

April 2017, 29th – Issue 65

Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny) 2015 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes red (89-91) 2015 Aloxe-Corton "1er" 1er red (91-93) 2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Les Barrigards" red (86-89) 2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores" red (87-89) 2015 Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru red (92-94) 2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages red (88-91) 2015 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes red (89-91) 2015 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot" 1er red (90-92) 2015 Ladoix "Les Carrières" red (89-92) 2015 Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er red (90-93) 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune red (87-89) Pierre Cornu described the 2015 growing season as "much less cor

Pierre Cornu described the 2015 growing season as "much less complicated than anything we've experienced in the last five years so it was frankly a relief not to be constantly worried about something! Even so, our yields were around 30 hl/ha, which is about what we obtained in 2010 and 2012. 30 hl/ha isn't bad but 35 to 40 hl/ha is more in line with what we would like to have. I chose to begin picking relatively late, which is to say on the 8th of September because while we had the alcoholic degrees we like, I didn't think we quite had the ideal phenolic maturity. The vinifications were easy in one sense because the fruit was so clean but I have never seen such amazing fruit and to me you have a chance to make a vintage like this once in your life if you're lucky and I absolutely wanted to get it just right. As to the wines, they're exceptionally powerful and concentrated. I would describe them as a blend of the 2005 and 2010 vintages where the former contributes the structure, power and dense tannins and the later the harmony and balance. While I always hesitate to make pronouncements, it's hard to see the 2015s turning out poorly as they just have so much potential." I have to agree with Cornu, in fact I would go so far as to observe that his 2015s could very well be the best wines he has ever made. To express it differently, in all the years that I have been visiting I have never tasted a better one when considering the entire range at once. I would add that the Cornu wines generally sell for very reasonably prices and they typically offer excellent value in the context of the quality (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, offer USA: McKinley Vintners thev www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Les Barrigards": (note that this is labeled as Les Barrigards only for the US market). A layered nose is at once ripe and fresh with its array of dark berries and earth scents. There is fine volume to the very suave and rich flavors that exhibit almost no rusticity on the ever-so-mildly warm finale. One to consider. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores": A discreet touch of wood sets off wonderfully fresh aromas that are composed by notes of red cherry, raspberry, earth and a pretty spice hint. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess a sappy mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty, punchy and slightly rustic finale. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Here too a deft application of wood frames the wonderfully fresh aromas of red pinot fruit, pungent earth and a floral hint. There is a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess a beguiling mid-palate mouth feel that contrasts somewhat with the mildly rustic finale. This too is attractive. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes: (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age that are mostly from Champ Pussuet with small amounts of Les Forêts and Hameau de Buisson). A deeply pitched and brooding nose reflects notes of both red and dark cherry, along with earth and wood nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess excellent mid-palate concentration as well as plenty of punch on the firm, robust muscular and rustic finale. This is a very serious Ladoix *villages* that offers very fine quality. Recommended for both quality and value. (89-91)/2025+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Le Creux Sobron in Corgoloin). Once again there is just enough wood present to warrant a mention on the notably earth, fresh and expressive aromas of various red berries, underbrush and floral nuances. There is excellent vibrancy to the caressing, punch and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a lovely sense of balance and harmony on the lingering finish where hints of rusticity and bitter cherry emerge. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Ladoix "Les Carrières": A pungent nose presently consists of wood and reduction. On the plus side though there is a lovely sense of freshness and underlying tension to the slightly more refined medium weight flavors, thanks primarily to the relatively fine-grained tannins that also shape the more obviously mineral-driven and firmer finish where once again hints of bitter cherry and rusticity can be found. This offers terrific quality for a Ladoix *villages* and is high recommended provided you have the intention of cellaring it for at least a few years. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot": A super-fresh nose reveals a spicy mix of floral and earth-suffused red berry fruit aromas. There is excellent punch and tension characterizing the intense medium-bodied flavors that are finer still if perhaps not quite as powerful and certainly less obviously structured on the beautifully complex and persistent finale. Good stuff. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes: (from 40 to 60 year old vines, primarily from Les Cras but with additional contributions from Les Brunettes et Planchots and Les Boutières). Like the Carrières, the pungent nose is composed by notes of reduction and wood influences. On the plus side there is outstanding size, weight and mid-palate density to the big-bodied flavors that deliver first-rate depth and length. While this is no model of refinement, the overall impression is unusually good for an Aloxe *villages*. Recommended. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Ladoix "La Corvée": A deeply pitched and somber nose reflects notes of plum liqueur, violet and dark currant along with plenty of earth and *sauvage* influences. There is terrific intensity to the muscular and voluminous middle weight plus flavors that possess fine concentration while delivering excellent length on the chewy and powerful finish. This built-to-age effort manages to be quite firmly structured yet not really austere. Excellent quality but patience required. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton "1er": (from Valozières and Moutottes). A fresh, pure and layered nose consists of liqueurlike red berry fruit, plum, violet, earth and touches of game and forest floor. There is excellent richness to the robust and intensity medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate with dry extract where the supporting structure arrives all at once on the finish. This very fine effort is very Aloxe in basic character yet it is not really rustic or austere. As an aside I had to laugh when Cornu described this as a "rugby man wearing a tutu"! (91-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: Reduction currently masks the fruit though there is very good freshness to the ripe and vibrant broad-shouldered flavors that are dense and very serious yet there is a certain refinement present as the supporting tannins are dense but fine, all wrapped in a hugely long and impeccably well-balanced finish. Like several of the wines in the range this beauty is definitely built-to-age and my sense is that this is going to need 15 to 20 years of cellar time to fully resolve the underlying structure. (92-94)/2030+