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**Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)**

**2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er red 92**

**2015 Bourgogne red 87**

**2015 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains “La Grange du Duc” red 86**

**2015 Volnay red 89**

**2015 Volnay “Les Aussy” 1er red 90**

**2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er red 89**

**2015 Volnay “Les Champans” 1er red 90**

**2015 Volnay “Les Mitans” 1er red 91**

**2015 Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er red 91**

**2015 Volnay “Les Taillepieds” 1er red 89**

François Bitouzet said that 2015 gave him “some of the cleanest fruit that I have ever seen; in fact I used very little sulfur as the lees were super clean. Aside from some really strong early season oidium pressure, the growing season was relatively straight forward. I began picking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September with my chardonnay and then moved to harvest the Taillepieds as it’s always the most precocious of my pinot vineyards. The potential alcohols came in between 12 and 13.5% and thus nothing was chaptalized. Yields though were another story and particularly so in pinot. As to the wines, they’re clearly unusually ripe and they present another style compared to what we produced in 2012, 2013 and 2014.” Bitouzet noted that he bottled his reds in December 2016. I found that the quality of these 2015s to be very good overall though a few of them displayed some *surmaturité*. While not a fault per se, some may find a few of the wines to lack the freshness of a more classically styled vintage. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, [www.madrose.com](http://www.madrose.com), NY, USA; Direct Wine, [www.directwine.co.uk](http://www.directwine.co.uk) and McKinley Vintners, [www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk](http://www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk), both UK). **Burghound.com April 2017 29**

**2015 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains “La Grange du Duc”:** (30% gamay). A ripe, fresh and pepper-inflected nose displays primarily dark currant and earth scents. There is fine richness to the unusually full-bodied flavors that manage to avoid overt rusticity on the delicious finale. This could easily be enjoyed upon release yet it has enough stuffing to reward a year or so of bottle age. 86/2018+

**2015 Bourgogne:** A very mild trace of reduction is not enough to completely mask the brooding and notably ripe aromas of plum, dark berries and earth. The middle weight flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel that extends to the delicious and lingering finish that exhibits hints of bitter cherry and warmth. This is a fine example of the *appellation* and would make a good choice for an inexpensive house red. 87/2019+

**2015 Volnay:** (from several parcels that include Ez Echards, Les Aussy and Les Petits Gamets). This also displays just enough reduction to warrant a thorough aeration because in this case it’s enough to mute the fruit. Otherwise there is excellent volume to the rich and velvet-textured flavors that possess a rounded, even lush mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy and lightly mineral-inflected finish. This is not as precise as it usually is and there is a touch of warmth but the fine depth and persistence compensate for this. Worth considering. 89/2021+

**2015 Volnay “Les Aussy”:** There is a trace of prune character to the liqueur-like aromas of plum, spice and earth. This is fresher in the mouth as the flavors offer good energy and detail that continues onto the balanced, persistent and relatively fine finale. This is one of those wines where the message sent by the nose isn’t confirmed by the palate in the sense that it’s riper than the refined palate impression would suggest. 90/2022+

**2015 Volnay “Les Mitans”:** (this will be commercialized exclusively in the US). The pretty, layered and ripe aromas of various red berries, spice and violets are slightly fresher. There is an even finer mouth feel to the lacy and discreetly mineral-inflected flavors that deliver fine length on the moderately structured finale where once again a hint of bitter cherry can be found. This is lovely and while it’s certainly ripe, it remains refreshing. 91/2023+

**2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes”:** This is fresher still with its pretty nose that blends red currant and cherry aromas with those of anise and violet. There is a lovely sense of energy to the beautifully well-detailed medium weight

flavors that possess a caressing feel to the mid-palate that tightens up materially on the firm, serious and mildly austere finish. This beauty should amply reward up to a decade of cellaring. Recommended. 92/2023+

**2015 Volnay “Les Taillepieds”:** A pungent nose consists mostly of reduction and whiffs of prune. The wonderfully refined and precise middle weight flavors possess first-rate complexity and I very much like the sense of class on the balanced finish. Like several of the wines in the range, this isn't easy to assess as the nose is *surmature* yet there are other attributes that may, depending on your preferences, make up for that. Note that this is built-to-age though be aware that the nose will likely always display a mild lack of freshness. 89/2027+

**2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”:** Here too there is a hint of prune on the spicy and very ripe aromas that include hints of mocha and smoke. Like the Taillepieds there is much better freshness and vibrancy in the mouth where the abundant dry extract buffers the very firm tannins on the austere and very serious finale. Once again, the nose is the weak point here yet the palate impression is quite attractive. 89/2027+

**2015 Volnay “Les Champans”:** Once again there is just enough prune character to detract mildly from the overtly ripe nose that consists of liqueur-like red berry fruit, game and earth scents. The sleek, intense and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors culminate in a firm, powerful and very structured and beautifully persistent finish. I would repeat here what I suggest for the Taillepieds and Caillerets in that I can't get excited about the nose yet there is quite simply terrific underlying material on the palate and this should live for a very long time. How fresh this will be when it gets there though is an open question that you should consider. 90/2030+

**2015 Volnay “Les Pitures”:** (from 35+ year old vines). In the same fashion as the several of the prior wines there is a touch of prune present though in this case it is quite subtle and doesn't fight with the aromas of violet, earth, licorice and dark berries. There is excellent size, weight, richness and power to the big-bodied and concentrated flavors that for all the punch manage to remain refined on the balanced and hugely long finish. Like the Champans this is a big and very structured wine that, because of the slightly fresher nose, gives me a bit more confidence for its longer-term prospects. 91/2030+

#### **Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)**

**2015 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes red (89-91)**

**2015 Aloxe-Corton “1er” 1er red (91-93)**

**2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir “Les Barrigards” red (86-89)**

**2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Bons Ores” red (87-89)**

**2015 Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru red (92-94)**

**2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages red (88-91)**

**2015 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes red (89-91)**

**2015 Ladoix “Le Bois Rousot” 1er red (90-92)**

**2015 Ladoix “Les Carrières” red (89-92)**

**2015 Ladoix “La Corvée” 1er red (90-93)**

**2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune red (87-89)**

Pierre Cornu described the 2015 growing season as “much less complicated than anything we've experienced in the last five years so it was frankly a relief not to be constantly worried about something! Even so, our yields were around 30 hl/ha, which is about what we obtained in 2010 and 2012. 30 hl/ha isn't bad but 35 to 40 hl/ha is more in line with what we would like to have. I chose to begin picking relatively late, which is to say on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September because while we had the alcoholic degrees we like, I didn't think we quite had the ideal phenolic maturity. The vinifications were easy in one sense because the fruit was so clean but I have never seen such amazing fruit and to me you have a chance to make a vintage like this once in your life if you're lucky and I absolutely wanted to get it just right. As to the wines, they're exceptionally powerful and concentrated. I would describe them as a blend of the 2005 and 2010 vintages where the former contributes the structure, power and dense tannins and the later the harmony and balance. While I always hesitate to make pronouncements, it's hard to see the 2015s turning out poorly as they just have so much potential.” I have to agree with Cornu, in fact I would go so far as to observe that his 2015s could very well be the best wines he has ever made. To express it differently, in all the years that I have been visiting I have never tasted a better one when considering the entire range at once. I would add that the Cornu wines generally sell for very reasonable prices and they typically offer excellent value in the context of the quality they offer. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, [www.madrose.com](http://www.madrose.com), NY, USA; McKinley Vintners, [www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk](http://www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk), UK).

**2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir “Les Barrigards”:** (note that this is labeled as Les Barrigards only for the US market). A layered nose is at once ripe and fresh with its array of dark berries and earth scents. There is fine volume to the very suave and rich flavors that exhibit almost no rusticity on the ever-so-mildly warm finale. One to consider. (86-89)/2019+

**2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Bons Ores”:** A discreet touch of wood sets off wonderfully fresh aromas that are composed by notes of red cherry, raspberry, earth and a pretty spice hint. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess a sappy mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty, punchy and slightly rustic finale. (87-89)/2020+

**2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune:** Here too a deft application of wood frames the wonderfully fresh aromas of red pinot fruit, pungent earth and a floral hint. There is a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess a beguiling mid-palate mouth feel that contrasts somewhat with the mildly rustic finale. This too is attractive. (87-89)/2021+

**2015 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes:** (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age that are mostly from Champ Pussuet with small amounts of Les Forêts and Hameau de Buisson). A deeply pitched and brooding nose reflects notes of both red and dark cherry, along with earth and wood nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess excellent mid-palate concentration as well as plenty of punch on the firm, robust muscular and rustic finale. This is a very serious Ladoix *villages* that offers very fine quality. Recommended for both quality and value. (89-91)/2025+

**2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages:** (from Le Creux Sobron in Corgoloin). Once again there is just enough wood present to warrant a mention on the notably earth, fresh and expressive aromas of various red berries, underbrush and floral nuances. There is excellent vibrancy to the caressing, punch and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a lovely sense of balance and harmony on the lingering finish where hints of rusticity and bitter cherry emerge. (88-91)/2022+

**2015 Ladoix “Les Carrières”:** A pungent nose presently consists of wood and reduction. On the plus side though there is a lovely sense of freshness and underlying tension to the slightly more refined medium weight flavors, thanks primarily to the relatively fine-grained tannins that also shape the more obviously mineral-driven and firmer finish where once again hints of bitter cherry and rusticity can be found. This offers terrific quality for a Ladoix *villages* and is high recommended provided you have the intention of cellaring it for at least a few years. (89-92)/2025+

**2015 Ladoix “Le Bois Roussot”:** A super-fresh nose reveals a spicy mix of floral and earth-suffused red berry fruit aromas. There is excellent punch and tension characterizing the intense medium-bodied flavors that are finer still if perhaps not quite as powerful and certainly less obviously structured on the beautifully complex and persistent finale. Good stuff. (90-92)/2023+

**2015 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes:** (from 40 to 60 year old vines, primarily from Les Cras but with additional contributions from Les Brunettes et Planchots and Les Boutières). Like the Carrières, the pungent nose is composed by notes of reduction and wood influences. On the plus side there is outstanding size, weight and mid-palate density to the big-bodied flavors that deliver first-rate depth and length. While this is no model of refinement, the overall impression is unusually good for an Aloxe *villages*. Recommended. (89-91)/2022+

**2015 Ladoix “La Corvée”:** A deeply pitched and somber nose reflects notes of plum liqueur, violet and dark currant along with plenty of earth and *sauvage* influences. There is terrific intensity to the muscular and voluminous middle weight plus flavors that possess fine concentration while delivering excellent length on the chewy and powerful finish. This built-to-age effort manages to be quite firmly structured yet not really austere. Excellent quality but patience required. (90-93)/2027+

**2015 Aloxe-Corton “1er”:** (from Valozières and Moutottes). A fresh, pure and layered nose consists of liqueur-like red berry fruit, plum, violet, earth and touches of game and forest floor. There is excellent richness to the robust and intensity medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate with dry extract where the supporting structure arrives all at once on the finish. This very fine effort is very Aloxe in basic character yet it is not really rustic or austere. As an aside I had to laugh when Cornu described this as a “rugby man wearing a tutu”! (91-93)/2027+

**2015 Corton-Bressandes:** Reduction currently masks the fruit though there is very good freshness to the ripe and vibrant broad-shouldered flavors that are dense and very serious yet there is a certain refinement present as the supporting tannins are dense but fine, all wrapped in a hugely long and impeccably well-balanced finish. Like several of the wines in the range this beauty is definitely built-to-age and my sense is that this is going to need 15 to 20 years of cellar time to fully resolve the underlying structure. (92-94)/2030+