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Domaine Christian Clerget (Vougeot)

2012 Bourgogne red (85-87)

2012 Chambolle-Musigny red (87-89)

2012 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er red (89-91)

2012 Echézeaux Grand Cru red (90-92)

2012 Morey St. Denis "Les Crais" red (86-89)

2012 Vosne-Romanée "Les Violettes" red (87-90)

2012 Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeots" 1er red (89-91)

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er red 90

2011 Echézeaux Grand Cru red 91

2011 Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeots" 1er red 89

The always laconic Christian Clerget described 2012 as "challenging but nothing that wasn't manageable if you were constantly in your vineyards. The poor flowering definitely cost us some potential yield but overall it was far from catastrophic given that my net yields were right at 30 to 32 hl/ha. Among my appellations Chambolle was the least affected as yields there were only just under normal. As to the fruit, it was relatively clean and we obtained excellent phenolic maturities but only average potential alcohols at 11.5 to 12.5%. I did my normal vinification and things went to term in pretty much textbook fashion. As to the wines, I like them as they're very round and thus relatively easy to approach. 2012 is a quality vintage though I doubt that some of the high praise I hear being tossed around is really warranted." I found the Clerget 2012s to be pretty much as he describes them, which is to say that they are wines of very solid quality but they not going to make anyone forget his terrific 2010s. Clerget noted that his 2011s, three of which were revisited below, were bottled in April and May 2013. (P Comms International, www.pcommswines.com, Ashville, NC, Vin de Garde, OR and Vintage Imports, CO; McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2012 Bourgogne: Strong reduction renders the nose impossible to assess. By contrast there is both good freshness and energy to the attractively detailed and saline-inflected flavors that are sufficiently forward that this should drink well young. I would advise holding it for a few years first but that is a personal preference. (85-87)/2015+

2012 Morey St. Denis “Les Crais”: Here the nose is relatively deeply pitched with its notes of red and dark pinot fruit, earth and a hint of underbrush. There is good tension and lovely detail to the supple and markedly round middle weight flavors that possess only moderate depth but fine length and balance. (86-89)/2017+

2012 Chambolle-Musigny: (from 30+ year old vines, most of which are situated by Charmes). As is often the case this is more aromatically complex than the Morey with its layered aromas of red currant, blue berry, earth and a hint of wet stone. There is good detail and plenty of punch to the clean and racy medium-bodied flavors that terminate in an agreeably dry and mildly austere finish. This is a relatively masculine Chambolle villages. (87-89)/2018+

2012 Vosne-Romanée “Les Violettes”: (from .50 ha parcel planted in 1946; Les Violettes abuts Clos de Vougeot). A spicy, ripe and very fresh nose offers up notes of dark currant, anise, clove and warm earth hints. There is a beguiling opulence to the very round and velvet-textured flavors that possess good tension on the mouth coating, complex and solidly persistent finale. This should drink well young but reward 5 to 8 years of cellar time too. (87-90)/2018+

2012 Vougeot “Les Petits Vougeots”: Noticeable wood frames the overtly spicy red currant and earth scents that evidence a hint of the sauvage. The palate impression of the middle weight flavors is really quite fine and restrained, all wrapped in a lightly mineral-driven and persistent finish. As is usually the case, this is a wine of finesse and purity. (89-91)/2018+

2012 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: (from 4 parcels of 30+ year old vines aggregating 1 ha). Classic ruby. There is just enough wood to notice yet not so much as to compromise the appeal of the very pretty and quite fresh dark berry fruit and subtle spice aromas. The punchy and mouth coating medium weight flavors possess a lacy mouth feel with a hint of minerality that surfaces on the ever-so-mildly austere, balanced and persistent finale. (89-91)/2019+

2012 Echézeaux: (from a 1.1 ha parcel located in En Orveaux that was planted in 1947). Moderate reduction with ample wood influence makes for a difficult nose to assess. There is excellent volume and plenty of verve to the delicious, intense and earthy medium weight plus flavors that possess a really lovely inner mouth perfume, all wrapped in a serious, brooding and overtly austere finish. This will require some patience as I doubt that it will drink especially well young. (90-92)/2022+

2011 Vougeot “Les Petits Vougeots”: This is quite elegant and admirably pure with its airy nose of both red and blue pinot fruit that also displays a hint of herbal character. There is a lovely minerality on the delicious and refined middle weight flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel that continues all the way through to the delicious, balanced and solidly lingering finish. This isn’t overly complex at present but I very much like the delivery as this is a wine of finesse. 89/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: (from 4 parcels of 30+ year old vines aggregating 1 ha). An exceptionally fresh nose of red currant, cherry, spice and a hint of earth is framed in just enough wood to notice. The ultra-fine middle weight flavors are shaped and supported by very fine grained tannins on the impeccably well-balanced, dusty and complex finish. This mildly austere effort is also quite understated but the interplay of elements is wonderful. 90/2018+

2011 Echézeaux: (from a 1.1 ha parcel located in En Orveaux that was planted in 1947). An exuberantly spicy nose of dark currant, plum and violets displays fine complexity. There is outstanding volume to the seductively textured and wellconcentrated middle weight flavors that possess a good sense of tension and precision on the firm, moderately austere and impressively persistent finish. This robust effort should be excellent in time as it offers fine upside development potential yet it’s not so forbidding that it could not be approached young if desired. 91/2021+