

WINE ENTHUSIAST

December 2020

Bitouzet-Prieur

2016 Taillepieds Premier Cru Volnay – 96

Smoke, red currant and a trace of reduction are the triple forces on this wine's nose. Red currant wins out with more air. The purity of that fruit, emboldened on the palate by riper aspects yet still exquisitely tart, shines on the palate. Everything exists in perfect proportions to make the wine excel: the toned body, micro tannins, linear freshness and lovely depth

2016 Clos des Chênes Premier Cru Volnay – 95

The first thing to strike on this gorgeous wine is the subtle lift of red-currant on the nose. The palate presents this concentrated and tart purity of fruit with all its freshness and verve on a slender, elegant body that is delicately structured, yet firm and resonant.

2017 Pitures Premier Cru Volnay – 94

Subtle, almost cooling smoke spreads over the red-fruited aromas of this wine. The same subtle game is played on the slender, smooth but toned body, where tart red cherry and berry bathe in distant woodsmoke. Concentration is there but unobtrusive: this wine glides like silk.

2017 Volnay - 92

A smoky touch of oak on this wine's nose leads onto a juicy palate that brims with both ripe and tart red cherry. Smoky, toasty oak still swathes the fruit but ample freshness, good concentration and elegant tannins set the tone.

Domaine du Meix Foulot

2015 Les Saumonts Premier Cru Mercurey – 94

A slightly ethereal hay-flower lift on the nose of this wine suggests some evolution. Fresh and strikingly balanced, the palate has come together and reverberates with tart, red-cherry fruit and an edge of earth and forest floor. This wine is deep rather than powerful and juicily, flowingly elegant. Beautiful now, it is certain to evolve further.

2015 Clos du Château de Montaigu Monopole Premier Cru Mercurey – 93

A closed nose on this wine allows glimpses of red cherry slightly colored with a woodland note. A picture of vivid, understated juiciness, the palate is harmonious and elegant, its firm web of tannin holding everything like silky gauze. Earthier aspects on the finish suggest slight evolution but also whet the appetite for further age. It's lovely and so balanced.

2015 Les Veleys Premier Cru Mercurey – 93

Subtle but lifted cherry notes can just be made out on the nose of this wine. More air reveals a smoky overtone that also is present on the elegant body. Concentrated red and Morello cherry juiciness emanates from a central core of freshness. This wine is well textured, balanced, unforced and completely moreish

2017 Pinot Noir Mercurey – 91

The nose on this wine is shy but tart red berry and a little woodsmoke come through. Tartness and freshness spread on the slender palate while the smokiness attains an edge of mocha. This fresh wine has a little crunch, pure fruit and animating juiciness.

Domaine Edmond Cornu et Fils

2017 Vieille Vigne Ladoix – 91

Reduction still clouds the nose of this wine and even heavy swirling reveals only some smokiness. The palate comes in with juicy ease, swishing with red-cherry that is as ripe as it is fresh. Slightly drying tannins have something boisterous about them, in line with the lively fruit. The wine is slightly rustic but very fresh and charming

2017 Les Bons Ores Chorey-lès-Beaune – 88

A reductive note clouds the nose on this wine. The palate adds a hint of roasted meat to the fruit and presents a muscular, slightly punchy core, supported by slightly drying tannins. Red-cherry fruit appears on the bright finish.

2017 Vieille Vigne Aloxe-Corton – 87

The nose of this wine is shy but lets glimpses of cherry compote through. The juicy palate has an edge of bitterness and could do with more definition. It's fresh and bright on the finish.

Jean Chauvenet 2016

Les Vaucrains Premier Cru Nuits-St.-Georges – 94

This wine opens with a seductive combination of smoky oak and fresh red cherry that has a lifted edge of conifer. Slender firmness characterizes the elegant palate where pristine red fruit seems held in a crunchy, tight grip of tannins. Structure, freshness and cherry unite into a juicy, alluring and elegant wine.

2016 Les Bousselfots Premier Cru Nuits-St.-Georges – 93

Notes of oak with their glossy toastiness are prominent on this wine. They accompany the red-cherry fruit on nose and palate, adding smoothness to the ripe but wonderfully tart fruit. Freshness counters the oaky richness that is heightened by fine but firm tannins.

2016 Les Perrières Premier Cru Nuits-St.-Georges – 93

Sumptuous oak leads on the nose of this wine, tinged dark cherry with hints of toast and smoke. On the palate the pristine fruit breaks through with freshness, still resting on those sonorous notions of oak. The palate is firm and crunchy but balanced by that juicy verve.

2016 Pinot Noir Nuits-St.-Georges - 91

An initial, lifted note of kirsch quickly dissipates to leave more subtle red cherry on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with firmness, its drying tannins framing red cherry and tart berry notes. It is fresh and mouthwatering on the finish.

Georges Lignier et Fils

2016 Grand Cru Clos Saint-Denis – 96

Reductive flintiness, smoke and red currant shine on the nose of this wine. The tart finesse of the red currant carries onto the slender, taut palate where freshness and elegance reign. Purity and intensity radiate from a concentrated core that seems weightless, giving a bright, sublimely vivid wine.

2016 Clos des Ormes Premier Cru Morey-Saint-Denis – 93

Hints of flinty reduction and lifted earthiness send conflicting messages of freshness and evolution on the nose of this wine that is rich with lifted red cherry. The palate then plumps for brightness and almost grassy verve, with lively, energetic fruit and tender but pervasive freshness. Notions of forest floor perfume everything with a slight, resonant pepperiness. Fine tannins appear on the resonant finish.

2016 Les Combottes Premier Cru Gevrey-Chambertin – 93

Notes of smoke, lifted cherry and flinty reduction unite on the nose of this wine. They also dance on the palate, where tart, bright and lively red cherry takes center stage. The body is slender but firm, crackling slightly with the fine tannins, outlined in its tartness by wonderful freshness. Lovely aroma echoes from afar and shows depth, liveliness and elegance.

2016 Gevrey-Chambertin – 92

In this wine, initial aromas of red currant and raspberry come with almost ethereal lift before a cloud of distant, subtle woodsmoke follows. The freshness promised by the nose is delivered on the sinuous, fresh and concentrated body. A wonderful firmness of fine tannin and pervasive freshness make this lissom and bright, shining with tart berry fruit.

Domaine Chofflet

2018 Clos Jus Premier Cru Givry – 92

The cocoa and smoke richness of oak envelops the subtle cherry nose on this wine. The palate fuses that oaky richness with ripe red cherry, creating a creamy, rounded red-fruited wine of mellowness and charm. Freshness asserts itself on the bright finish.

2018 En Choué Premier Cru Givry – 92

Subtle fragrances of hawthorn and wild rose plays on the red-cherry nose of this wine. The palate comes in with charm and a light step that preserves the delicate perfume of the fruit. Ripe freshness underlines the purity of the flavors, making this an almost poetic wine of real elegance.

2018 Héritage Givry – 90

The faintest flinty note of reduction still hangs on the nose of this wine, but underneath crushed forest fruit with a raspberry highlight shines through. A hint of iron oxide adds interest. Light, juicy and vivid, the palate is full of raspberry and red-cherry charm. This wine is rounded but fresh in its vivacity.

DOMAINE LAVANTUREUX

2018 Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir – 97

Chalk, wax, smoke and lemon are intense on this wine's nose, immediately conveying that it is not about fruit but rather stone and place. The same goes for the palate where a dense texture redoubles on that chalk and smoke. But everything is brightened and pulled into delicious focus by lemon freshness. This wine has poise, elegance and subtlety.

2018 Chablis – 92

A touch of wet walnut accompanies pear and lemon on this wine's fresh nose. Vivaciousness at the core belies the heat of the 2018 vintage. Yes, there is concentration and some midpalate weight, but salty, preserved-lemon freshness dominates the wine and bright finish.