

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+