



Handford Wines Burgundy En Primeur 2013

James Handford MW and Greg Sherwood MW - January 2015

Philippe Cheron, Nuits Saint Georges

Philippe Cheron 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. It's wonderful to watch the development of a grower so determined to express wonderful fruit. He aims to be organic next year.

Chambolle Musigny 'les Quarante Ouvrees' 2013

Perhaps the stars of the Cheron show, these Chambolles are remarkable. Philippe has managed to achieve characters in this wine that few others come close to in this vintage. There is cocoa, caramel, even a hint of honeycomb to fill out the smooth, yet refreshing redcurrant fruit characters. Exceptional. 2017 to 2022

Chambolle Musigny 'Clos de l'Orme' 2013

Astounding in its depth and concentration this is weightier than the village wine and, though full in body and flavour, retains a natural style with bright acids and fresh red fruits. There is a hint of chalky minerality too. Certainly of 1er Cru quality and will age as such. 2019 to 2026.

Vosne Romanee 'les Barreaux' 2013

These vines are immediately above Richebourg. Deep and bright in colour and showing a clean, leafy and classic pure Pinot nose, this is surprisingly powerful in the mouth. Philippe is one of a number of growers choosing to leave a part of the crop on the stems resulting in a more forceful red with some green characters. These will continue to ripen through the maturation process to leave the soft and silky, black cherry scented wine. Highly recommended for the medium term. 2017 to 2023.

Clos Vougeot 2013

As well as retaining a few of the stems in a long and cold maceration, a triage in the vineyards has been introduced here; only the best bunches are used in the domaine wine with others sold off to negociant. The pigeage is ever more gentle; it seems ever more evident to me that the truly fine wines of the world are made with the minimum possible of pumping, pushing and poking during the maceration (the assimilation of flavour, colour and acidity from the skins and pulp prior to, or sometime during fermentation). Still with the bright, red fruit notes that dominate the best reds of 2013, this shows great harmony and a memorable, cool finish. 2020 to 2031