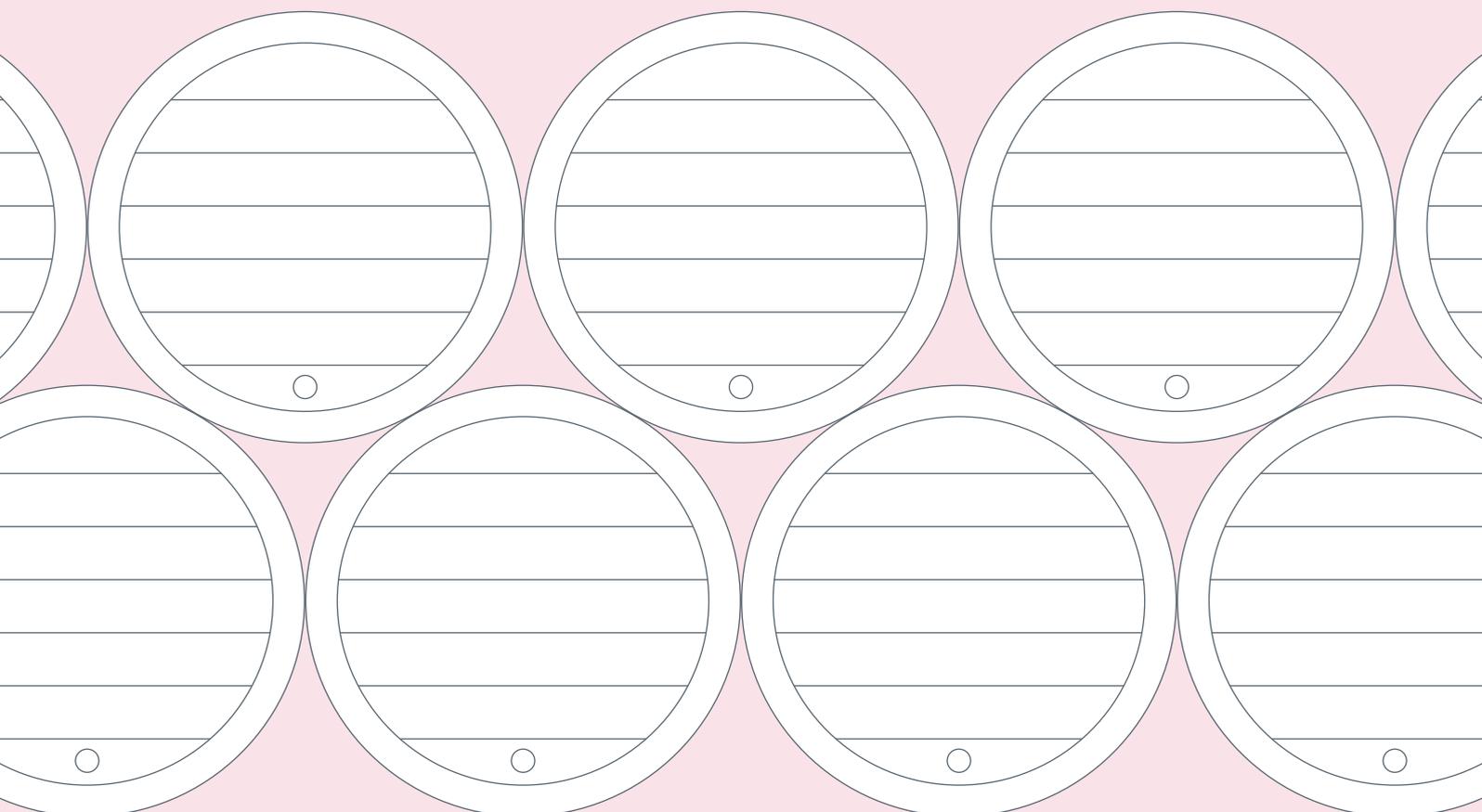


BURGUNDY 2018

en primeur





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It's always tricky to taste objectively when a vintage is hailed as one of the best of the century before it has even been bottled. The long, hot summer of 2018 has been likened to that of 1947, reputedly a great vintage, but sadly one very few of us have had much opportunity to taste. A lot has changed in Burgundy in the intervening 71 years, but I expect that a number of fundamentals still remain the same. Firstly, that the producer is the most important factor to determine the quality of a wine and secondly, that picking dates are key for a wine to be truly great. We are lucky that we work with some of the very best producers in the region who by and large seem to have chosen the right time to harvest their grapes. Over the two weeks the team spent in Burgundy we tasted over 300 wines, but of course this only gives us a tiny and rather privileged snapshot of the vintage.

2018 was the warmest year on record when measured across the 12 months, yet without quite the extreme temperature spikes such as in 2003. Olivier Lamy of Domaine Hubert-Lamy described it as the most "luminous" year he has seen but not necessarily the hottest. What is very important is the vines were never in danger of serious drought. The dry summer was mitigated by a combination of very high-water tables, left over from the above average rainfall in the winter and early spring of 2017/18, and the relatively cool start to the year. This cool start meant vines were a little behind where they had been in previous years but caught up quickly with some fine weather in the third week of April, resulting in rapid flowering followed by a more moderate June. Unlike 2016, 2017 and indeed 2019, there was little mildew or frost risk and only a small amount of hail damage concentrated on Nuits-St-Georges and parts of the Cotes-de-Nuits appellation. All of this combined with the long dry summer has meant 2018 produced a large crop of healthy grapes (particularly for the whites) which has gone some way to balancing out the preceding small vintages.

With warm vintages conclusions are quickly drawn of concentrated reds and perhaps whites that can lack acidity and balance. 2018 is much more nuanced than this and in particular the whites have exceeded expectations, the best examples retain that all important freshness and minerality blended with lovely layered ripe fruit – many are truly excellent. The new normal of

warmer summers means that picking dates are becoming even more important. For many white producers this was well before the end of August compared to early to mid-September a decade ago. It was also just as important for Pinot Noir this year as the ripening period was rapid. Sebastien Cathiard of Domaine Sylvain Cathiard suggested that picking a day or two late could add up to 0.5% abv to the final bottled wine. The best got this balance right and those who didn't, or perhaps couldn't, have made less successful wines. Luckily for us all our producers did!

Jasper Morris MW provides an eloquent summary in his 2018 Burgundy report *"Once the harvest had happened, expectations from the world at large were for outstanding red wines but whites which might either be dilute or else overly heavy from the summer heat. The whites have turned out much better than we imagined while the story for the reds is much more nuanced."*

Key to tasting notes:

LV – Latimer Vintners
JM – Jasper Morris (Inside Burgundy)
NM – Neal Martin (Vinous.com)
WK – William Kelley (RobertParker.com)

WHITES

en primeur



Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

Unit

Unit Price

The first tasting of our trip set a pretty high standard for the wines that followed. Marc and Alex are crafting some wonderful wines and their 2018's were outstanding from Bourgogne Blanc upwards. These wines still represent incredible value when compared to more famous neighbours, perfectly summarised by Neal Martin who in the past has said: "One of the most 'in' growers at the moment... My budget would actually be invested in the outstanding Maranges premier crus that I strongly suspect will represent some of the best values over the entire of the Côte d'Or... if I were a millionaire... I would still buy them".

Bourgogne Blanc

12

£170 InBond

White peach and stone fruit, lovely balance and intensity. Very dense and concentrated. Lovely freshness but quite serious. LV

The 2018 Bourgogne Blanc, which is almost entirely from Puligny with a few vines located in Chassagne, has a pleasing strictness and linearity that reflects its origins. The palate is well balanced with subtle tangerine and Granny Smith apple notes, leading to a simple but fresh and quite saline finish. For a Bourgogne Blanc, this is impressive. 87-89 NM

Santenay Blanc

12

£260 InBond

Much more limestone-mineral here. Lime, green apple and a nuttiness. Lovely lime fruit again very vibrant with a super mineral backbone. Great intensity lovely balance excellent. A touch of spice. LV

The 2018 Santenay Blanc is a little broody at first, gradually opening with scents of Granny Smith apples and a whiff of chalk dust. It has a slightly waxy texture, fine acidity and a slightly spicy if perhaps rather short finish. This is a well-crafted Santenay Blanc, one that I would broach over the next five or six years. 88-90 NM

Maranges, 1er Cru 'La Fussiere'

6

£130 InBond

Lemon citrus fruit with a touch of honey and a stony slightly herby note. Very ripe lemon fruit with a real zestiness on the palate. A touch of sanity on the finish. This is super fine. LV

The 2018 Maranges La Fussières 1er Cru Blanc has a taut, focused nose with subtle hazelnut aromas that lend it a Meursault-like personality. The palate is crisp and saline on the entry with touches of orange peel and white peach and moderate depth, just tapering a little in terms of intensity toward the finish. Yet overall, this is a fine Maranges Blanc that actually improves in the glass, acquiring more mineralité and persistence. Give it a couple of years in bottle once released. 88-90 NM

St Aubin, 1er Cru En Remilly

6

£190 InBond

Pear and peach on the nose, very mineral with a touch of new oak. Quite restrained, very elegant with good intensity of fruit and an attractive minerality on the palate. LV

The 2018 Saint-Aubin En Remilly 1er Cru requires a little coaxing from the glass, but is well worth the effort, revealing beautifully defined malic aromas, mixed with wet limestone and fumé scents that blossom after a couple of minutes. The palate is extremely well balanced with a fine bead of acidity that cuts through the green apple and fresh pear notes. Quite linear and taut, it reveals fine depth toward the finish, though it needs just a tad more persistence on the aftertaste. This should evolve into a top-rank En Remilly. 91-93 NM



Puligny-Montrachet

6

£220 InBond

Really clean delineated nose pure ripe green fruit and a touch of minerality. This has great concentration on the palate very fine for a village lovely acidity and balance. LV

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Village is a blend of three parcels. It has an intense bouquet with scents of green apple, pear and mirabelle aromas, far more complex than the Chassagne Village. The taut, fresh palate features grapefruit, lime and green apple notes. This feels very saline in the mouth, with great precision on the finish. A Village Cru operating at Premier level. 90-92 NM

Chassagne-Montrachet

6

£190 InBond

Richer with a touch of butter and baked apple. A little more closed at this stage. LV

The 2018 Chassagne-Montrachet Village comes from six parcels within the appellation. Perhaps this suffers in following on from the En Remilly, as it does not quite deliver the same level of complexity and intensity. The palate is actually better, displaying a fine bead of acidity and quite saline in the mouth but just missing some personality toward the finish. Not bad. This was the first parcel picked in 2018 and I might have left it a day or two longer on the vine. 87-88 NM

Meursault Clos du Cromin

6

£220 InBond

Rich lemon fruit and an orange citrus note with a touch of limestone. Really zesty and fresh with a lovely mouth-watering character. Really alive and energetic - superb. LV

The 2018 Meursault Clos du Cromin, from a location north of Volnay Santenots, is a little broody on the nose at first and demands encouragement from the glass. Touches of wax resin and pressed flowers eventually emerge, veering toward Puligny in style. The palate is taut and fresh on the entry with lip-smacking salinity. Vibrant and energetic, displaying impressive precision and finesse on the finish. This is an exceptional Clos du Cromin. 92-94 NM

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er Cru Referts

6

£355 InBond

Intense lime and berry fruit. This has a density and balance with a real ripeness of fruit. Super energy, very vibrant with an attractive freshness on the finish. LV

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Les Referts 1er Cru produced an unusually bountiful crop this year, at around 45hl/ha instead of the 30hl/ha of recent years. It has a very intense, precise bouquet with crushed limestone infusing the green apple and citrus aromas. The palate is very focused on the entry, revealing a touch of spice and hints of fresh gooseberry. It feels a little austere overall, but there is such energy that it will repay cellaring. Excellent. 91-93 NM



Puligny-Montrachet, 1er Cru Folatieres

6

£380 InBond

Very pretty and perfumed with lemon fruit and flowers. Elegant with layers of fruit, minerals and a hint of spice. This is super fine with incredible intensity. Beautiful wine, very fine and serious. LV

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatières 1er Cru is more backward and austere on the nose compared to the domaine's Les Referts, yet give it aeration and it develops wonderful flinty, almost Chablis-like aromas that are beautifully defined. The palate is very precise and mineral-driven with a malic core of fruit and superb depth from start to finish. This is one of the best Pulignys I have encountered from Bachelet-Monnot. Highly recommended. 92-94 NM

Batard-Montrachet, Grand Cru

3

£650 InBond

Real power here. Mineral and concentrated but still a little closed. So powerful in the mouth with gobs of ripe green fruit, a touch of spice and a stony minerality. Dense but so well balanced and built for the long haul. LV

The 2018 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru comes from vines just a handful of meters down from Montrachet. It sees no new oak and is aged instead in one- and two-year-old 350-liter barrels. This prudent policy allows the terroir to really shine through with gorgeous Granny Smith apple, apricot blossom and limestone-like aromas. The palate is very well balanced yet very subtle, perhaps more bashful than the Folatières and Referts at the moment. But you can feel the persistence on the finish. A Bâtard-Montrachet that deserves four or five years in bottle to show what it can do. 93-95 NM



Domaine Henri Boillot

Unit

Unit Price

New to our offer this year, Henri Boillot needs no introduction. Many Domaines are stronger at either white or red production, but not here as quality is at the highest level across the board. Guillaume Boillot made some subtle changes to the winemaking in 2018 using vertical presses and less oak on the white wines, thus retaining more freshness. For the reds, less maceration in barrel gives the wines a better integration of oak. Overall, some seriously impressive wines were made at this address in 2018.

Meursault, 1er Cru Genevrieres

6

£520 InBond

The 2018 Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières reveals aromas of crisp green orchard fruit, peach, spring blossom, honeycomb and praline, followed by a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated palate that's chalky and structured, built around lively acids and appreciable dry extract. 93 WK

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er cru Clos de la Mouchere

6

6 Magnums

£520 InBond
£1,040 InBond

Boillot's emblematic 2018 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Clos de la Mouchère has turned out brilliantly, wafting from the glass with aromas of pear, hazelnut, dried white flowers, citrus oil, blanched almonds and smoke. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, deep and multidimensional, with terrific concentration, searing levels of extract and a long, mineral finish. 95 WK

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er cru Les Perrieres

6

£480 InBond

Aromas of citrus oil, white flowers, blanched almonds and crushed chalk preface the 2018 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Perrières, a medium to full-bodied, racy and incisive wine that's chalky and tensile, with lively acids and a saline finish. This has turned out very well indeed. 93 WK

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er cru Les Pucelles

6

£515 InBond

Boillot's 2018 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Pucelles reveals aromas of orange oil, white flowers and peaches, complemented by classy top notes of nutmeg and warm bread. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny and vibrant, with quite a tensile, tight-knit core for this typically enveloping premier cru. But looking back through my notes, that often seems to be the case chez Boillot. 94 WK

Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru

6

£795 InBond

The most youthfully reserved wine in the cellar was the 2018 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, a promising bottling that opens up to reveal scents of citrus zest, dried white flowers, green apple and pastry cream. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, layered and multidimensional, with racy acids and prodigious levels of searingly chalky dry extract that lend this wine incredible structure. 95 WK



Batard-Montrachet, Grand Cru

6

£2,200 InBond

The 2018 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru is showing brilliantly, unwinding in the glass with aromas of crisp orchard fruit, honeycomb, white flowers, orange oil and wheat toast. On the palate, it's full-bodied, ample and muscular, with lively acids and an impressively structured, introverted profile for the vintage, concluding with a long, saline finish. 95+WK

Chevalier-Montrachet, Grand Cru

1

£530 InBond

The 2018 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru derives from a new source, but it's as striking as ever, opening in the glass with a classy bouquet of citrus oil, white flowers, fresh pastry and blanched almonds. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, taut and chiseled, with terrific tension, lively acids and a long, chalky finish. This is worth a special effort to seek out. 96 WK

Montrachet, Grand Cru

1

£700 InBond

The 2018 Montrachet Grand Cru is brilliant, unfurling in the glass with scents of ripe oranges, fresh pear, peach, buttered citrus, warm pastry and anise. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, textural and enveloping, with superb depth at the core, lively acids and an ineffable sense of completeness, concluding with a long and mineral finish. 97 WK



Domaine Buisson-Charles

Unit

Unit Price

Patrick Essa the winemaker and proprietor of this family Domaine is a traditional thinker. He strives to make a classic Meursault that exhibits the natural character and unique terroir he is blessed with. He does this without intervention, no hail nets, no burning fires for frost, not chemical spraying and strongly believes the grapes should be at full phenolic maturity before harvest. This means he is often on his own in the vineyards in mid-September when others already have the wine in tank. The results however always surprise us, nuanced wines of balance and freshness, they are not razor sharp in acidity nor incredibly mineral across the board but are all terroir specific, undoubtably Meursault and ultimately very enjoyable. In 2018 this is no different, these are delicious wines for drinking over the medium term that represent value.

Meursault Vieilles Vignes

TBC

£TBC InBond

Blend of 1er cru and village vineyards and old vines over 45 years. Great concentration and intensity of ripe citrus and stone fruit. Still elegant and fresh. Really lovely. LV

Meursault 'vigne de 1945'

TBC

£TBC InBond

This can be too concentrated but very fresh and vibrant this year. Vines planted in 1945, extra concentration of fruit and spice with a lovely lemony zip and texture. LV

Meursault Les Tesson

TBC

£TBC InBond

Perhaps his best cuvee - great balance of ripeness and mineral 'Tesson' acidity. Ripe green apples, ginger spice, lemon, peach, pear, lovely stylish wine, very balanced. 11 barrels made. Super. LV

Meursault, 1er Cru les Cras

TBC

£TBC InBond

Only 5 barrels made, 1 new oak. Rich and powerful fruit, melon, and floral notes and lovely spice. Iodine and lime acidity and crisp finish. Terroir showing through. LV

Meursault, 1er Cru Charmes

TBC

£TBC InBond

Classical Charmes character – powerful, full ripe fruit, super concentration and balanced with vibrant texture and stone minerality. V good. LV

Meursault, 1er Cru Boucheres

TBC

£TBC InBond

More melon, apples, honeyed and floral note to the nose. Saline on the finish. Lovely. LV

Meursault, 1er Cru Goutte d'or

TBC

£TBC InBond

At this stage very perfumed and elegant not what is expected of this riper vineyard. Wonderful balance and mineral finish. Expect it will flesh out with time in barrel. As Patrick says, "For the weight you wait". LV



Domaine Joseph Drouhin

Unit

Unit Price

2018 resulted in an impressive range of wines at this Domaine. A name that is steeped in history, boasting one of the largest ranges of wines in the whole of Burgundy, thus we only take a handful of wines that we feel are both excellent examples of their typicity and complement our portfolio. All come highly recommended.

Meursault, 1er Cru Perrieres

6

£360 InBond

Beaune, 1er Cru Clos des Mouches Blanc

6

£480 InBond

Picked across 8 or 9 days from 30th August. Very pretty pale lemon, with some lifted fruit on the nose, an elegance that does not speak of the certain weight to come on the palate. Which indeed is the case though backed by fresh lemon acidity. Excellent length, a very charming and delicious Clos des Mouches. I re-tasted this after the Corton-Charlemagne and it now shows more liveliness in the fruit, yellow and green notes together. 92-95 JM

Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru

6

£635 InBond

Picked early, on August 29th. Pale colour with a clear fresh chiselled nose. After a while some refined citrus notes start to appear and a little touch of oak. Lean but with adequate flesh, all in white fruit, on the stones, and with excellent persistence. 92-95 JM

Montrachet, Grand Cru Marquis de Laguiche

6

£2,350 InBond

Very stylish light and purely perfumed nose, really stylish, not too insistent. Really subtly managed oak on this, or perhaps that is a tribute to the amazing intensity of this vineyard. Sweet white peach fruit, some fresh pears, almost some mandarin notes, really beautifully balanced, masterful. 95-99 JM



Domaine Jean & Gilles Lafouge

Unit

Unit Price

This domaine based in Auxey-Duresses was a new to our portfolio in 2019, and this is the first time we have included them in our En Primeur offer. Gilles Lafouge is regarded amongst peers as the perhaps the best winemaker in the village and in 2018 he has certainly knocked it out of the park. His whites (from both Auxey-Duresses and Meursault) are ripe, nuanced and wonderfully vibrant with great freshness and mineralite; his reds are unlike anything you might imagine of Auxey with concentrated ripe fruit balanced with moreish acidity. For pure drinkability perhaps one of the best domaines we represent.

Auxey-Duresses les Hautes

6

£115 InBond

This vineyard is adjacent to Meursault Vireuils. This is quite rich and forward with some toffee and spice. Ripe apple fruit and well balanced with good acidity – Great concentration of ripe fruit. Lovely. LV

Auxey-Duresses les Boutonieres

6

£115 InBond

Adjacent to Meursault Meix Chavaux. Finer, more mineral and refined with fresh lemon fruit. Very elegant and lifted on the palate with lovely acidity and structure. Delicious mineral character and lovely ripe. LV

Meursault

6

£155 InBond

This is broader and richer on the nose with melon and peach character. There is excellent concentration but a lovely balancing acidity. LV

Meursault Meix Chavaux

6

£165 InBond

Very lemony and zesty with a minerality and lift. This is very precise with lots of fresh crisp acidity, apple and lemon fruit. Lots of energy – just delicious very vibrant. LV



Domaine Benjamin Leroux

Unit

Unit Price

Another new addition to our offer this year are the wines from Benjamin Leroux, a Domaine that has been on our radar for some time. Benjamin started his winemaking career at Domaine de la Vougeraie before moving on to Domaine Comte Armand in Pommard where he really helped put the estate on the map, pioneering purity and elegance over extraction. In 2007 he set up his own négociant business sourcing parcels from the best plots possible across the Cote d'Or. More recently he has made vineyard acquisitions of his own thus achieving full Domaine status. Benjamin is considered one of the most skilled and hardworking winemakers in the region, the fact that he has taken a small négociant business and turned it into the highly regarded, critically acclaimed Domaine it is today is certainly testament to this. Our offer focusses on areas where we feel he was particularly successful in 2018, these are wines that are terroir and site specific and show the skill and polish of a now seasoned winemaker. Needless to say we were very impressed and look forward to working with the Domaine for the 2018's and beyond.

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Baudines

6

£275 InBond

From the Santenay side of the village, ripe citrus and stone fruit but lovely elegant nose. Salinity and balance on the palate. I am a fan. LV

Pretty pale fresh colour, this is lighter than Embazées but finer on the nose, then fleshes out significantly on the palate with the wood showing a little. Disjointed today but should refine. 89-92 JM

Meursault, 1er Cru Le Piece Sous le Bois

12

£575 InBond

This was well placed in 2018 coming from a higher and slower ripening altitude. Lots of elegance, lemon and lime and energy. Very good. LV

Pale lemon and lime. There's an elegance to the nose here and a certain suggestion of tension. Quite floral too, then a burst of real strength and energy on the palate with a clean chiselled finish, a little wood, and enough flesh to round this out nicely. Excellent finish! 91-93 JM



Domaine Marc Morey

Unit

Unit Price

Sabine Moillard has crafted another wonderful set of wines this year. There is no question that as each vintage goes by Sabine's winemaking becomes more assured and confident and this shows in the wines. The 2018s are characterised by a fantastic energy and they are really impressive across the board.

Bourgogne Blanc

12

£150 InBond

Classic green apple fruit. Lovely concentration with freshness and a crisp acidity. LV

The 2018 Bourgogne Blanc, which includes some purchased fruit, has a light nose that reveals touches of grass clippings. The palate is nicely balanced with a surprising fatness for a generic white Burgundy. An easygoing, texture-filled Bourgogne Blanc. 85-87 NM

St Aubin, 1er cru Charmois

12

£300 InBond

There is a real ripeness and body but balanced by the classic Saint Aubin acidity. Round flavours, melon, lime and quite perfumed. LV

The 2018 Saint-Aubin Charmois 1er Cru sees around 15% new oak and delivers a well-defined bouquet of pretty yellow flowers mixed with light fumé scents. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity. Clean and precise, with an elegant, quite understated but long finish. Very fine. 90-92 NM

Chassagne-Montrachet

12

£370 InBond

Some smoke and minerals here alongside the green apple fruit and lime. There is a plush mouthfeel, good ripeness and acidity. Rich but very well balanced. LV

The 2018 Chassagne-Montrachet Village was bottled at the end of August. It has a welcoming, expressive, slightly minty bouquet that is charming. The palate is well balanced with a lightly spiced entry, and quite sappy in the mouth, leading to a brisk, quite energetic finish. I can understand why Sabine Morey bottled this early – a good decision. 90 NM

Puligny-Montrachet

6

£205 InBond

Granny Smith apple on the nose. Crisp fresh fruit on the palate with great density alongside fresh acidity. Saline on the finish. Delicious. LV

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Village does not quite convey the same class as the Chassagne-Montrachet Village, displaying a slightly muddled nose at the moment. The palate is much better, with a citric attack on the entry and quite sharp acidity, and yet I prefer the tenderness of the Chassagne-Montrachet by direct comparison. 88 NM

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Vergers

6

£245 InBond

A little more closed here with some lemon fruit and attractive minerality. Crisp fruit on the palate, very juicy and open but retaining lovely freshness. Excellent. LV

The 2018 Chassagne-Montrachet Vergers 1er Cru is the only premier cru to have been bottled at the end of August. The fragrant bouquet of citrus peel, caramelized pear, flint and apple peel opens nicely with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, and touches of licorice develop with aeration. Finely tuned, culminating in an expressive orange peel and mango finish that turns spicier in the glass. Very fine. 91 NM



Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Virondot

6

£250 InBond

Much more intense, super powerful and exotic with real depth on the nose. Tropical fruit on the palate, pineapple and lime. Very Good acidity and balance. Excellent. LV

The 2018 Chassagne-Montrachet Virondot 1er Cru has a knockout bouquet of intense, beautifully defined citrus fruit, orange blossom and licorice aromas. The palate is very well balanced, the 25% new oak neatly folded into energetic citrus fruit that dovetails into a very concentrated, persistent finish. This comes highly recommended. 92-94 NM

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er Cru Pucelles

6

£350 InBond

A little closed at present. Concentrated and quite linear on the palate. Good acidity, lemon zest, and some butter and minerality on the finish. Very good acidity. Great balance and length. Super stuff. LV

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 1er Cru has much more reserved and "correct" bouquet than the Les Referts, though you could argue that it is less fun by comparison. The saline palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity and a tightly coiled finish. Could this have something up its sleeve for those who age it? Its maker thinks so. 91-93 NM



Domaine Alvina Pernot

Unit

Unit Price

This was a late find in 2019, but perhaps one of the most exciting. Alvina is the granddaughter of Paul Pernot and as well as working full time in the family Domaine in Puligny has set up her own micro-negociant business with her husband Philippe. The holdings are impressive, with multiple 1er crus in Puligny and enviable old vine plots even at Bourgogne level, along with some fruit coming from Paul Pernot plots. 2018 is their first vintage and we are very excited to see how this small Domaine progresses. These exciting wines show lovely concentration from old vines, but retain freshness and a minerality at their core. If the 2018's are anything to go by then they could be very special indeed. One to watch.

Bourgogne Blanc

6

£78 InBond

From two parcels in Puligny and older vines from ca. 1970. Concentrated ripe fruit, citrus, green apples and some, peach. Fresh and good mineral finish. Very good length for a Bourgogne level wine. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, Veilles Vignes

6

£205 InBond

From two parcels: Enseignereres and a parcel below Perrieres (Nosroyes) planted in 1982. Lovely honeyed nose, ripe fruit intertwined with mineral and floral notes. The palate is very precise, with lots of volume and super length. Excellent. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, La Rue aux Vaches

3 Magnums

£220 InBond

Vineyard below Pucelles and only en mag. Weighty with ripe peach, pear and citrus, but with freshness and super concentration. Palate has lovely savoury iodine note, balancing the fruit, rich yet spicy and mineral. Really super. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er cru Clos de la Garenne

6

£320 InBond

Vineyard above Champ Gain in Blangy and bordering Saint Aubin thus sat a higher altitude - more lemon peel, lovely concentration, pepper spice, lovely texturized mouth-feel and good freshness. Altitude of vineyard adding freshness and minerality. Lovely. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er Cru Folatieres

6

£320 InBond

Vibrant, classic Folatieres iodine/saline, intense but balanced, long and with a spicy finish. Touch of oak prominent but will integrate I feel. Impressive. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er Cru Les Chalumaux

6

£320 InBond

Champ Canet and just below Blangy on Meursault side. - old vines planted 1954. Complex nose, old vine concentration. Mix of green apple, citrus, melon and peach as well as floral and honeyed. Very concentrated wine - can understand why shown last. Lots of energy and intensity, vanilla and spice from oak but harmonious, very long finish. Needs time but excellent nevertheless. LV



Domaine Paul Pillot/Thierry Pillot

Unit

Unit Price

Thierry Pillot made some of the very best whites we tasted in 2017 and he has managed to do it again in 2018. The wines are characterised by an incredible precision and are razor sharp across the board. Sadly, we do not get enough to satisfy demand so these wines will be allocated based on overall spend and the spread of wines ordered.

Bourgogne Blanc

6

£95 InBond

Quite restrained with a nice clarity and good freshness. Lovely green apple and lime fruit, great acidity. Very Good. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet

6

£195 InBond

Very zesty lime fruit and sherbet. This is super fine with a defined mineral backbone. A little riper with a touch caramel and butter very good density a touch of spice. LV

Puligny-Montrachet, 1er cru les Enseignerres (Thierry)

6

£205 InBond

Green apple and lime fruit, very linear and precise with a touch of smoke. There is a real tension here with, ripe apple fruit and an excellent back bone of fresh acidity. Racey and fine, very impressive. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Champ Gain

6

£280 InBond

A bit more mineral here, all stones and minerals very tight and precise. Some smoke, stone lemon zest wrapping around a citrus and ripe apple core. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Clos St Jean

6

£280 InBond

Quite open with ripe fruit and a more floral style. Quite restrained on the palate, tight knit with real lemon citrus notes and a strong mineral finish. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Cailleret

3

£200 InBond

More open and fruit forward but still very linear and precise lime fruit. Very citrus lemon fruit on the palate with a mineral intensity and lovely ripeness and purity. Really excellent. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Grande Ruchottes

3

£200 InBond

Bigger and more powerful. Lots of richness. Fruit dominated by peach and soft yellow fruit. This is very concentrated with lemon fruit on palate - great power and concentration very mineral. LV

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Grande Montagne

3

£200 InBond

More open with a lovely smoky, mineral character. Not as expressive on the palate and a little tighter than the nose would suggest. Still there is a lovely tension here. LV



Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru La Romanee

3

£250 InBond

Super elegant with an ethereal quality on the nose, perfumed with a lovely feminine character. This is super silky on the palate, just beautiful wine with an elegance and concentration and yet retaining a great complexity. LV

Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru (Thierry)

6

£600 InBond

Riper nose here with some lemon and orange citrus fruit alongside a touch of caramel and coconut. This is full in the mouth but with lovely balance and crisp fresh acidity. LV

Batard-Montrachet, Grand Cru (Thierry)

6

£1,250 InBond

White pear fruit alongside floral and spiced notes on the nose. This has lots of power and density with layers of crisp fruit, spice and honey. The wine retains a lovely freshness and energy, really super stuff. LV



Patrick Piuze (Chablis)

Unit

Unit Price

Patrick was “super happy” with his 2018s and we can see why. Not only are they of the highest quality; precise, linear and very expressive of their terroir, but yields were high too. So high in fact that he needed to beg and borrow in order to get some extra vats for vinification while still harvesting grapes. For lovers of Chablis, this Domaine is consistently producing some of the very best wines in regions and continues to offer exceptional value.

Petit Chablis

12

£150 InBond

Piuze has produced a very fine 2018 Petit Chablis from the purely Kimmeridgean soils of the Petit Preuses, which overlooks the grand cru climat Les Preuses. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of pear, almond paste and dried white flowers, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, with a charming, elegantly textural profile that reflects both the warm vintage and its Chablisien origins. 88 WK

Chablis Terroir de Chablis

12

£190 InBond

Derived from two north-facing parcels near Montmains—to be more specific, a mere 50 meters from lieu-dit Forêt—the 2018 Chablis Terroir de Chablis is one of the high points of the range, wafting from the glass with notes of lemon oil, oyster shells, smoke and green apples. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, with excellent concentration and a stony, mineral finish. Readers may find it helpful to think of this as a miniature Sêchet this year. 91 WK

Chablis Terroir de Chichee

12

£190 InBond

From the plateau near the Vaucoupin, Piuze's 2018 Chablis Terroir de Chichée bursts with aromas of crisp green apple, white flowers and fresh peach. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, pure and tensile, with a bright spine of acidity, a tight-knit core of incipiently fleshy fruit and a stony finish. 90+ WK

Chablis Terroir de Courgis

12

£190 InBond

Always one of Piuze's finest cuvées at the communal level, the 2018 Chablis Terroir de Courgis is excellent, revealing notes of smoky green orchard fruit, iodine and citrus oil, followed by a medium to full-bodied, layered and enveloping palate that's fleshy and concentrated, with good underlying tension. While this is one of the richer bottlings in its youth, it ages beautifully, and as its puppy fat falls away, it's the wine's firm underlying spine that dominates. 91+ WK

Chablis Terroir du Fye

12

£190 InBond

From the lower portion of Chapelot that isn't entitled to the premier cru appellation, Piuze's 2018 Chablis Terroir de Fyé wafts from the glass with aromas of pear, apples, fresh mint, beeswax and oyster shell. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, with a racy but textural profile and a saline finish. One of the more elegant wines in this range, it's well worth seeking out. 91 WK



Chablis, 1er Cru Butteaux

6

£200 InBond

Notes of green apple, lime, oyster shell and iodine introduce Piuze's 2018 Chablis 1er Cru Butteaux, a medium to full-bodied, ample and attractively layered wine that's concentrated, cool and controlled, with tangy acids and a saline finish. This cuvée derives from a parcel of 75-year-old vines in clay-rich soils that have weathered the warm vintage conditions very well. 92+ WK

Chablis, 1er Cru Forets

6

£190 InBond

The 2018 Chablis 1er Cru Les Forêts offers up aromas of fresh peach, green apples, warm pastry and white flowers. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, round and open-knit, with an easier-going, fleshier profile than the tensile Séchet that preceded it, concluding with a saline finish. 91 WK

Chablis, 1er Cru Sechets

6

£200 InBond

The 2018 Chablis 1er Cru Séchet is one of the high points of the range once again, unwinding in the glass with a classic bouquet of lemon oil, lime, rock salt, crushed shells, mint and iodine. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny but incisive, with a deep and tight-knit core, tangy acids and a mineral finish. 93+ WK

Chablis, 1er Cru Montee de Tonnerre

6

£240 InBond

Piuze tells me that his 2018 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre was the last wine in the cellar to complete its fermentation, and it's accordingly one of the most primary at this early stage, delivering a ripe bouquet of apricot, musky peaches and white flowers despite its comparatively modest potential alcohol. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy, with good precision that suggests it may gain in tension with a bit more age. 92+ WK

Chablis, Grand Cru Blanchots

6

£275 InBond

The 2018 Chablis Grand Cru Blanchots is a powerful, broad-shouldered wine, bursting with notes of honeysuckle, yellow orchard fruit, almond paste and white flowers. On the palate, it's full-bodied, broad and ample, with a layered core, impressive purity and precision despite its unmistakable volume, and an intensely saline finish. 93 WK

Chablis, Grand Cru Bougros

6

£260 InBond

Aromas of ripe peaches, pears and almond paste preface the 2018 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros, a full-bodied, ample and blocky wine that's quite structured and reserved by the standards of this often-extroverted climat, displaying a layered mid-palate that's framed by a generous endowment of chewy dry extract. It's an impressive but muscular example of the vintage. 93+ WK



Chablis, Grand Cru les Clos

6

£380 InBond

Piuzé told me that his 2018 Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos had become atypically aromatic during its élevage, and that it was only just now beginning to shut down. So, I prefer to offer only a bracketed score for this full-bodied, broad and voluptuous wine that's evocative of musky peach and honeycomb. I'll be tasting it again next year. 92-94 WK

Chablis, Grand Cru Preuses

6

£380 InBond

The 2018 Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses is superb, revealing an incipiently complex bouquet that mingles orange blossom, iodine, shrimp shell reduction and wet stones in a saliva-inducing mélange. Full-bodied, satiny and multidimensional on the palate, it's layered, elegantly textural but incisive, with racy acids for the vintage and a long, saline finish. 95 WK

REDS

en primeur



Domaine Comte Armand

Unit

Unit Price

Paul Zinetti has taken this Domaine to another level since being at the helm. The 2018's have a balance and lightness that is difficult to resist. A superb set of wines across the board.

Auxey-Duresses Rouge, 1er Cru

6

£175 InBond

An excellent plush and spicy character with kirsch and raspberry fruit. This is beautifully polished and concentrated. Really lovely attractive wine. LV

The 2018 Auxey-Duresses 1er Cru is a blend of two parcels, Les Bréterins (limestone soils) and, further down in the village, Les Duresses (deep clayey soils). This has a very cohesive bouquet of raspberry preserve, cranberry and pressed rose petal aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins, a superb line of acidity and impressive structure on the finish. This is clearly a step up from the 2017 Auxey-Duresses 1er Cru and comes recommended. 90-92 NM

Volnay

6

£195 InBond

The 2018 Volnay Village comes from two parcels, Les Famines and Grands Champs. The very sensual bouquet features raspberry preserve, cranberry and powdered chalk aromas that feel well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins and modest weight in the mouth. Closes a little drier, with a doppelganger of a Pommard finish. 88-90 NM

Volnay, 1er Cru Fremiets

6

£355 InBond

Very fine and elegant fruit with minerality and a lovely vibrant fruit character. LV

The 2018 Volnay Les Frémiets 1er Cru, tasted from a 2016 barrel, has tightly wound bouquet, blackberry and raspberry fruit, hints of blood orange and a light vanilla-y note that emerges with aeration. The palate is well balanced with fine-grained tannins. This feels a little tauter than the 2017, more "streamlined" perhaps, which is a surprise given the warmth of the later summer, though it is the limestone soils that keep a tight leash on precocity. This has great potential. 92-94 NM

Pommard, 1er Cru Clos des Epeneaux

6

£595 InBond

Tasted from a blend of the four different parcels that will make up the final blend. Very suave with pure ripe fruit and lovely concentration. Very concentrated but with a lightness and great acidity. Very balanced and long, delicious. LV

The 2018 Pommard Clos des Epeneaux 1er Cru was tasted from the four component blends and an assemblage. I must say that although I would like to have reported about the obvious difference between parcels of various vine age and soil types, I would describe them more as variations on a theme, the differences more nuanced than I have found in other vintages. The final pre-prepared blend has a delineated bouquet of blackberry, raspberry and cranberry scents, more floral than expected, with pressed rose petals and orange blossom emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins and the 30% new oak extremely well integrated, with savory hints toward the persistent finish. This is just superb. 93-95 NM



Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites)

Bourgogne Rouge

12

£170 InBond

Very pure raspberry fruit, juicy and fresh. Lovely ripeness, very moreish. LV

The 2018 Bourgogne Rouge, which contains 15% whole bunch, comes partly from Hautes Côtes de Beaune and partly from Maranges itself. It has a very pretty bouquet of red cherries and crushed strawberry fruit. The palate is fresh on the entry with crunchy red berry fruit and good acidity. A little rustic and short but shows good vigor. 85-87 NM

Marranges, 1er Cru la Fussiere

6

£110 InBond

Again a lovely purity of fruit, slightly darker with a more earthy and mineral character. Very fresh with a bit of spice and structure, fine tannins and good concentration. LV

The 2018 Maranges La Fussières 1er Cru Rouge contains 30% whole-bunch fruit that according to the domaine always gives good acidity levels. It has a generous bouquet of black cherries and raspberry aromas, much more vigorous than the Bourgogne Rouge. The whole bunch works really well here; the palate is very well balanced with sappy red fruit and fine acidity, and succulent and quite saline toward the finish. This comes highly recommended. 90-92 NM

Marranges, 1er Cru la Boutiere

6

£110 InBond

Softer raspberry and blackberry fruit very vibrant and pure. A touch more minerality good acidity and backbone. Lovely freshness yet long and a nice balancing minerality. Excellent. LV

The 2018 Maranges Clos de la Boutière 1er Cru comes from a parcel of 80-year-old selection massale vines (the domaine being one of only two to produce bottlings from this Premier Cru). It has a well-defined bouquet that is a little more mineral-driven compared to the La Fussières. The palate is framed by fine tannins and crisp, slightly tart red cherry and wild strawberry fruit. This Clos de la Boutière is very precise and translates the terroir with style and verve. Just superb. 91-93 NM

Pommard, 1er Cru, Les Chalins

6

£210 InBond

The maiden 2018 Pommard Les Chanlins is a new addition for the domaine. The 0.25-hectare parcel comes from Alex and Marc Bachelet's father, who sold the fruit to négociants until 2011, although subsequently it was affected by hail and mildew. Finally, it sees the light of day. In this vintage, it contains 50% whole bunch. It has an uncomplicated but attractive nose of brambly black fruit mixed with touches of rose petal. The palate is medium-bodied with such a silky texture that I would swear it comes from the Côtes de Nuits. Very pure and sensual on the finish. This is superb. Three-and-a-half barrels produced. 90-92 NM



Domaine Henri Boillot

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites) “Indeed, the reds are so good that it's appropriate to remember that, until Boillot's father reoriented the estate toward white wine, this was a domaine best known for its reds.” William Kelley, Wine advocate.

Volnay, 1er Cru Fremiets

6

£350 InBond

The 2018 Volnay 1er Cru Frémiets exhibits lovely aromas of raspberries and cherries mingled with orange rind, spice and raw cocoa. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, lively and fine-boned, from more calcium-rich soils than Les Chevrets and built around bright acids and fine, chalky tannins. 93 WK

Echezeaux, Grand Cru

6

£950 InBond

The 2018 Echezeaux Grand Cru wafts from the glass with an exotic bouquet of cassis and cherries complemented by nuances of incense, burning embers, dark chocolate and rich loamy soil. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, rich and enveloping, with fine concentration, ripe acids and a long, elegantly vanillin-inflected finish. This is a relatively new bottling for Boillot that debuted in the 2017 vintage. 93 WK

Chambertin, Grand Cru

1

£225 InBond

The 2018 Chambertin Grand Cru unwinds in the glass with aromas of sweet red berries, cherries, dark chocolate, rich loamy soil and creamy new oak. On the palate, it's full-bodied, nicely concentrated and fine-boned, with a deep core of fruit, exquisitely refined tannins and a long, sweetly fruited finish. 94WK



Domaine Coquard-Loison-Fleurot

Unit

Unit Price

Thomas Collardot was very content with the quality of the Domaines 2018's and was delighted with the quantity that they have produced. The wines continue to delight, each year we taste here. Prices and allocation expected w/c 27th January, please let us know your requirements.

Bourgogne Rouge

TBC

£TBC InBond

A little closed initially but opened up to show ripe red fruit and a lovely concentrated richness. Very powerful and concentrated in the mouth with lots of stuffing but great balance and acidity. Serious for a Bourgogne Rouge and will need some time. LV

The domaine has sizeable holdings, mostly just across the main road from grand cru Clos de Vougeot. Bright juicy fruit, with touch of tannin behind, dense and delicious, juicy and long. I never spotted the higher alcohol level in this wine. 87 JM

Chambolle-Musigny

TBC

£TBC InBond

Lovely pure raspberry Chambolle fruit on the nose. There is good acidity and a touch of minerality. Very fine. LV

The vines are in Les Gamaires which abuts Morey. There is incredibly beautiful pure ripe fruit, essence of raspberry. Though this shows itself to be a powerful wine it is balanced below 14% alcohol. Firm tannins behind and bounding energy. 90-93 JM

Morey-St-Denis

TBC

£TBC InBond

A little tighter and stricter. Very good fruit, excellent acidity and balance. Well-structured and serious wine. LV

From three lieux-dits including Clos Solon in the middle and north of the village. Another very ebullient 2018 from Coquard-Loison-Fleurot. Red fruit, especially raspberry, with saline notes, a little tighter in structure than the Chambolle, this shows excellent promise. 90-93 JM

Gevrey-Chambertin

TBC

£TBC InBond

Lovely Gevrey fruit, very concentrated and dense but balanced with lovely acidity and freshness. LV

From Champerrier, Songe, Vignes Belles. Excellent, rich purple, like all their 2018s, with lively fruit. This is quite high octane but still with a fresh finish, and a touch of graphite. This should all settle down with a little longer in barrel. 89-92 JM

Vosne-Romanee

TBC

£TBC InBond

Really polished and plush on the nose this is very 'Vosne'. There is a touch of minerality and spice on the palate alongside excellent balance great energy. LV

From Quartiers de Nuits and Maizières, top locations, and 70 year old vines, then blended with a cuvée from 50 year old vines in Les Violettes. The blend offers a super-saturated purple colour, the nose shows a real nobility, the quintessence of Vosne, with beautiful flesh on the palate, beautifully balanced, just the right acidity. 92-94 JM (5* Wine)



Vosne-Romanee, 1er Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

Super refined and mineral with very pure juicy red fruit. Elegant and superb. LV

This wine is a blend between a tiny holding of Beaumonts plus some declassified Echezeaux, from Les Lochausses. Purple of course, some fermentation aromas, and something which I did not fully recognise which Thomas ascribes to there being a certain proportion of pinot beurot in the vines. Strict and tense with dark fruit, more black notes at the finish. 92-95 JM

Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

There is a real richness to the fruit here - plush and polished. Concentrated but with balanced acidity, excellent. LV

From more than 70 year old vines. More black than purple. Dense, backward fruit, on the cusp of black and red, saturates the palate, thick texture, firm but ripe tannins, good persistence, not without finesse. 93-96

Charmes-Chambertin, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

Very refined. Lovely mouth filling fruit and super definition with real energy. Flinty mineral character on the long finish. Superb! LV

From one third of a hectare in Les Mazoyères, planted in 1968 by Thomas Collardot's grandfather. Glowing purple. The nose is majestic but not over the top. Lovely perfumed ripe raspberry. Gorgeous flowing fruit across the palate, fine balance at the back. But NB 15% alcohol, which the wine seems to be able to carry. 94-97 JM

Echezeaux, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

Really beautiful nose. Very sexy and attractive. Loganberry fruit with a real purity and lots of mineral character. Very concentrated, very long. Super juice. LV

They are fortunate to have more than a hectare in all, spread between Poulailières, Treux and En Orveaux. Huge density of purple colour. Very smooth and silky on the nose. Sensual. There is a nice little bit of tension behind with a welcome touch of natural acidity. 95-97 JM (5* wine)

Clos de la Roche, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

Now this is more expressive than the Echezeaux and very linear and refined. Amazing purity and great concentration. Just lovely. LV

There are vines in Chabiots dating back to 1933 and 1954, and slightly younger vines in Mochamps. More red fruit than black with good tension. Medium plus bodied with very good length, all flows very nicely. Still some blue fruit, the alcohol level makes it less dry than usual, indeed silkier. 94-97 JM



Clos St Denis, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

This has a very special nose of minerals and expressive pure red fruit. Very complex and refined. Amazing. LV

0.16ha of pre-war vines (probably 1936). Rich, immensely intense, more crimson than purple, a wealth of fruit but quiet tightly knit, so much there that it is less easy-going than this can be sometimes. Brilliant succulent fruit. A few tannins behind. 95-98 JM

Grand-Echezeaux, Grand Cru

TBC

£TBC InBond

Really fascinating nose, much darker fruit here and layers and layers of complexity. Pure fruit alongside herbs and spices. Super complex. LV

The holding consists of 3 ouvrées from 1929 and one from 1954. Enough for 3 barrels. This starts out with an imperial purple colour and there is exceptional density on the nose too. I detect a touch of graphite, which comes from the new barrel component and will soon integrate. Still more red fruit than black. This is pretty intense wine, though under 14% in alcohol. 95-97 JM



Domaine Joseph Drouhin

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites)

Chambolle-Muisgny

6

£250 InBond

Good fresh purple colour. This Chambolle is not one of those which may have gone too far, with quite fresh acidity behind. 88-90 JM

Vosne-Romanee, 1er Cru

6

£360 InBond

Blended from Malconsorts, Chaumes and Petits Monts, though not Véronique Drouhin's own holding of the latter. A full deep purple, the bouquet is a little bit stern. A gorgeous volume of fruit here, with a rich damask feel, future roses in the making with a wealth of sweeter red fruit behind. 92-95 JM

Gevrey-Chambertin, 1er Cru Clos Prieur

6

£475 InBond

The 2018 Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur 1er Cru has a well-defined bouquet of red and black fruit mixed with truffle and subtle minty aromas that gradually gain intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, good body and a finely tuned, mineral-rich finish. A touch of spice lingers on the aftertaste. Very fine. 91-93 NM

Charmes-Chambertin

6

£800 InBond

Black colour with light purple edge. A weight of major ripe fruit. Dense mulberry fruit with a drier finish. This is in fact from Mazoyères-Chambertin and shows some of that stony crunch at the finish. 92-95 JM

Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru

6

£985 InBond

Full ripe purple with a classy lively nose. Purity and precision, this is really smart wine, as it has been produced just from their better block. Racy and fresh, 30% whole bunch vinification has worked very well. Excellent length. 95-97 JM

Grands-Echezeaux

3

£950 InBond

The 2018 Grands-Echézeaux Grand Cru, which comes from the namesake lieu-dit, is one of Véronique Drouhin's favorite crus and, in her opinion, one of their most consistent. It has a very well-defined bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, pressed iris flowers and incense that immediately seduces the senses. The palate is medium-bodied with fine supple tannins and a perfect line of acidity, the 40% whole cluster lending a little pepperiness toward the pixelated finish. This is unequivocally a Grand Vin. 95-97 NM



Musigny, Grand Cru

3

£1,300 InBond

Dense purple with a lighter rim. The bouquet offers ripe fruit with good intensity. Some mulberry, with gorgeous dense fruit throughout, some saline notes, spicy too. It does have the majesty of Musigny. Finishes with greater freshness, so perhaps I am undervaluing this wine. It would have shown even better with a fresher nose. 94-98 JM

Chambertin Clos de Beze, Grand Cru

3

£900 InBond

Dense purple. Another nose that lacks freshness in the sample, but will be fine in the final wine. Plump deep raspberry, dense black fruit on the palate, inky and a little bit spicy, long and succulent, there is weight to this. Certainly has a very long classy finish, so one can see the potential. 94-98 JM



Domaine Jean & Gilles Lafouge

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites)

Bourgogne Rouge Côte d'Or

6

£75 InBond

Pure Raspberry and strawberry fruit, very juicy and vibrant. Fresh and pure, excellent and very pinot. Lovely now even at this early stage - why wait? LV

Auxey-Duresses, 1er Cru La Chapelle

6

£125 InBond

Darker, blacker fruits here with bramble and black cherries. Very pure and precise with great balancing acidity. Very elegant and fine, almost ready to drink now! Lovely stuff. LV

Auxey-Duresses, 1er Cru les Duresses

6

£125 InBond

A little closed and tighter on the nose. This had a more concentrated structure, bigger and more powerful than la Chapelle – very ripe fruit and lovely concentration. Delicious. Very impressive selection of reds in 2018. LV



Domaine Benjamin Leroux

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites)

Volnay, 1er cru Santenots

6

£310 InBond

Lovely ripe fruit on the nose, mix of strawberry, raspberry and darker fruit. In the mouth more elegant than nose suggests which impresses. Super fine tannin and structure. LV

A new cuvée from the farming contract with Domaine Matrot-Wittersheim. 35 hl/ha and 13.3% alcohol. Dense dark colour, almost a black centre, the clay speaks. There is a massive yet sensual volume of fruit here that really kicks on masterfully, red fruit that has ripened to the optimum level. 92-95 JM

Volnay, 1er cru Caillerets

6

£385 InBond

Lovely perfume, reds here picked 4th September and shows in balance and elegance. Core of ripe fruit, juicy, pure, delicate, expressive, long finish with some saline. Really super. LV

One of the first picked, at a balanced 13.3%. Magisterial red purple colour with a nose to match, suggesting both depth and class. The fruit is a ripe velvety red in style, with perfect balance. Clearly a high-class pinot here, with the perfect acid and fine grained tannin balance. Lovely lingering aftertaste. 93-95 (5* Wine) JM

Nuits-St-Georges Les Allots

6

£195 InBond

Not too deep in colour, not too ripe in fruit, lively red berry notes, raspberry and fully ripe cherry, well balanced across the palate with just enough tannin at the back. 90-92 JM

Nuits-St-Georges, 1er Cru aux Thorey

6

£350 InBond

Fine rich deep colour with a nose of concentrated plums. Tense and dark, a little bit of black fruit, still early in its journey but there is both muscle and class here. 91-94 JM

Nuits-St-Georges, 1er Cru aux Boudots

6

£385 InBond

Clear bright powerful red. A racy brisk red fruit on the nose, building on the palate, 50% whole bunch does not show on the nose but appears at the finish, really enhancing the fruit. Picked at optimum ripeness, more red than black, with a beautiful backbone. Very good. 92-95 JM

Gevrey-Chambertin

6

£195 InBond

Racked. Benjamin rejected one supplier for yield. What he has made is excellent. Mid purple colour, with a very elegant attractively ripe deep red fruit nose. Excellent fresh mineral touch at the back, the savoury detail for which Gevrey is noted, fine boned and very persistent. 62 barrels! 91-93 JM (5* Wine)



Gevrey-Chambertin, 1er Cru Champeaux

6

£310 InBond

Rich full purple, with a full fresh dark red fruit on the nose. A sumptuous note to the fruit here but grounded by solid tannins at the finish. Luscious quality to the fruit, but none the worse for that. 91-94 JM

Gevrey-Chambertin, 1er Cru Cazetiers

6

£385 InBond

Immediately sings 'Gevrey' from the glass. Mix of heady darker fruit and classic pinot wild strawberry. Chocolate notes and cherry on the palate with mineral backbone, very specific to this vineyard. Power and grip to last and mineral finish. Really impressive. LV

A new contract in 2018, from old vines in pinot fin. Fine bright deep purple. This wine demonstrates the elegance of Cazetiers. It is pleasingly stylish, with the expected mineral detail and very good length. 92-95 JM



Domaine Paul Pillot

Unit

Unit Price

(Continued from Whites) Thierry Pillot not only makes sensational whites, he is equally passionate about his reds. There is always a joke about how in the UK we don't like red Chassagne's, if that is the case, I suggest that Thierry's wines could convert you.

Bourgogne Rouge

6

£90 InBond

A crowd pleaser, lots of ripe fruit with good density ready to go out of the block but not heavy or overripe and finishes with a good acidity and balance. Very good BR. LV

Ultra-inky purple colour with an explosion of deep ripe fruit. Huge weight in the middle, a little gentle tannin behind, just raked, returns with this rich dark cherry blackberry and loganberry note. But all very harmonious. Brilliant, luscious Bourgogne Rouge. 88 JM

Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge

6

£135 InBond

Lovely smoky nose. Concentrated on the nose full of ripe strawberry fruit and classic Pinot fruit, lovely texture in the mouth, ripe but not heavy finishing with a mineral long note. Lovely. LV

Black in the centre and with a purple edge. There is a slight oxidation to this sample as the wine is still un sulphured, giving a walnut note which will be transitory. The fruit is succulent behind, dark raspberry, some tannins too. 86-88 JM

Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Clos St Jean

6

£250 InBond

Incredible nose of ripe strawberry, raspberry and violets. Very complex. On the palate concentrated but elegance - lots of grip but integrated and some darker fruits. Considered one of the best sites for red in surrounding areas and shows. Really super. LV

Half whole bunch vinification, from 45 year old vines on average across several plots. More purple than black with a lifted floral nose from the whole bunch. Very complex. And with huge density behind. A mix of red and black fruit at the finish and with the capacity to age well. 90-93 JM

