two barrels.		
● Vosne-Romanée	2023	2028
Full of joie de vivre and energy, this is all about fruit, poise and elegance. The palate offers fresh juicy berry and plum, veering more towards redder, sweeter Victoria plum than dark fruit. While not as complex as some in the range, this gives plenty of pleasure nonetheless. Alluring, expressive and easy to love. A blend of 11 different parcels situated in the north, west and south of the appellation at varying altitudes. The vines range between 40-60 years old and are planted on a mixture of clay and limestone soils.		
● Vosne-Romanée, La Colombière	2023	2028
While more serious and bodied than the poised Vosne Villages, this does not lack for charm either. A punchier style of Vosne, a good level of complexity for a village wine, with full, crunchy, ripe sweet hedgerow and bullace fruit underpinned by a counterbalancing earthy undergrowth character that gives this wine grip and dimension. Juicy and fresh with a little more intensity and backbone than the Vosne Villages and as such will require a year or two longer in bottle. From a clay-dominated Vosne vineyard in the lower part of the appellation planted with vines aged between 70-90 years old.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Reas	2023	2028
Less spherical than the domaine’s other Vosne village, this is more focused on drive and energy – rippling with firm, mineral-infused, earthy wild fruits. Gripping and muscular with a great vibrancy and complexity. The finish is long and confident.		

DOMAINE DU COMTE LIGER-BELAIR, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée, Clos du Château, Monopole	2023	2028
As engaging and seductive as ever, floral rose and rosehip aromas precede an equally alluring palate that oozes silky damson and hedgerow berry fruit. Soft, sensual and full of charm. A monopole of the domaine whose slope and higher limestone content differs from its slightly flatter, clay-dominated neighbour, La Colombière. The wines are less powerful but more elegant as a result.		
● Nuits Saint Georges, Aux Cras, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Such a distinct personality and consistency of style regardless of vintage, Cras offers a noble and assured mix of Vosne’s refinement and Nuits’ mineral energy. One of the most stony and mineral wines of the cellar in 2023 – crispy, taut and focused with a toned power; notes of small, dark, velvety berries, crushed stones and plenty of rock salt. This has both nerve and style, quite a combination! A fine, mid-slope Nuits vineyard on the northern Vosne side of the commune, planted with 75-year-old vines on very poor, shallow, stony soils.		
● Nuits Saint Georges, Clos des Grandes Vignes, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A stellar Clos des Grandes Vignes that boasts a beguiling mix of the fulsome, fleshy, smooth fruit so typical of this cuvée with incredible intricacy and detail. Suave, spherical, full and refined, this offers lively yet voluptuous dark plum, bullace and cherry fruit that rolls gently across the palate to a long finish. A fabulous parcel of Nuits in the Premeaux-Prissey commune bought by Louis-Michel in 2012. The red all comes from the highest part of this monopole vineyard.		
● Vosne-Romanée, La Croix Rameau, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Simply gorgeous, and a step up even from the 2022. Silky but just the right amount of edge to give it life and energy. Finely-poised, penetrating, mineral-infused red-berry fruits. Floral, sensual and lifted, with a savoury undertow counterweighting the ethereal fruit. A fantastic hidden gem of a vineyard, this small parcel of premier cru is tucked away in the corner of Romanée St Vivant.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Malconsorts, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Another cuvée that has taken a leap ahead in quality versus the excellent 2022. This is an athlete rather than a boxer, that typical Malconsort power underpinning the wine but subtly so, the foreground replete with incredibly detailed, ripe red and dark cherry fruit, damson and Victoria plum. Such core strength yet so deft and stylish. New to the fold since Louis-Michel took on some of the Lamarche vineyards for the 2022 vintage, this cuvée emanates from two plots, one from the bottom and one from the top of the vineyard on the south side.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Petits Monts, 1er Cru	2023	2031
Darker and edgier than some of the other Vosnes, its lofty location revealing itself with a breezy, vibrant air to the small, dark-berry fruit. The fruit is focused and vibrant, pinned down by an intense stony minerality. Fine-boned, refreshing but serious. A stunning Vosne vineyard, high up on a steep slope with very poor, limestone-influenced soils.		

DOMAINE DU COMTE LIGER-BELAIR, VOSNE-ROMANÉE

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Reignots, 1er Cru	2023	2031
An absolutely stunning Reignots; a cuvée that has been consistently stellar over the last 5-10 years and the '23 is up there with the best of them. This is imbued with the charm and joy of the vintage, whilst offering the blinding brightness and crystal-clear transparency so typical of this vineyard of late. Cool, gliding, dark-berry fruit flows seamlessly but purposefully across the palate. Alpine-pure, seductive, long and tapering. Illuminating and memorable. The parcel is bordered on the east by the wall of La Romanée and climbs to more than 200 metres on the hill. The domaine's vines represent close to half of this premier cru and it is the only parcel that includes all the different types of soil going from the bottom to the top of the appellation. The soils here are not deep, rarely more than 20 to 25cm of earth lying on heavily fissured limestone. These fissures permit the roots to travel for more than 10 metres of depth in order to seek both water and nutritive elements.		
● Echézeaux, Grand Cru	2023	2031
As demonstrative, fragrant and instantly charming as we have come to expect from this wine, the '23 Echézeaux is replete with juicy, fresh, ripe red cherry and berry fruit. Lots of rose, wild strawberry, damson and herb drift across the palate effortlessly. Glorious. A blend of parcels in Cruots/Vigne Blanche and Champs Traversins that average 65 years old and now also includes the Clos St Denis plot that was originally farmed by Lamarche.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2031
For all of its telltale Clos de Vougeot volume and breadth, this boasts the most incredible detail. Gently expansive, palate-caressing flavours gradually envelop the palate. Translucent, bright red berry and cherry mixed with darker sweet damson and plum. Such stature yet with so much clarity and finesse. From an organically farmed vineyard of fifty-year-old vines.		
● Grands Echézeaux, Grand Cru	2023	2031
The sleeper of the cellar. Clear and refined but more taciturn and serious than the other wines. Gripping and muscled, but this is a toned strength. There is as much brightness and energy here as the other wines, but there is a brooding nature to the hedgerow fruit, rock and underbrush characteristics that demand time to come together.		
● La Romanée, Grand Cru	2023	2035
A very refined La Romanée indeed and, rather like the 2022, surprisingly seductive straightaway – though with perhaps an even juicier, more fragrant side to it than its predecessor. Glossy, stylish, small, wild dark-berry fruit. Such substance but conveyed in the most graceful way possible. Expansive and gradually building, retaining all its tremendous clarity and poise as it snowballs across the palate into a long, echoing finish. Spellbinding. A hallowed 0.84ha monopole, this is the jewel in the crown of Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair. The soil structure is complex, a mix of marl and red and yellow gravel over clay, silt and limestone. Unusually the vines, that average 50-years-old, are planted on a north-south axis, protecting them from sunburn.		

GEORGES ROUMIER, CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

Harvest for the Roumier team started on the 13th September and lasted for six days. Numerous green harvests throughout the season allowed them to manage yields, and yet this was still the biggest harvest Christophe Roumier can remember. Whole bunch usage always fluctuates per cuvée, hovering between the 50-80% mark, and gives a sense of florality and energy to the natural ripeness of Christophe's wines.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bourgogne	2023	2026
From two parcels in the Chambolle commune, this is bursting with juicy, ripe raspberry-and-cherry fruit. Polished in texture. A vin de flateur. Fermented with 50% whole bunches.		
● Chambolle-Musigny	2023	2028
Floral and crystalline, with lots of dried-flower aromas, touches of noble bitterness and sleek, fine tannins. More whole bunch character here (it was fermented with 70% whole bunches) but a gorgeous texture overall. From 12 parcels dotted across the appellation.		
● Morey St-Denis, Clos de la Bussière, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Very often at the darker end of the spectrum, there's a creamy summer-pudding note to this in '23 and a fine earthy minerality below. Abutting the commune of Chambolle, a walled Monopole that is very often the first of the Roumier vineyards to be harvested. Fermented with 50% whole bunches.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Combottes, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A powerful, intense, yet hard-to-read Combottes that was in a reductive state when we visited. Invariably one of the fastest ripening plots in the Roumier portfolio.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Cras, 1er Cru	2023	2030
A seam of fine minerals underpins the poised, pure fruit in Les Cras, a wine of cool, ripe fruit, great composure and a fine, salty, umami finish. There's plenty of power and structure here, matched to very fine, detailed fruit. Seriously good kit. The Roumier holding of Les Cras is the biggest, at 1.8ha. Along with Veroilles and Fuées, Cras is one of the higher Chambolle vineyards and has very poor, stony soils that produce, racy, reserved wines that blossom with age. Fermented with 65% whole bunches.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Amoureuses, 1er Cru	2023	2032
Strikingly floral, with peony, lily and rose – flowers galore, before the very small-berried, fine fruits of the palate. This is pure Amoureuses; beauty, finesse, delicacy and length. The Roumier plot is 0.4ha, from the high part of the vineyard next to Musigny. One of the great vineyards of the Côtes de Nuits, renowned for producing wines with otherworldly harmony and grace.		
● Bonnes-Mares, Grand Cru	2023	2032
Also cool like Amoureuses, but darker too, with a sense of mysterious depth and a tight core of savoury minerals. Power and control are the dominant impressions here, but also a sense of cool but impressive freshness. Comprised of 6 plots, the vines all sit within the Chambolle commune on the border of Morey next to the vines of Bruno Clair. The plots are planted on the white marl soils (55%) which dominate and influence the style of the final blend more than the 45% on redder soils. Two parcels planted on marne blanche soils were added in 2016, amounting to 0.5ha, which means this cuvée has become even finer.		

GHISLAINE BARTHOD, CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

Ghislaine Barthod was all smiles when she greeted us at her Chambolle domaine in November. This is her 40th vintage at the domaine, and though she has now fully handed over to her son Clement, she’s still on hand during harvest and very much an experienced point of view in the cellar. “A consultant yes” she laughed, “but a free one!”. Harvest began here on the 9th September and lasted for ten days, with potential alcohols in the 12-13.5% range. As usual, everything was destemmed. A very severe green harvest in July and August saw the Barthod team drop 30-40% of the harvest, and yet still their yields averaged around 42hl/ha. In the cellar very little new oak is employed, and increasingly it is of 500 & 1500-lt gauge. The resulting range shows off all the typical Barthod purity and luminosity fans admire. With great vineyard definition, supple tannic frameworks and what Ghislaine aptly described as a “mouthwatering” quality, there’s lots to love here.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2026
A fine-boned and sweet-fruited Bourgogne with a touch of sappy edge giving shape. A light dusting of smoky oak comes from the new 1500lt foudres that now constitute a part of the elevage. Midweight across the palate with silky flowing structure and touch of orange peel on the finish. From vines in the Chambolle commune aged in combination of oak barrels and foudres.		
● Chambolle-Musigny	2023	2027
Translucent supple fruit that’s mid-weight with crisp red currant and more sensual cherry notes. This is all Chambolle, with floral herbal elements coming through with air. Supple and luminous. A very charming villages, the result of a blend of 13 parcels aged in large barrels and new (in 2023) 1500-lt foudres		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Gruenchers, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Lovely high definition yet sweet deep fruit to this Gruenchers (pron: GRU-un-shay). There’s good concentration, with some darker earthier notes that play a lovely balancing act with the fruit. Touches of bullace and black raspberry born on silky tannins and pepped up with a touch of salinity. A poised, symmetrical flowing Chambolle that offers up floral notes on the finish. Tops. A vineyard with relatively poor soils, situated just below Fuées. The vines are now 60 years old. Ghislaine was fortunate enough to buy this vineyard from Pousse d’Or in 2009.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Charmes, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Floral charming and red fruited on the nose, with an undertow of salty fruit that leans to red currant and herb on the palate. Full compared to the Gruenchers, with a more robust fruit concentration. Often one of the most immediate, open wines in the cellar. Charmes is very distinct from the Cras, Véroilles or Fuées in being one of the lower Chambolle vineyards. One of the earliest of Barthod’s vineyard parcels to ripen, its wines are always very flamboyant and full.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Véroilles, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Flowers and crushed stones signify the compact stony soils of the vineyard, and that mineral intensity carries through into the palate. This is a typically tightly wound Véroilles, with a sense of nerve and austerity to it for now that suggests a slower evolution than some others in this range. As the fine red fruits that haunt the finish release into the stones this should become only more beautiful. This is one of Chambolle’s higher Crus sitting adjacent to Bonnes-Mares. It also has denser soils than its neighbouring Chambolle vineyards, often producing very intense, mineral but powerful and compact wines, rather like Bonnes-Mares in style.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Cras, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Darker fruit on the nose, touches of mint and sweet spice too. This is the darker-toned and more muscular answer to Véroilles with earth and cacao nib and black cherry notes that swirl around a present, finely woven structure that is powerfully present yet almost invisible. One of Barthod’s higher Chambolle vineyard parcels where the soil is very white and stony, strongly influenced by chalk and limestone, this is naturally very fresh lifting and mineral, if often a little reserved in its youth.		

GHISLAINE BARTHOD, CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Fuées, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Even at this early juncture this has a beautiful nose that runs from ripe red cherry fruit to flowers, fresh and dried, to the tang of irony minerals. Layers and intrigue define this Fuées. On the palate a velvety attack has both flow and depth to it. Very complete and with plenty of persistence. Long finish. Very smart indeed. One of Chambolle’s highest Premier Crus vineyards, Ghislaine’s parcel is over 75 years old and produces intense, deeply complex and very refined wines. Rocky stony soils with a high iron content.		



ROBERT GROFFIER, MOREY-SAINT-DENIS

As ever, our November tasting with Nicholas Groffier took place in the tank room. Since 2006, Nicholas has decided against a second winter in barrel for his wines, preferring to assemble them ready for bottling before Christmas. It’s not always the easiest time to decode the wines, and they can often be a little more reticent to show their charms than their peers at the same moment. And yet the one element that is never in any doubt is their energy. With plenty of in-bottle examples to prove the method works, it’s increasingly obvious that this technique allows the Groffier parcels, some of which have been in the family for over two centuries, the maximum room to shine. And shine they do. With sensational holdings in exceptional vineyards – many of which amount to single plots of around a hectare – and a tendency to prune late, the Groffiers have been able to maintain high average vine age across their holdings. In the detail-oriented world of Burgundy, these holdings – not just the vineyards themselves, but their plots within them –are the things that move this domaine from the very good to the truly great. As evidenced by these 2023s, this is a domaine whose output is the equal of just about anything being made in Burgundy today and I think it’s fair to say that we can now count Nicolas Groffier as one of the region’s great vignerons.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bourgogne, Passetoutgrain	2023	2026
Bright, juicy, crunchy, bittersweet aromas with lovely acids and plenty of ripe fruit on the palate. Fully destemmed. Lovely! A blend of a maximum 25% Gamay and 75% Pinot Noir aged in used oak barrels only.		
● Bourgogne, Rouge	2023	2027
Always a serious Bourgogne, this offers up floral, ripe, red fruits, with plenty of acid freshness and pep, and a bold, spherical, mouth-filling fruit set. A wine of vitality, that with just a few years in bottle will make for pretty serious drinking. Two-thirds of this comes from the Vougeot commune and one-third Morey-St-Denis. De-stalked and aged in one- and two-year-old barrels.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Les Seuvrées	2023	2028
A beautifully clear-eyed Gevrey where savoury nuance mingles with sweet spice and bright berry fruit. Excellent energy defines this, with powdered, rock-dusted tannins, pert dark fruit and a fine gripping minerality on the palate. A fine Gevrey village vineyard situated just below Mazoyères on the border with Morey-St-Denis. Fermented with 100% whole bunches and aged in used oak barrels only.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Hauts Doix, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Very fine, high-toned red fruits explode in this elemental, energetic buzz of a Chambolle. It’s a mere baby, but already it is full of flow and laser-like impact, the core of bright salty fruit refusing to sit still, and garlanded by floating floral elements and complex minerals. Weightless intensity, a classic Haut Doix. A little-known but wonderful parcel of 70-year-old vines within Amoureuses that faces east. The poor soils and hard limestone always give a wine of perfume and minerality.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Sentiers, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A favourite vineyard of Nicolas’, Sentiers always takes a little more time to reveal itself, but it is invariably worth the wait. As you’d expect from the richer soils, there’s more fruit density here, but also a counteracting salty sweet ping to the fruit, a very bright yet deep and meaningful fruit profile seamlessly interwoven with firm ripe tannins. Hugely stylish, with a certain sashay to it that suggests great things to come. A parcel of 80-year-old vines situated below Bonnes-Mares planted on iron-rich clay soils giving full, structured wines, not dissimilar to Bonnes-Mares in style.		

ROBERT GROFFIER, MOREY-SAINT-DENIS

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Amoureuses, La Grâce des Argiles, 1er Cru	2023	2033
Gorgeous fresh rose and sweet berry notes float from the glass in this elegant, refined, pure silk Amoureuses. There’s not a hard edge in sight and yet the salty touches seem to bring incredible definition and detail to the flavours. So very Amoureuses. So very Groffier. An iconic cuvée and a flowing beauty that almost defies description.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Amoureuses, La Délicatesse des Sables, 1er Cru	2023	2033
Where La Grâce flows, this is all about pretty, delicate detail – extraordinary definition as pixellated fruits dance across the palate, full of complex information in which to delight. Lifted, erudite and intellectually stimulating – if La Grâce goes straight to the heart, this is a wine to stimulate the brain. A stunner.		
● Bonnes-Mares, Grand Cru	2023	2033
Nicholas’ Bonnes-Mares very often upends perceived notions of what Bonnes-Mares could/should/might represent, with more of a leaning to tenderness and charm than power. Here there’s the most essential nose, neither overtly dominated by fruit, mineral or spice, just a fusion of so much that makes Pinot Noir so beguiling. Ultra sleek tannins set this off across the palate with a real sense of kinetic energy and flow. With a rock-salt-infused yet beautifully long and haunting finish, this is a such a civilised, sophisticated wonder of a Bonnes-Mares. From an excellent 1ha parcel of 80-year-old vines situated between Roumier and Dujac, straddling both red and white soil types.		
● Chambertin, Clos de Bèze, Grand Cru	2023	2035
This has a very sophisticated attack, fine seamless fruit that is both reserved and intense, with a very gently handled power, a sense of poise and symmetry that is impeccable. I love the briary hedgerow fruit that’s so savoury and so masculine yet also so finely structured below. There’s more in reserve here than with any of the previous wines. Burgundian nobility in a bottle. Patience, patience. From a 110-year-old parcel of vines that spans the entire slope from east to west. Being a small cuvée, it is aged exclusively in new wooden barrels.		

DROUHIN-LAROZE, GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

Having carried out the usual level of green harvesting, the Drouhins still found it necessary to discard almost 20% of their production in the vineyards, prior to the fruit getting to the sorting table. Starting with Clos Vougeot, before moving to the other Grands Crus, this was an 11-day harvest, marginally longer than usual owing to the volume of grapes to process, despite 60 pickers out at any one time. “You had to feel it this year. We went earlier than we’d anticipated, to keep the degrees low and to maintain freshness”, Caroline Drouhin told us as we tasted their excellent range. Having worked hard in the winery to get the grapes cool upon arrival, they were able to do a regular cool maceration and ferment when the moment suited them. It worked; this was a hugely pleasing tasting. One can expect high levels of enjoyment here in 2023, with fine lines, polished fruit and plenty of well-heeled character to each of the wines.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Dix Climats	2023	2027
A markedly floral, fresh nose with briary Gevrey fruit that heralds a pleasing combination of silky, pure fruit and light spice and also a fine tannic spine. A joyous Gevrey, with good energy and a snappy little edge of Gevrey minerality. The translucency gives this an especially pleasing feel. A blend of 10 village parcels, fermented with 30% whole bunches and aged in 40% new oak of light toast.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin, En Champs	2023	2027
Beautifully briary and umami driven flavours, with cool dark fruit, touches of earth and minerals below, and a fine touch of salty, dark fruit and orange peel on the finish. A fine, cool village vineyard situated on the northern side of Gevrey. Fermented with 20% whole bunches and aged in 40% new oak.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Au Closeau	2023	2027
A wonderful, beguiling perfume of crushed rocks and fine lacy fruit mirrors the palate, which is not about weight and density at all, instead all high toned floral sweet small berry and rosehip hedgerow fruit. Delicate, yet energetic to. Pure joy. Au Closeau benefits from having very deep soils with water reserves. Fermented with 30% whole bunches and aged in 40% new oak.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Lavaut St. Jacques, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Fine dark fruits and stones on the nose. On the palate there’s a creamy attack, great ripeness to the fruit and a seductive, sleek flowing texture. Dark ripe fruit with controlling salt on the finish. Always a reasonably dense, dark, deep wine due to the age of the vines, and their positioning in the cool airstream of the combe which serves to thicken the skins and brings a cool concentration to the final wine. An excellent 1er Cru, one of the appellation’s higher, cooler vineyards next to Clos-St.-Jacques. Fully destemmed and aged in 40% new oak.		
● Chapelle-Chambertin, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Polished, floral red berried fruit here, lots of it, with great flowing energy and a sense of vibrancy, finishing on flowers and red fruits. The definition on the nose here is fabulous, with a very fine intensity at its core, a burst of fine fruit before a hauntingly precise finish. Fermented with 15% whole bunches and aged in 75% new oak of medium toast.		
● Latricières-Chambertin, Grand Cru	2023	2029
Like Lavaut, Latricières receives the cooling winds that funnel through a small Combe, and in ’23 the result is a wine of supple, silky depth, with ripe red fruit at its core, a firm backbone of stony minerality, and a chiffon covering of deep and flowing fruit and salt. One of Gevrey’s great Grand Crus, the Drouhin-Laroze parcel is majorly influenced by the surrounding forest, which helps to offset the warm, stony soils. Fermented with 15% whole bunches and aged in 75% new oak. Latricières is a stonier and windier terroir than the other Grands Crus of Gevrey.		

DROUHIN-LAROZE, GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bonnes Mares, Grand Cru	2023	2030
A really gorgeous combination of texture and energy here, with a fine and even keeled balance and a good sense of energy and definition. Lifted, with a core of minerals and then fine elegant briary fruit on the finish. From 1.5HA planted on mainly white soils on the Chambolle		
● Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2030
Dark, spicy and virile with gripping vertical tannins and notes of mulberry, pepper and wild plum. There’s freshness here but also plenty of deep fruit, rich minerality and spice. Impressive drive and depth here, a wine of torque and lean muscle. The first of their vineyards to be harvested in ’23. Always entirely destemmed, The domaine has one hectare of vines, spread over two lieu-dits in the north-western corner of the vineyard, “Plante l’Abbé” and “Quartier de Marei Haut”, in the sector called “des Papes” – owing to the fact that the produce from this sector was traditionally reserved for the Popes of Avignon.		
● Chambertin, Clos de Bèze, Grand Cru	2023	2032
Handsome nose – it’s neither red nor black, sweet nor savoury. Briary and finely pitched with a fine firm core of tannin at heart. Poised, if a little closed, but also confident with a savoury mineral finish and salty, red berry notes on the finish. Clearly extremely good, but unsurprisingly, needing some time to play all its cards. From a one-and-a-half-hectare parcel of almost 70-year-old vines. Fermented with 15% whole bunches. Aged in 80% new oak barrels.		
● Musigny, Grand Cru	2023	2033
Just two barrels in 2023, from a single parcel of seven rows that run across the full span of the vineyard, sandwiched between Comte de Vogue and Domaine Leroy. Entirely itself, with a restrained, reserved, dark, calm, refined fruit profile, with a feeling of salty energy running through the fruit, incredibly refined tannins, and a long, haunting finish that gives a mere glimpse of future glory.		



BRUNO CLAIR, MARSANNAY

Tasting in Burgundy’s finest cellars, in November, is not always pure unbridled joy. Sometimes the wines are backward and introvert, sometimes the winemakers can be too. Your legs get tired, your feet get cold and your palate wearies by the third or forth visit of the day. But then you’ll have a tasting that picks you up and sweeps you off your feet, one that puts a pep back in your stride, lifts the spirits and makes this whole job feel quite frankly, like the privilege that it is. This tasting of Bruno Clair’s 2023, carried out with winemaker Arthur Clair, was one such tasting. It’s hard to describe how much we enjoyed these wines – a large and varied range that traverses the Cote d’Or taking in the most illustrious terroirs, as well as more humble vineyards. It can be a daunting amount of wine to focus on in one session. And yet, these wines flew by, the notes practically writing themselves. The Clair brothers have been quietly tweaking various aspects of their production in recent years and in 2023, they’ve truly excelled themselves. Approaching each new cuvee was a thrilling exercise. You can expect excellence at just about every turn here. We can’t recommend them highly enough.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Marsannay, Les Vaudenelles	2023	2027
This is one of the most complete Vaudenelles we’ve tasted, the lower yields giving this a sense of density and volume that is not always present in this cuvee. Engaging, fruit forward with ripe cherry and autumn raspberry, but crucially finishing fresh. There’s some wine here. Fermented with 20% whole bunches and aged in predominantly used oak barrels. Vaudenelles is a relatively high Marsannay vineyard whose white marl soils produce fine – grained elegant wines that can often be approached relatively young.		
● Marsannay, Les Longeroies	2023	2028
Given the sophistication, finer structure and the increased complexity, Arthur plans on bottling this later than Vaudenelles. Creamy cherry notes, silky tannins, and a bright pixellated quality to the fruit. Caressing and bright. A top Marsannay from a firstrate vineyard planted on poor soil, situated mid slope, that is one of the prime candidates for elevation to Premier Cru status, a process Marsannay vigneron hope will be confirmed for the 2025 vintage. Fermented with 30% whole bunches and aged in predominantly used oak barrels.		
● Gevrey-Chambertin	2023	2028
A cut above your average Gevrey villages, with a sleek, wonderfully refined texture and so much brightness to the fruit. The Gevrey tannins, which are present and form the basis of this cuvee, seem more polished that we can ever remember them. A very smart villages and one of the best examples of this cuvee we can remember. This comes from two plots on rich clay soils, Les Carrougots and En Jouise and also includes 10% of Belair Premier Cru.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Véroilles	2023	2029
Tight grained red berries. Delicate and floral. Oh so very Chambolle with translucent fine fruit and delicate minerality coming through on the fresh finish. Such a pretty, stylish Pinot Noir, a jewel of a bottling. Véroilles is one of the highest vineyards in the commune producing tense, high-toned wines that retain that Chambolle charm and texture.		
● Morey-Saint-Denis, Rouge, En La Rue de Vergy	2023	2030
A certain smoky herbal note to the aromatics, and then a sense of delicacy on the palate. A soft gentle easy flowing quality to the fruit, a measured attack of pale red fruits and flowers leading to a chalky stony finish. With every year that the vines get older, this seems to become more complete. The texture in particular feels very grown up now. This is not a big wine, but it is compelling in its soft succulence. Located just above Bonnes Mares, En la Rue de Vergy is planted on poor, rocky limestone soils and this comes through subtly here.		

BRUNO CLAIR, MARSANNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Charmes, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Just a gorgeous nose, rose, peony and fine cherry. Wild strawberry. The palate is pure silk, with melting tannins and an overriding sense of fine flowing finesse. There’s typical Charmes depth below the surface, but overall, this is the most elegant rendition of this cuvee we’ve ever tasted. A huge, glowing success. And so long too. Arthur puts it down to tweaks to the winemaking, working to enhance the fruit rather than manage and minimise the natural power the site gives. Whatever they’ve done, it has worked a treat.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Champs Perdrix	2023	2029
Pure red fruits aromas precede a wonderful Vosne texture, all flowing charm, silk fluttering in the wind, with flighty top notes sprinkling a little star quality. This isn’t big, it’s not challenging, it’s simply measured and clear and primed for pleasure. The floral perfume that comes with air and dominates the finish is beguiling. A superb Vosne villages vineyard situated next to Reignots 1er Cru, a touch higher up the slope.		
● Savigny-Lès Beaune, La Dominode, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Another wine in the Clair cellar that smells absolutely wonderful from barrel, with a stony tang to the dark fruits that carries through to the palate, where a sense of mineral complexity dances with the briary dark fruits. The wave of structure that controls the finish brings with it haunting mineral-inflected fruit persistence. While there are more tannins that in some other wines so far, the texture of them is gorgeous, refined and caressing. Once again, a gem hiding in plain sight. Arthur and Edouard have been adapting their approach to this cuvee over the last couple of vintages, by lowering the whole bunch percentages and extracting more gently. A legendary Savigny parcel of extremely old vines many of which were planted back in 1902.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Aux Raignots, 1er Cru	2023	2030
A tiny parcel of Raignots (intentionally spelt with an “a”, as per the old maps), that amounts to a single barrel of wine – the rarest wine in the Clair cellars. Fresh, red fruited with edgy mineral notes slicing across the palate, this is full of nerve and tension and feels tightly- wound for the time being, with stones and flowers dominating the palate for now.		
○ Gevrey-Chambertin, Petite Chapelle, 1er Cru	2023	2029
One of the more backward wines in the cellar, with irony fruit and an earthy rich mineral core. Freshness comes by way of a salitness, which bolsters the robust, concentrated fruit core. Classically Gevrey. Situated just under Chapelle Chambertin, where the soils are typically “Gevrey”, and clay dominated.		
○ Gevrey-Chambertin, Clos du Fonteny, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Touches of blood orange and bittersweet cherry on the nose. A little more nerve and steel here in the mid-palate with a slightly less chunky and dark fruited profile than Petite Chapelle. Rocks and flowers dot the finish. This cuvee gets better and better with every passing year. A slightly north facing Gevrey 1er Cru, influenced by the cooling combe. The vines produce tiny millerande berries every year, making for deep, dark fresh wines		
○ Gevrey-Chambertin, Les Cazetiers, 1er Cru	2023	2029
A wonderful fusion of fruit and minerality on the nose, while the palate offers a deep well of fruit infused with a very fine structure. Profound, but salty and shimmering with fine stones and floral notes on the finish, which has no shortage of intensity and length but also such an even-keeled balance. There is a classy touch to the tannins, which gently bind the beautifully extended, refined flavours together – floral dark berries, a hint of raspberry and cherry. This has great allure and sophistication. Production in this vineyard is currently small due to a replanting programme that means they have 1/3 of the vineyard out of action. A first rate Gevrey Premier Cru vineyard high up on the slope next door to Clos St. Jacques. Whilst there is a similar aromatic quality to the wines of its neighbour the taste profile is very different, with suaver, rounder fruit coming from the white clay soils found here in this limestone-influenced parcel in the upper part of the vineyard.		

BRUNO CLAIR, MARSANNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Gevrey-Chambertin, Clos St. Jacques, 1er Cru	2023	2033
The one and only. Genuine complexity and layering here, with fruit, flowers, spice and tobacco leaf all in abundance. There’s such poise and such composure on the palate; deep long flavours and highly refined tannins. As sophisticated as Gevrey gets, with the cool precision of Clos St. Jacques, but also, the out and out charm of the vintage. It is not going too far to proclaim this a humdinger of the highest order. One of Gevrey’s great Premiers Crus situated high up on the slope, many believe it to be more deserving of Grand Cru status than a number of Gevrey’s more dubious Grands Crus. This high situation and red clay-based soils make for wines of freshness, tension and well-defined structure. The vineyard was planted in 1957, a massale selection of Pinot fin made by Bruno’s father, resulting in low yields – rarely more than 30hl/ha.		
● Chambertin, Clos-de-Bèze, Grand Cru	2023	2033
“Who wants to follow Clos St. Jacques?”. It’s not an easy task. “Oh go on then” replies an oh so confident Clos de Bèze. But this is not a bombastic wine; demure at first, it reveals it’s beauty slowly offering up sophisticated power, regal persistence, and a truly noble Grand Cru structure haunts the palate even as the next wine is poured into your glass. The finish here is sensational. Tightly packed, with lots to unravel, the sense of effortless power really is thing to behold, the strength and concentration of this Beze delivered so gently. Two thirds of this plot were planted in 1912 and the remainder in 1972. The parcel extends upwards on the slope. The upper part, poorer and stony, gives an aromatic wine of great finesse whereas the lower part, richer and clayey brings power and richness.		
● Bonnes-Mares, Grand Cru	2023	2033
There’s a complex floral quality to this Bonnes Mares that provides an interesting counterpart to the core of firm fruit. A peony note again, lily, and rose, that provide a sense of sensuality that’s captivating, especially for a Bonnes Mares at this juncture. A truly elongated finish helps to pull the power and stretch the wine. Very fine power here. Perhaps less deep and well-padded than the Beze, but covered in this fine floral fruit character, this strikes us as one of the most compellingly beautiful and sophisticated Bonnes Mares we’ve tasted here. Apart from one tiny parcel of 0.12 ha situated on the Chambolle side of the vineyard, the core of this cuvée comes from two parcels in the Morey commune, one of which is next to Clos de Tart. One part was planted in 1946 another in 1980. This makes Bruno Clair the only producer with Bonnes Mares vines within the Morey St Denis commune. Bruno describes the wine as being three quarters from red soil-based vines and one quarter white limestone marne-based soils, resulting in a wine of great intensity and vigour.		
○ Marsannay, Blanc	2023	2025
A finely pitched cool fruited white Burgundy of great drinkability that offers up notes of white pear, salt and blanched hazelnut. A great choice for those who value balance and subtlety in their whites. A rare, thrilling blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Gris (known locally as Pinot Beurrot). Aged in a mixture of tank and oak foudres.		
○ Marsannay, Blanc, La Charmes Aux Prêtres	2023	2027
The blended Sources des Roches has been discontinued and in its place the Clairs are focussing on single site Marsannay Blancs. La Charmes aux Prêtres made up the majority of the blend and here, on its own, it comes across as wine of greater definition and salinity than Sources des Roches ever did. Freshly cut lemons, rock salt, wild plum and fresh apricots, with plenty of finish and length. An example of the part being greater than the sum it would seem! A well situated, east facing vineyard adjacent to Grasses Têtes.		

BRUNO CLAIR, MARSANNAY

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
○ Morey-Saint-Denis, Blanc, En La Rue de Vergy	2023	2027
A fine racy stoniness here on the nose. Cleansing, citrusdriven and linear, with great finesse and restraint. Impressive freshness with compact citrus notes at the firm core of this. Tonic and vital. A vineyard planted in 1981 located just above Bonnes Mares, En la Rue de Vergy is planted on poor, rocky limestone soils. Aged in barriques for 18 months, 15% new oak.		
○ Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru	2023	2028
Unsurprisingly the richest aromas of any of the Clair whites, with almonds and apricot notes set in a starry bright polished minerality. Buttery citrus notes sit amongst a more textured, denser palate, with a greater emphasis on ripeness and scale. A nuttiness defines the finish. From two plots in Le Charlemagne, planted in 1972 and 1976, located in the upper part of the slope on the Pernand side of Aloxe-Corton where the wines offer ripeness and freshness in equal measure. Aged for 18 months in 155 new oak barriques.		



CECILE TREMBLAY, MOREY-SAINT-DENIS

Cecile Tremblay was another of the band of vigneronns who chose to start harvest extremely early each morning due to the hot September conditions. Never one to commentate overly on the vintage, content to let the wines speak for themselves (something of which they are quite capable!), she did concede that it had been a busy harvest Chez Tremblay and that had let her to double the number of workers in the winery, sorting and processing the incoming grapes. If it feels like the needle is stuck then so be it, but the truth is that Cecile has made another wonderful range of wines. Each distinct, each with the sense of style and poise that characterises Tremblay. This is very much Pinot Noir to write home about.

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Bourgogne, Rouge, Cote d'Or	2023	2027
Seductive, supple Bourgogne with lovely texture and flow. Sumptuous sweet raspberry fruit and plenty of mid-palate charm. A top Bourgogne of superb pedigree that comes from vines aged between 30-70 years old planted in the Chambolle and Vosne communes.		
● Morey-Saint-Denis, Très Girard	2023	2028
Supple but with structure below. Velvety dark fruit and sweet spice and plenty of seductive character. Bold in structure, with plenty of fruit padding. Classic Morey in that regard. A vineyard sitting below Clos Sorbet with soils at the lighter end of the Morey spectrum, full of sand and little stones that have been washed down from the combe.		
● Vosne-Romanée	2023	2028
Oh this is charming and lovely, combining silky, flowing fruit with a touch of controlling spice and stone. Fine freshness on the finish gives this a beautiful teardrop shape. A very fine Vosne villages combining two parcels, one Les Communes, the other Les Jacquines.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Cabottes	2023	2028
A sweet, red-fruited charm of a Chambolle, finely sculpted with fine, bright acids and a more linear character than the Vosne villages. A certain raspberry pep keeps the fruit animated and playful. A blend of three parcels dotted around the Chambolle appellation, aged in less than a third new oak.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Aux Echanges	2023	2028
Very fragrant and fine boned with an upper register aromatic complexity that features haunting dried flowers notes and ornate fruit. A beauty. This is a cuvée that Cecile produces with 100% whole-bunch fermentation and absolutely no sulphur added during the winemaking process.		
● Chambolle-Musigny, Les Feusselottes, 1er Cru	2023	2028
Aromatic and tenderly fruited with fine wild strawberry and spice - very composed and aromatic, energetic and long. There's an airy character to this yet at heart there's plenty of flesh and drive too. Top drawer. A vineyard set between Charmes and the village, with relatively deep soils which tend to produce generous wines.		
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Beaux Monts, 1er Cru	2023	2029
This is the first year that includes both of Cecile's parcels of Beaux Monts, both of them very old, the most recent addition from her grandfather's holdings. A Vosne of complexity and vivacity with an old-vine wisdom and exceptional elegance. Deep, layered red and purple fruits, great poise, and an ease in which they grace the palate. With complex briary notes on the finish, this feels like a very complete package.		

CECILE TREMBLAY, MOREY-SAINT-DENIS

● = Red ○ = White	Vintage	Drink From
● Vosne-Romanée, Les Rouge du Dessus, 1er Cru	2023	2029
Perhaps a touch less racy than normal, with plenty of flesh and depth, though not without a charge of electric red-berry fruit at its core, and a mouth-wateringly salty finish. A distinctive and high-quality premier cru perched high up the slope, directly above Echézeaux yielding fresh, high-altitude wines with a strong mineral character.		
● Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru	2023	2030
A really smart and fine-tuned Clos Vougeot with herb-inflected mineral notes and oodles of silky fruit sweetness below. The finish shows a refined spice note that lingers for an age. From a 0.2ha parcel situated just below Grands Echézeaux.		
● Echézeaux, du Dessus, Grand Cru	2023	2030
A high-toned offering with great tension and line, with notes of wildflower and complex dried flowers over fine, dark fruit. Lift and delicacy throughout. Very bright and lively, with an ethereal length. What a showstopper. Aged in 75% new oak and fermented with 25% whole bunch, this is a more fine-tuned, lifted style of Echézeaux than most. From the high “Dessus” part of the vineyard, the 6ha heart of Echézeaux.		
● Chapelle-Chambertin, Grand Cru	2023	2032
Further back in its evolution than the other wines here, yet you can sense this has a huge amount of everything tightly yet seamlessly packed into a very poised package. Glimpses of complexity appear on the very long finish that holds, for now, all the keys to this wonderful wine's evolution. This is restrained and tightly wound today but what potential! A great wine in the making. Cecile has a mere 0.4ha of 50-year-old vines in Chapelle, a shame as hers is one of the finest examples of this lesser-known grand cru that you will find. Aged for 18 months in three-quarters new oak barrels seem! A well situated, east facing vineyard adjacent to Grasses Têtes.		

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