



Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur. January 2014

Bourgogne. 88 pts

The 2012 Bourgogne is fleshy, sensual and inviting. Crushed flowers, sweet spices and anise linger on the finish. The 2012 was bottled about six weeks before this tasting. I will not be surprised if it turns out even better than this note suggests. Drinking Window 2014-2018.

Volnay. 88-90 pts

Crushed flowers, rose petals, sweet red berries, anise and sage meld together in the glass nicely in the 2012 Volnay. A floral lifted wine, the 2012 impresses for its silky personality and lovely overall balance. This is one of the more feminine wines in the range. Drinking Window 2014-2022.

Beaune 1er Cru Cent-Vignes. 87-89 pts

The 2012 Beaune Cent Vignes comes across as shut down and not fully expressive. I find good depth in the glass, but today, the 2012 is in an awkward stage that makes a more definitive appraisal impossible. Drinking window 2015-2022.

Volnay 1er Cru Les Aussy. 89-91 pts

The Volnay Les Aussy jumps from the glass with expressive, floral aromatics and bright, chiseled fruit. This is an especially pointed, vibrant 2012 built on serious energy and pure tension. All the elements are present for the 2012 to develop into a striking wine. Plum, cherry pit, cloves and mint linger on the round, resonant finish. Drinking Window 2017-2032.

Volnay 1er Cru Taillepieds. 91-93 pts

A layered, totally exquisite wine, the 2012 Volnay Taillepieds impresses for its balance above all else. The aromas and flavors are beautifully detailed and nuanced in a Taillepieds that is all about crystalline purity. This tasting catches the 2012 in a slightly raw, unpolished state, but nothing a little time in bottle won't take care of. Drinking Window 2017-2037.

Volnay 1er Cru Pitures. 91-93 pts

The estate's 2012 Volnay Pitures is the most massively tannic of these wines. Dark, rich and powerful, the 2012 is laced with black cherries, new leather, cloves and menthol, all supported by huge, incisive tannins. I would give the tannins a few years to soften, but the Pitures is likely to remain intense and even a bit rustic, especially in comparison to the other 2012s here. Drinking Window 2018-2037.

Volnay 1er Cru Mitans. 91-93 pts

The 2012 Volnay Mitans stands out for its total sense of refinement. Sweet floral notes meld into bright red cherries, spices, mint and anise. The 2012 is fragrant and nicely lifted throughout, with impeccable balance and tons of class. Sweet, ripe tannins support the long, understated finish. This is a terrific showing for Mitans. Drinking window 2017 - 2032

Volnay 1er Cru Clos des Chênes. 92-94 pts

The estate's 2012 Volnay Clos des Chênes is wonderfully complete. A wine that plays across all dimensions, the 2012 offers expressive aromatics, deep fruit and plenty of underlying structure. The style is dark, powerful and brooding, with perhaps a bit less finesse than the Caillerets and Taillepieds, but a level of explosiveness that is captivating. This was the last parcel to be harvested in 2012. Drinking Window 2018-2037.

Volnay 1er Cru Caillerets. 92-94 pts

The 2012 Volnay Caillerets is the most impressive of these 2012s from Francois Bitouzet. Here the flavors are deep, layered and beautifully resonant from start to finish. Plum, smoke, black cherry, licorice and spices wrap around the palate as this fleshy, deep Volnay shows off its pure class and pedigree. The finish is long, generous and inviting, but the 2012 is a wine for the cellar. Patience will be rewarded. In 2012 there is just one barrel of the Caillerets instead of the customary three. Drinking Window 2018-2037.