

Chambolle-Musigny 2014

Ideal vintage conditions in this much-admired Burgundy region resulted in wines that reflect its characteristic elegance and complexity, reports Andy Howard MW

THE SMALL, CHARMING village of Chambolle-Musigny is located between two of the main powerhouses of the Côte d'Or – Vosne-Romanée to the south and Gevrey-Chambertin to the north. Chambolle is often considered to be the most 'feminine' of the communes of the Côte de Nuits, but this is an over-simplification given the diversity of both terroir and producers to be found in this beautiful region. What is certain is that good Chambolle-Musigny is among the greatest of red Burgundies, characterised by elegant wines that offer charm, finesse and lift, as opposed to the more powerful, denser wines of the village's neighbours.

The vineyards of Chambolle-Musigny lie between 250m-300m above sea level on relatively thin soils covering hard Jurassic limestone underneath. There is considerable diversity between the soils at the northern end of the commune, which contain a higher proportion of clay (including the grand cru Bonnes-Mares), and the calcaire and pebble-dominated southern part (incorporating Chambolle's other grand cru, Musigny). These differences influence the style of the premiers crus of Chambolle, as they tend to mirror the character of the grand cru located nearby.

Across the appellation, deep gullies encourage soil and rock erosion, as well as creating varied exposures within a very small area. It is generally considered that a higher proportion of active limestone found here adds to the perfume and elegance of Chambolle-Musigny, and even the denser wines will often have more finesse than wines from Gevrey, Morey or Vougeot.

Notable names

Although a small village, Chambolle-Musigny packs a punch when the quality of the vineyards located within the appellation is considered. In addition to many elegant village-level wines, Chambolle boasts 24 named premier cru climats and the two grands crus. Just over 20 producers are registered within the AC, including some of the most illustrious domaines in the Côte d'Or – Georges Roumier, Comte Georges de Vogüé, Ghislaine Barthod and J-F Mugnier.

Of the premiers crus, the famous Les Amoureuses (located adjacent to Le Musigny) is one of the two prime candidates (along with Clos-St-Jacques in Gevrey-Chambertin) should a Burgundy premier cru ever be selected for upgrading to grand cru status. Other top premiers crus located close to Musigny are Les Charmes, La Combe d'Orveau and the smaller Les Chabiots. Adjacent to Bonnes-Mares are Les Cras, Les Fuées and Les Baudes. One should anticipate subtle differences in style between these different climats; nevertheless, the wines of Chambolle-Musigny should always display lift, elegance and finesse, and be relatively approachable when young, but capable of ageing and fulfilling the oft-quoted idiom of the 'iron fist in a velvet glove'.

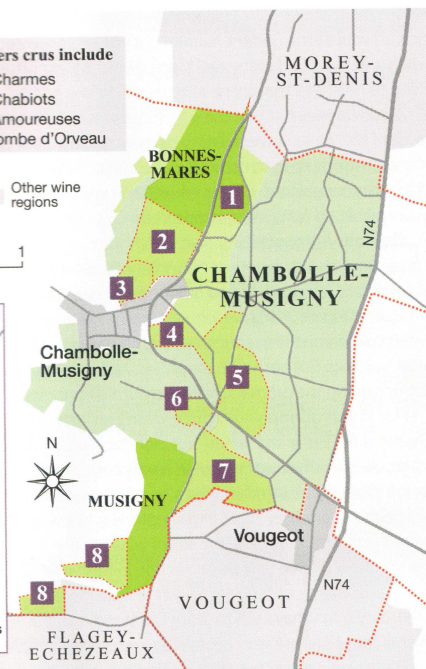
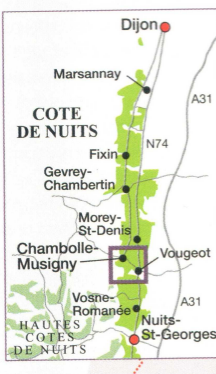
Chambolle-Musigny premiers crus include

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Les Baudes | 5 Les Charmes |
| 2 Les Fuées | 6 Les Chabiots |
| 3 Les Cras | 7 Les Amoureuses |
| 4 Les Feusselottes | 8 La Combe d'Orveau |

- Grand cru
- Premier cru
- AC communale

Other wine regions

0 0.5 1
kilometres



Map: Maggie Nelson

Chambolle-Musigny: know your vintages

2015 Fine and dry growing season suggests potential for great red wines. Keep.

2014 Early spring, cool summer, but a hot September led to ideal vintage conditions. Charming, fragrant and fleshy wines. Potentially high quality. Keep.

2013 Cold, wet growing season saved by glorious September. Elegant, racy wines.

2012 High quality despite a cool, damp summer. Village wines starting to drink well.

2011 Rot was a constant challenge. The best are attractive, fruit-driven wines. Drink.

2010 Will be classic and long-lasting, with verve and concentration – a contrast in style to the voluptuous 2009s.

2009 Less typical and terroir-driven than most vintages, but high quality and pleasurable already. Drink or keep.

2008 Glorious September weather rescued the harvest. Bright fruit character, often good value. Drink.

Chambolle-Musigny: the facts

Area under production 153ha: 56ha premier cru, 24ha grand cru; red wines only (except for grand cru Musigny Blanc)

Maximum yield for red wine 40hl/ha

Maximum alcohol 13.5% for village; premier cru 14%; grand cru 14.5%

Crus 24 premier cru, 2 grand cru

Andy Howard MW is a DWWA judge and regular Decanter contributor. He runs the Vinetrades consultancy, and has a particular interest in Burgundy >

The results

A solid set of results for a 'promising', 'easy-going' and 'charming' vintage that offers good value for impatient red Burgundy lovers. Tina Gellie reports on the tasting

A 'THOROUGHLY DECENT' tasting, said Jasper Morris MW of these wines (33 of village level and 35 premiers crus). 'I was a little underwhelmed but not disappointed; while we didn't find many real high points, the important thing to note was that there were very few low points.'

Jason Haynes felt that the one surprise was how easy most of the wines were to enjoy already. 'I know 2014 is not a terribly tannic, structured vintage but these are still very young wines. On the whole they were very expressive and fairly integrated already.'

That 'easy-going quality' was also noted by William Kelley, who found the wines 'charming, floral and accessible'. He added: 'If you'd done the same tasting with the 2012s or 2010s we would have found a lot of wines that were quite reduced at this early stage just after bottling. But here with these '14s, reduction was not occluding the aromatic fruit and floral expression.'

Morris was disappointed there wasn't an 'active Chambolle-ness' in the wines, but 'nor did I find many where the winemaking had taken away a notion of terroir'. Equally he said few wines had a long aftertaste, but neither were they short and simple. Haynes was more sympathetic, finding the set of wines 'fairly Chambolle-like' due to little extraction in this vintage. 'There was plenty of fragrance – yes, a little more minerality might have led to more Outstandings, but overall the wines are very promising and quite pretty.'

There was a clear step up in quality in some – but not all – of the premiers crus, with Haynes citing the hillside sites of Les Cras, Les Feusselottes, Combe d'Orveau and Fuées as the best. 'The most disappointing was probably Les Charmes, where our average scores were not much higher than they were for the village wines.'

Morris said one thing he noted was a number of wines that were underripe, which may have been the growers' reaction to the rot that caused some to pick earlier than they otherwise would have. 'But Pinot Noir

'It's a really nice, attractive vintage you can drink at any time' Jasper Morris MW

forgives a little underripeness as the wines age.' Haynes agreed there were a few underripe examples, as well as a few that were overcompensated with chaptalisation, but these were exceptions.

The biggest issue was with drying new oak tannins. Morris said: 'They are young wines, they've only just been bottled, so the question you have to ask is: will the oak dry out the fruit?' Haynes felt it would 'resolve in time, as the fruit concentration was there', while Kelley felt it was very prominent among the lighter village wines that didn't have the 'extra ripeness, matter and oomph of the premiers crus'.

Looking at their potential longevity, Haynes felt the village wines were good for short- to mid-term drinking, starting now. Most premiers crus could be approached from 2017 and 2018, with an ideal drinking time four or five years on from that. 'The best wines could go on for potentially 15 years without too much problem, but will be approachable from 2019 or 2020.' Kelley agreed: 'It's a vintage for people who are not looking to have to cellar their wine for 15 years to realise its potential, so in that sense it's good value for buyers.'

As a guide, Morris suggested drinking these wines ahead of the 2012s and 2013s, but after the 2011s. 'With Burgundy, there are vintages that you want to keep a long time to maximise the potential, but there are other vintages where you can keep them a long time, but you don't necessarily gain significantly more – 2014 is in that latter category. It's a really nice, attractive vintage you can drink at any time.'

The scores

68 wines tasted

Exceptional

0

Outstanding

2

Highly Recommended

21

Recommended

34

Commended

7

Fair

4

Poor

0

Faulty

0

Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit samples of Chambolle-Musigny (villages and premier cru) from the 2014 vintage

The judges

Jason Haynes



him, he was 'knighted' at Clos de Vougeot by the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin.

Haynes is buying director of Burgundy specialist merchant Flint Wines and spends much of his time tasting in the region. In 2009, with 15 years of buying experience behind

William Kelley



clarets and Burgundies of the 1940s, '50s and '60s. He is the former president of the Oxford University Wine Circle and lives in Napa.

Kelley first fell in love with wine aged 17, after tasting a 1955 Château Lynch Bages. Under the guidance of the late Hugo Dunn-Meynell, he cut his teeth as a taster on many of the great

Jasper Morris MW



Burgundy entries in The Oxford Companion to Wine. In 2010, Morris published Inside Burgundy, which won the André Simon award for the best wine book of the year.

Morris is the DWWA Regional Chair for Burgundy and the Burgundy buyer for Berry Bros & Rudd. An international lecturer on Pinot Noir and Burgundy, he is responsible for all the

Highly Recommended (continued) 90–94pts



David Duband/François Feuillet
91 JH 89 WK 91 JM 92

£44–£62 A&B Vintners, Millésima, Top Selection
Cherry, wild strawberry and a touch of plum on the nose. Simple sweetness on the palate with expressive raspberry pastille mingling with notes of bitter rose and a gentle framing of new oak. Not overly plush, but this is an open-knit and generous wine.
Drink 2019–2022 **Alc** 13%



David Duband/François Feuillet,
1er Cru Gruencher
91 JH 91 WK 91 JM 90

£75–£106 A&B Vintners, Millésima, Top Selection
Lovely cherry, jammy strawberry and candied rose on the nose, followed by a rich, full-bodied wine with sexy, dark fruit framed by slightly stemmy tannins that will integrate with time in the cellar. A refreshing and saline finish. **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 13%



David Duband/François Feuillet,
1er Cru Les Sentiers
91 JH 90 WK 90 JM 92

£80–£113 A&B Vintners, Millésima, Top Selection
A pretty peony, raspberry liqueur nose, gentle and characteristic of Chambolle. Crunchy fruit and white pepper, hints of whole-bunch fermentation. Among the most persistent here. A little aggressive, but some nice chocolate notes on the finale. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Faiveley, 1er Cru La
Combe d'Orveau 91 JH 92 WK 93 JM 87
£44–£120 Laytons, Maisons Marques et Domaines, Millésima

Nose a little reductive but this clears to notes of black cherry, dark spice and roast meat. Rich, textually refined, with plenty of intensity. Leaves a complete impression on the palate, if a little dry at the end. **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Henri de Villamont
91 JH 91 WK 91 JM 90
POA Berkmann

Ripe cherry, peony, rose and coniferous forest floor meld in a complex bouquet. Relatively intense, while the oak and acidity are perhaps a little prominent in relation to the fruit. Fairly cultured, with an excellent finish, it is very successful in its style. **Drink** 2018–2022 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Hudelot-Baillet, 1er
Cru Les Charmes 91 JH 91 WK 90 JM 93
£37.90–£44 Christopher Piper, Howard Ripley, The Sampler

A reserved bouquet that starts slowly but opens out onto nice purity, balance and driven fruit. Quite modern style, but still elegant with proper energy on the palate and noticeable persistence. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Hudelot-Baillet, 1er
Cru Les Cras 91 JH 91 WK 92 JM 90

£44 Christopher Piper, The Sampler
A youthful type, with a powerful nose of ripe cherry and a subtle framing of wood, which follows onto the palate where the oak is quite dominant alongside the concentrated fruit. Promising; perhaps still a baby that needs cellar time. **Drink** 2020–2024 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Philippe Chéron,
Les 40 Ouvrées 91 JH 91 WK 90 JM 92

£59 New Generation, McKinley
A refined and glossy nose of black cherry, subtle clove and rich earth in an extracted and modern style. There is a volume of fruit to this richly savoury wine and a sense of balance, control and bite that makes it all work well. **Drink** 2020–2025 **Alc** 13%



Domaine René Bouvier, 1er
Cru Les Fuées 91 JH 90 WK 92 JM 89

£85–£105.83 Howard Ripley, Millésima, Tanners, Thorman Hunt
Vivid aromatics of black cherry, black tea and earthy soil lead onto sweet fruit on the palate. Thick-textured, opulent use of oak gives compelling concentration and layered completeness. **Drink** 2018–2023 **Alc** 13%



Hudelot-Noëllat, 1er Cru
Les Charmes 91 JH 91 WK 88 JM 94

£75 Stannary St Wine Co
Closed at first, but sweet fruit comes through. Impressive concentration gives power and intensity to the wine, and it seems to have the stuffing to subsume its liberally applied new wood. Less acidity than some, but still some creative tension. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13%



Louis Jadot, 1er Cru Les Fuées
91 JH 91 WK 93 JM 89

£75 Hatch Mansfield
Aromas of sappy wild berry fruit, rock salt and whole-cluster fermentation are followed by a comparatively lean, angular Fuées that is still very young. There is solid fruit that continues in a zestful way throughout; a success in its style. **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 13%



Manuel Olivier 91 JH 94 WK 90 JM 91
POA Bancroft

An alluring dark raspberry nose, with juicy red cherry and savoury herbs. A nice Chambolle character shows through the subtle new wood, giving a primary wine with notable structure and rustic heft, which will need a bit of time in the cellar to unwind. **Drink** 2019–2023 **Alc** 13%

Highly Recommended (continued) 90–94pts



Pierre Naigeon 91 JH 92 WK 90 JM 90
POA Top Selection

Deliciously fragrant! Creamy raspberry fruit and hints of clove. There is a lot of oak coming through here, but the rich texture and fresh acidity seem to balance it out and give some coherence and persistence to the wine as a whole. **Drink** 2017–2020 **Alc** 13%



Boursot Père & Fils, 1er Cru Les Chatelots 90 JH 87 WK 92 JM 90

£42 Boursot
Fine and clear, bright fruit that is a little backward and pinched, but there is real intensity on the palate. A silky and concentrated wine, there are notes of wild berry and subtle spice balanced with excellent definition. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Christian Clerget, 1er Cru Les Charmes 90 JH 89 WK 91 JM 91

£90 New Generation McKinley
A real Chambolle perfume, which is admittedly a little reticent at first, but emits attractive black cherry and nut notes. There is thankfully enough fruit to manage the evident oak, giving an appealing breadth and textural refinement. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Hubert Lignier, 1er Cru les Baudes 90 JH 90 WK 89 JM 90

£75 Robert Rolls
A lovely clean nose of brisk red fruit, leads to decent focus and intensity on the palate of this relatively extracted wine. It has a prominent tannic chassis that clamps down on the finish, but nonetheless shows poise and precision. More to come! **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 13%



Jaffelin 90 JH 90 WK 89 JM 93

£50–£60 Hayward Bros
An elegant perfume of raspberry and griotte cherry framed by cedar wood and some violets. The palate is not overly complex, but this is an intense and attractively savoury wine with fine tannins and lingering wild strawberry notes. **Drink** 2019–2023 **Alc** 13%



Maison Frédéric Magnien, 1er Cru Les Baudes 90 JH 89 WK 89 JM 93

£59 Domaine Direct
A fairly masculine style here, with plenty of punch and an excellent volume of lively fruit. Perhaps a little angular, with tannins front and centre, but there are also generous notes of dark strawberry on a zesty, spicy finish. **Drink** 2020–2026 **Alc** 13%

Recommended 86–89pts

Wine	Score	JH	WK	JM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Albert Bichot	89	89	91	87	Plum and rich soil jump out of this simple and attractive Chambolle. A faint hint of green but backed up by a juicy fruit core.	13.5%	2018–2021	£35–£37	Laytons, Richard Banks
Domaine Glantenay Georges	89	87	90	89	A restrained nose leads onto quite a powerful palate with high acidity and lovely density of raspberry and griotte cherry fruit.	13%	2017–2020	POA	Liberty Wines
Domaine Hudelot Baillet, Vieilles Vignes	89	89	88	90	A dark fruit style framed by abundant new oak. There is a refreshing acid balance but slightly raw tannins on the back end.	13%	2019–2022	£28.90	Christopher Piper, Howard Ripley
Domaine Michel Gros	89	88	86	92	A luxuriant nose leads onto a sumptuous palate of red fruits. Copious toasty charred oak that appears a little brash, but lively.	13%	2018–2022	£60	Thorman Hunt
Domaine Roux Père et Fils, 1er Cru Les Borniques	89	89	89	88	The fruit on the nose has a sensual character without losing class. Pretty character with black tea and subtle sous bois; tannins are a little hard.	13%	2018–2023	£120	Bibendum PLB
Domaine Roux Père et Fils, 1er Cru Les Combottes	89	89	90	89	A fruit-driven bouquet dominated by strawberry and cherry leads onto coffee notes and savouriness on the palate, structured around some grippy tannins.	13%	2018–2023	£95	Bibendum PLB
Gilbert et Christine Feletting, 1er Cru Les Carrières	89	88	92	87	A little reductive on the nose, giving over onto dark spices and roast squab. A sappy wine with lots of energy, built for the cellar.	13%	2018–2022	£60	Thorman Hunt
Jean-Claude Boisset, 1er Cru Les Charmes	89	90	91	87	Fragrant but reserved aromas of cherry, raspberry, subtle clove and incipient sous bois. Silky and glossy from the oak, but a bit dry on the finish.	13%	2018–2023	N/A UK	www.jcboisset.com
Louis Jadot, 1er Cru les Baudes	89	92	85	89	Peony and clove meld with red and black fruits and some saltiness and minerality, which gives a fresher approach to the palate.	13%	2019–2024	£75	Hatch Mansfield
Maison Bouchard Père & Fils	89	88	92	88	Briary wild berries mingle with floral top notes. Plump, textural and savoury on the palate with a backing of wood tannins, if a little backward.	13%	2019–2023	£31	Fells
Boursot Père & Fils	88	88	88	89	Dense fruits, coffee and a generous overlay of creamy new oak that is successful in its commercial style; likely to develop well.	13%	2019–2022	£28	Boursot

Decanter PANEL TASTING

Recommended (continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	JH	WK	JM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Domaine Amiot-Servelle	88	89	85	89	The fruit needs coaxing on the nose, but the classical style is there with purity and fresh acidity. Rather hidden at the moment, but with potential.	13%	2019-2024	£45-£55	Charles Taylor, Montrachet
Domaine Amiot-Servelle, 1er Cru Les Charmes	88	89	88	87	A medium-bodied Chambolle with a fair amount of tannic structure on the back palate and bright, dense fruit. Plump rather than fine, but decent energy.	13%	2019-2024	£75-£90	Charles Taylor, Montrachet
Domaine Antonin Guyon, Clos du Village	88	87	90	88	Youthful, sweet red fruit flavours and briary hedgerow fruit with subtle herbs and spice. A little crude and underripe on the finish, but with zingy acidity.	13%	2019-2022	£46.50	Friarwood
Domaine Henri de Villamont, 1er Cru Les Groseilles	88	86	92	87	Roses and herbal tones meld in this bouquet, followed by a savoury, firm wine that dries a little and needs time to find its charm.	13%	2018-2023	POA	Berkmann
Domaine Perrot-Minot, Vieilles Vignes	88	89	88	86	This has easygoing charm with coffee notes and toasted oak. It improves in the glass and has volume and a supple, refined texture.	13%	2019-2024	£62.25	Lea & Sandeman
Dufouleur Père & Fils	88	86	90	89	A charmer with a fair amount of new oak mingling with floral notes. A little loose but structured around supple tannins and juicy acidity.	13%	2020-2025	£29.99-£34.99	France Domaines, Museum Wines
Joseph Drouhin, 1er Cru Les Baudes	88	88	89	87	A little reduction at first leading onto rose floral notes, rich soil and tart red fruit. Needs a touch more lift, but there's a refined structure here.	13%	2019-2024	£56.70-£91.75	Justerini & Brooks, Lea & Sandeman, Pol Roger
Maison Frédéric Magnien, Vieilles Vignes	88	87	89	89	A promisingly fruit-laden nose flowing onto a juicy palate that has a savoury tannic grip, bright acidity and a positive finish.	13%	2020-2024	£38	Domaine Direct
Albert Bichot, 1er Cru Les Chabiots	87	89	84	87	A rather reticent nose in an easygoing style. It is accessible and compact with good fruit concentration, finishing well.	13%	2018-2022	£46-£65	Bancroft, H2Vin, Richard Banks
Coquard-Loison-Fleurot	87	86	86	88	An ambitious wine marked by cellar technique with new oak and engaging dark fruit. Slightly aggressive at the moment, but ripe and textural.	13%	2020-2024	POA	Latimer Vintners
Domaine Christian Clerget	87	85	90	86	A lighter style with a pretty bouquet of rose petal and violet, with just-ripe raspberry at the back. Delicacy and fragrance rather than power.	13%	2019-2024	£59	New Generation McKinley
Domaine Georges Lignier	87	87	87	87	Subtle herbs and orange rind aromas are followed by a juicy, relatively evolved wine with lightly grippy tannins and a simple, pleasing finish.	12.5%	2020-2024	£45-£55	H2Vin, New Generation McKinley
Domaine Hubert Lignier, Les Bussièrres	87	86	88	87	Crunchy fruit here, which is a little less ripe but has juiciness with a fresh acidity that is promising. Light and bright!	13.5%	2019-2022	£41.50	Robert Roils
Domaine Roux Père et Fils, 1er Cru Les Charmes	87	85	88	88	Fleshy black cherries on a supple, open-knit wine. A little tart, but the tannins are silky and the finish is pleasantly savoury.	13%	2019-2024	£110	Bibendum PLB
Domaine Roux Père et Fils, 1er Cru Les Chatelots	87	86	86	89	An undeniable concentration of vibrant red fruit on top of slightly raw oak. Rosehips and red berries take the lead in this supple, intense wine.	13.5%	2019-2024	£95	Bibendum PLB
Gilbert et Christine Feletttig, 1er Cru Les Charmes	87	87	86	88	The nose, although quite floral, is a little tame, but the palate is much more expressive. Briary wild berries, coniferous sous bois and vanilla oak.	13%	2018-2023	£65	Thorman Hunt
Louis Latour, 1er Cru Les Chatelots	87	87	86	88	Silky and fragrant but a little astringent and extracted on the finish. Supple and lean, this will come back with time in the cellar.	13%	2019-2023	£60-£62.99	Louis Latour Agencies, Millésima
Maison Stéphane Brocard, 1er Cru Les Charmes	87	88	84	88	A quiet entry on the nose with hints of confectionery strawberry and cassia. Potential on the finish, with correct balance of fruit and acidity.	13%	2018-2024	POA	Yapp Brothers
Taupenot-Merme	87	84	89	89	An open and soft wine with complex mixed fruit and wild roses. A little bitter but a pure, intense wine with impressive persistence.	13%	2019-2022	£45-£50	H2Vin, Stannary St Wine Co, Vin Cognito
Domaine Roux Père et Fils, Les Fremières	86	85	84	88	A liberal application of toasty new oak overlaying the vigorous fruit concentration. The structure and long finish hold this together.	13%	2017-2018	£50	Bibendum PLB
Domaine de la Vougeraie	86	89	84	85	Some substantial oak but doesn't dominate as there is fragrant fruit and minerality. A surprising sweetness to the wild strawberry character.	13.5%	2019-2023	POA	Berry Bros & Rudd
Domaine Odoul-Coquard	86	86	89	82	Inky and oaky, this is firm but attractive. There are ripe acids and refined tannins backed up by its savouriness and richness.	13%	2020-2024	£41.95	Harrods
Maison Stéphane Brocard	86	88	84	85	Appealing breadth and textural volume. Oak dominates, but might integrate as there are appealing flavours of strawberries and cream on the finish.	13%	2016-2017	POA	Yapp Brothers

Commended 83-85pts

■ Domaine Henri de Villamont, 1er Cru Les Feusselottes 85, 13%, 2017-2019, POA Berkmann
 ■ Domaine Philippe Cheron, Clos de l'Orme 85, 13%, 2018-2023, £62 New Generation McKinley ■ Gilbert et Christine Feletttig, Clos le Village 85, 13.5%, 2020-2024, £38 Thorman Hunt ■ Domaine Henri de Villamont, 1er Cru Les Chatelots 84, 13.5%, 2018-2022, POA Berkmann
 ■ Louis Latour 84, 13%, 2020-2024, £46.99 Louis Latour Agencies ■ Domaine Henri de Villamont, 1er

Cru les Baudes 83, 12.5%, 2018-2022, POA Berkmann
 ■ Moillard 83, 13%, 2019-2021, £45 Robb Brothers

Fair 76-82pts

■ Domaine Faiveley, 1er Cru Les Charmes 82
 ■ Domaine des Beaumont, Les Chardannes 81
 ■ Jean-Claude Boisset 80 ■ François Bertheau, 1er Cru Les Charmes 76

For full details of UK stockists, see p111

My top three

Jason Haynes

■ **Maison Champy** It was a very pleasant surprise to discover this was a Champy wine as it's been a while since their wines have excited me. It was wonderfully Chambolle in style, with a great blend of sweet, juicy fruit and refined, elegant harmony. Impressive for a village wine. **94 Drink** 2019-2023

■ **Manuel Olivier** This is not a domaine that I know well, but I was impressed with the freshness and structure of this wine, which suggested there was plenty more to come. It was nicely Chambolle and focused, but with the potential to really evolve into something very attractive. **94 Drink** 2019-2023

■ **Domaine Philippe Chéron, Les 40 Ouvrées** This is in the modern style, but it works and doesn't push things too far. It's glossy with a certain amount of oak, but there is enough concentration of fruit and refinement to balance it. The bite on the finish and subtle tannins add harmony and refreshment. **91 Drink** 2020-2025

My top three

William Kelley

■ **Louis Jadot, 1er Cru Les Fuées** A Fuées endowed with substantial concentration and sap, wild berry fruit, rock salt and spice. A classic, cellar-worthy wine from one of Chambolle's best premiers crus. **93 Drink** 2019-2024

■ **Gilbert et Christine Feletig, 1er Cru Les Carrières** Juicy black cherry, dark spice and roast squab introduce a concentrated, intense and sappy wine with lots of energy and intensity, which is built for the cellar. Feletig is one of Chambolle's rising stars: a name to watch. **92 Drink** 2018-2022

■ **Domaine Hubert Lignier, Les Bussières** Lignier's old-school wines can get lost in blind tastings when young, but this one showed brilliantly when tasted from barrel, suggesting it's a bit closed after recent bottling. Fragrant and supple with crunchy fruit. **88 Drink** 2019-2022

My top three

Jasper Morris MW

■ **Domaine Taupenot Merme, 1er Cru La Combe d'Orveau** A premier cru that on another day might have been included in grand cru Musigny. So no surprise to see this one come out at the top, especially in the assured hands of Romain Taupenot. **95 Drink** 2019-2026

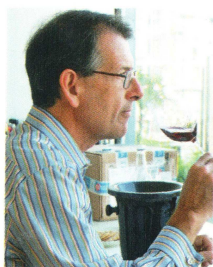
■ **Maison Champy** For me the pick of the village-level wines, flirting with a richer style of Chambolle that will find many friends, yet still delivering energy and a sense of balance. Something for everybody here. **95 Drink** 2019-2023

■ **Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat, 1er Cru Les Charmes** One of Burgundy's classic domaines, making wines of real elegance. This had an impeccable Chambolle feel to it, and had been picked with enough ripeness, yet without losing vibrancy. I love the sensual elegance of Les Charmes. **94 Drink** 2019-2026

NB: the tasters' top wines are not necessarily their top-scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines' identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors

Expert summary: Andy Howard MW

You'll find good value among the domaine bottlings and premiers crus of Chambolle in 2014, a vintage that offers options for both medium-term drinking or cellaring



Andy Howard MW is a DWWA judge and regular Decanter contributor. He worked for Marks & Spencer for more than 30 years and was responsible for Burgundy as wine buyer

AS YOU WOULD hope from one of the top communes of the Côte de Nuits, this was a strong set of results. With two Outstanding and 21 Highly Recommended wines, the panel appreciated the quality and finesse on show. More than 80% of the wines tasted received a score of Recommended or higher. When considering whether the premiers crus live up to their star billing (and much higher prices), the results would suggest that they deliver. Of the Outstanding and Highly Recommended wines, more than 70% were premiers crus.

This tasting included 14 of the 24 premier cru climats within Chambolle (sadly no wines from Les Amoureuses were submitted). From the appellation's southerly end, Les Charmes (relatively sizeable with 7.5ha under vine) was very well represented with 10 different producers on show, living up to its name with some riper, fleshier styles. Providing one of the two Outstanding wines, La Combe d'Orveau is less well known but has a stellar position, located between Musigny and Echézeaux.

At the northern end of the commune, Les Cras, Les Fuées and Les Baudes (the latter two directly abutting Bonnes-Mares) also performed strongly, with Les Baudes the second most featured premier cru in the tasting. The panel detected some firmer tannins in wines

from the northern part of the commune, but they suggested that these simply need a bit more time to settle down. In fact very few wines should be broached before 2019, with many giving at least a decade of pleasure after that. The other Outstanding wine (the Magnien, 1er Cru Les Feusselottes) is located just under the village of Chambolle, indicating that proximity to one of the grands crus is not necessarily vital.

Overall, domaines achieved a higher success rate than the more generic négoce village bottlings. Among the better known domaines, Amiot-Servelle, Hudelot-Baillet, Hubert Lignier and Louis Jadot scored well. Sadly some of the stellar domaines (Georges Roumier, Comte de Vogüé, J-F Mugnier) were not represented at this tasting. The top scores went to Taupenot-Merme and Maison Frédéric Magnien. Their premier cru wines typify what great Chambolle-Musigny is all about and, despite the hefty prices, represent good value for money. **D**

'Do the Chambolle premiers crus live up to their star billing? The results suggest that they deliver'