



Allen Meadows' 3rd Quarter, 2017 Issue 67

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2015 □ Meursault "Charmes" 1er white (90-93)

2015 □ Meursault "Clos du Cromin" white (89-91)

2015 □ Meursault "Les Corbins" white (89-91)

2015 □ Meursault "Perrières" 1er white (91-93)

2015 Meursault "Santenots" 1er white (89-92)

2015 Puligny-Montrachet "Les Levrans" white (88-91)

François Bitouzet said that 2015 gave him "some of the cleanest fruit that I have ever seen; in fact I used very little sulfur as the lees were super clean. Aside from some really strong early season oidium pressure, which was even worse than 2004 for the chardonnay, the growing season was relatively straight forward. I began picking on the 2nd of September with my chardonnay and then moved to harvest the Taillepieds as it's always the most precocious of my pinot vineyards. The potential alcohols came in between 12 and 13.5% and thus nothing was chaptalized. Yields though were another story and particularly so in pinot. As to the wines, they're clearly unusually ripe and they present another style compared to what we produced in 2012, 2013 and 2014." I found that the quality of these 2015s to be very good overall and particularly so for the vintage. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk and McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Meursault "Les Corbins": There is enough reduction present to mask all but wisps of citrus though I doubt that it will last once the wine is bottled. Otherwise there is fine richness to the succulent, round and delicious flavors that are blessed with a lovely sense of energy that adds lift to the well-balanced and complex finale. This is a very fine *villages*. (89-91)/2019+

2015 Meursault "Clos du Cromin": Here the nose is very pretty with ripe but classic Meursault aromas of hazelnut, citrus and white orchard fruit scents. There is a bit more volume to the very round and seductively textured flavors that quickly tighten up on the linear and youthfully austere finale. This too is really quite good for its level. (89-91)/2020+

2015 Puligny-Montrachet "Les Levrans": (from vines planted in the 1950s). A pungent nose is composed at present of reduction and wood. The sleek, delicious and detailed medium-bodied flavors possess a highly textured mouth feel that is more sophisticated in that there is less volume but better precision, which is to the good, but there isn't quite the same overall depth on the citrus and agreeably dry finish. (88-91)/2020+

2015 Meursault "Santenots": (from Santenots Blanc). This is also quite aromatically pungent with its nose of smoky reduction and sulfur notes. Otherwise there is excellent volume to the very round and generously proportioned flavors that retain plenty of punch that carries over to the clean, dry and focused finale. Solid quality here. (89-92)/2021+

2015 Meursault "Charmes": (Bitouzet has 2 parcels, one in Charmes du Bas and another in Charmes du Haut that are vinified, and raised, separately but then blended). Reduction, soft wood and sulfur currently render the nose tough to read. The palate impression though is at once bigger and richer but also slightly more vibrant with plenty of sappy dry extract imparting a highly attractive texture to the relatively powerful finale. This is an excellent 2015. (90-93)/2022+

2015 Meursault "Perrières": (from 30+ year old vines). Once again reduction and sulfur presently dominate the underlying fruit. There is a fine sense of underlying tension to the more obviously mineral-driven flavors that possess a driving intensity on the dry, well-balanced and beautifully lingering finished. This too offers first-rate quality for the vintage. (91-93)/2022+

Domaine Christian Clerget (Vougeot)

2015 Morey St. Denis "Les Crais" white (87-90)

Please see Issue 65 or the database to obtain Christian Clerget's view of the 2015 vintage. (Pignatiello Wine Importer, www.pcommswines.com, NC, USA; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, UK and Champagnes et Châteaux, www.champagnesandchateaux.co.uk, UK).

2015 Morey St. Denis "Les Crais": (from vines planted in 2002 to a mix of 10% pinot beurot and pinot blanc and the other 90% is chardonnay). A pretty and agreeably fresh and bright nose features notes of citrus, pear and apple. There is fine volume and richness to the delicious middle weight flavors that possess good levels of sappy dry extract that easily buffers the soft acid spine on the clean and dry finish. This is actually quite good and should drink well just after release. (87-90)/2018+

Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2015 Bourgogne-Aligoté white 86

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune white (86-88)

2015 Ladoix white (87-89)

2015 Meursault "Les Corbins" white (87-90)

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 not especially high at 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. While I always hesitate to make pronouncements, it's hard to see the 2015s turning out poorly as they just have so much potential." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne-Aligoté: A spicy, ripe and mildly exotic nose exhibits notes of citrus and apple before sliding into delicious and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that are rich to the point of being lush on the lemony finish. This is atypical but not without a certain appeal. 86/now+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A discreet application of wood sets off notably ripe aromas of citrus, petrol and a mix of white orchard fruit scents. There is excellent richness to the round succulent flavors that are generously proportioned and very forward, indeed this fruity effort should drink well shortly after release. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Ladoix: Mild reduction makes the nose hard to detect nuance but the underlying fruit seems to be quite ripe. Otherwise there is unusually good power and concentration for a *villages* level Ladoix thanks to an abundance of dry extract that coats the palate on the clean and dry finish that offers good if not special depth and persistence. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Meursault "Les Corbins": Here the reduction is sufficiently strong to render an evaluation of the nose impossible. On the plus side there is once again fine concentration to the caressing and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess slightly better depth on the delicious finish. This is also quite forward and should drink well early on. (87-90)/2019+