



Handford Wines Burgundy En Primeur 2012

James Handford MW and Greg Sherwood MW - January 2014

Philippe Cheron, Nuits Saint Georges

Philippe Cheron has recently lost his long time management role at Domaine Belland following the sale of the business. He must have been pretty chuffed to learn that his grandfather, Paul Misset, purchased vineyard land in Clos Vougeot, Vosne Romanee and Chambolle Musigny in the 1930s and 1950s and the long leases had finally expired. The 2011 vintage was the first to be registered as Domaine Philippe Cheron (this registration is done per harvest and not per bottling). There are 1.4 hectares in Clos Vougeot, split 50/50 between the high and low part; a stunning lieu dit above Richebourg in Vosne and 12 tiny parcels in Chambolle. With gentle handling, only a little de-stemming, cool settling and no fining and rarely any filtration, Philippe is going for a simple and natural style. Last year I wrote that M Cheron is a straightforward wine man riding a very dark horse. Following this, his second full vintage, his magnificence is becoming ever more obvious.

Chambolle-Musigny 'Les Quarante Ouvrées' 2012

Silky smooth, jellied redcurrant and strawberry with a touch of vanilla and spice. Great depth, mouth feel and even balance on a very long finish. Should be great young too. 2014 to 2017

Chambolle-Musigny 2012 'Clos de l'Orme'

A small shift in policy as Philippe comes to understand his vineyards. Previously he has favoured the lieu dits of 'les Condemannes'. This year he has vinified Clos de l'Orme separately. So that leaves all of the great Candamines for the village wine. Its silky smooth, jellied redcurrant and strawberry fruits are a delight and there's a hint of spice and vanilla oak. A profound wine of top quality with purity, poise and a lovely, long aftertaste. Wonderfully elegant. 2015 to 2021

Vosne-Romanée 'les Barreaux' 2012

These vines are immediately above Richebourg. Mouth watering black fruits with plenty of lift and life. There is 20% of new oak and tannins are perhaps a little less silky now than many examples. So this will need a few years to soften and bring balance to that cool long finish. It's rare to taste such an impressive village wine. Ideal for mid term cellaring. 2017 to 2022

Clos de Vougeot 2012

More new barrels for this great wine and it does show at this stage. Time will soften those sturdy tannins and slightly burnt wood notes. This is a monster of a red in something of the old fashioned, gutsy and savage style. 2019 to 2026