

Allen Meadow's 2nd Quarter, 2011 Issue 42 p. 20-21

- 2009 Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er red (87-90)
- 2009 Bourgogne red (85-87)
- 2009 Volnay red 88
- 2009 Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er red (88-91)
- 2009 Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er red (91-93)
- 2009 Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er red (90-93)
- 2009 Volnay "Mitans" 1er red (89-91)
- 2009 Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er red (90-92)
- 2009 Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er red (90-93)

Vincent Bitouzet's son François, who is responsible for the reds, noted that "2009 was a relatively easy vintage. We began picking on the 7th of September with our parcel of Beaune Cents Vignes. The fruit was exceptionally clean and averaged between 12 and 13% potential alcohols. When you start with excellent raw materials, the vinification can't help but be easy. The only hard part was deciding when to stop as the reds seemed to improve each day and finally, after about three weeks, I elected to rack the new wines into barrel. I believe that the '09s will be popular with everyone as they're forward but well balanced and should drink well voung but age reasonably well too." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk and **McKinley** Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

<u>2009 Bourgogne</u> : A ripe, pure and really quite pretty nose speaks of red and blue fruit, violets and a touch of warm earth that carries over to the rich, round and delicious flavors that do display some mild rusticity on the otherwise persistent finish. This is a Bourgogne worth considering. (85-87)/2014+

<u>2009 Volnay</u>(from several parcels of vines on the Meursault side of the village). A more elegant nose of red currant, plum and similar warm earth notes leads to nicely voluminous but well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess an attractive texture plus a touch of minerality on the balanced and lingering finish. The only nit is that there is, at present anyway, limited depth and thus if it can add depth in bottle, my score may be on the conservative side. 88/2015+

<u>2009 Beaune "Cent Vignes"</u> Mild reduction doesn't completely hide the ripe red and blue pinot fruit aromas that precede supple, round and quite generous flavors that possess a

fleshy mouth feel and a subtle trace of minerality on the delicious finish that possesses sneaky length if not superior complexity. (87-90)/2015+

<u>2009 Volnay "Les Aussy</u>" (from Roncerets, which due to the recent regroupment can be declared as Les Aussy). A strikingly pretty, complex, pure and elegant nose that is less primary and will probably evolve relatively quickly as the light to barely middle weight flavors are detailed, intense and energetic but not dense. Still, the balance is lovely and I quite like the flavour authority that is present in a light weight package. Finesse and delicacy are the watchwords here. 89/2012+

<u>2009 Volnay "Mitans"</u> (this was previously declared as L'Ormeau but with the reclassification of L'Ormeau into Mitans, they now have the legal right to declare it as Mitans). Here the nose is not quite as refined as the largely red berry fruit romas are both riper and more deeply pitched. However the round, supple and admirably pure middle weight flavors possess better overall depth and length even if the tannins are not quite as fine. (89-91)/2017+

<u>2009 Volnay "Taillepieds"</u> This was sufficiently reduced to block an evaluation of the nose but the rich, vibrant and intensely mineral-driven flavors are both complex and wonderfully precise with the driving and youthfully austere finish carrying the hallmark Taillepieds stoniness. I very much like the complexity and overall sense of balance and this should be excellent in time. (90-93)/2019+

<u>2009 Volnay "Clos des Chênes"</u> (from 20+ year old vines). A ripe, pure and wonderfully airy nose of red pinot fruit is cut with hints of earth and minerals, both of which can be found on the rich, full-bodied and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a well-detailed, focused and lingering finish. This long and serious effort is very Clos des Chênes as there is a robustness to the firm tannins and this will require all of 10 to 12 years to arrive at its peak. (90-93)/2019+

<u>2009 Volnay "Les Pitures"</u> ((from 35+ year old vines). A discreet hint of wood sets off a reduced nose that is clearly quite ripe. The firm middle weight flavors also possess an intense minerality that continues onto the structured, long and quite serious finish. This will require ample cellar time to soften and resolve the compact tannins. (90-92)/2021+

<u>2009 Volnay "Les Caillerets"</u> An elegant nose that is quite floral also reflect notes of plum and cassis that is in keeping with the ripe, rich, pure and refined middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mid-palate as well as a lacy but detailed and mineral-driven finish where a touch of wood surfaces. This classy effort is a combination of power and finesse that should improve for up to a decade. (91-93)/2017+

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