

December 2020

Domaine Jean Chauvenet

It has been a long while since I tasted with Christophe Drag at Domaine Jean Chauvenet. Early discussions ranged from the chances of the recently promoted Nuits-St-Georges Rugby Club (who managed to beat their larger rivals Beaune in late October), to picking dates for 2019. Christophe had fixed 28th September and decided to stick with it, despite sleepless nights not so much when all his neighbours had started, but when they had all finished before then. However, a break in the weather with some welcome rain and cooler temperatures seem to have done some good. Yields were between 30 hl/ha for premiers crus and 44 hl/ha for the village appellations, with alcohol levels between 13.5 and 14.5%. Christophe used rather more new wood, especially for the 1ers crus, in 2019. How has the late picking worked out? I ended up about 50:50 between wines I liked very much and others which I felt had rather got away.

Red

2019, Bourgogne Pinot Noir Noyer du Pendu, 86-87 – 3*

This comes from vines around the house in a lieu-dit called Le Noyer du Pendu – the walnut tree they hang you from. Brisk pink purple, plenty of energy. Sweet thick textured fruit, but not sloppy Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges, 88-90 – 3*

From Allots, Petites Charmottes and Aux Sts-Juliens all on the north side of the town. Rich imperial purple, sensual and sensuous. A large-boned rugby playing Nuits-St-Georges, but bright and brisk red fruit with good acidities. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Vosne-Romanée, 89-91 – 3*

Aux Raviolles. Christophe talks of a silt and clay soil without any stones. In some ways this makes for quite a Nuits-St-Georges style, on the chunkier side, some rustic tannins behind but good red fruit through the middle. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Aux Argillas 1er Cru, 90-92 – 3*

Last planted in 1991, this is the 1er cru closest to Nuits-St-Georges on the northern side of town. Deep colour, with dark fruit, stern and strict, even a bit dry, red fruit then tougher tannins. Fair length, Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Damodes 1er Cru, 91-94 – 4*

Rich purple in colour, Les Damodes offers a super-stylish nose, with some refinement albeit in the powerful register of the vintage. It is quite delicious with lovely suave red and black fruit, very long. A happy wine! Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Boussselots 1er Cru, 88-90 – 2*

Planted in 1963 and between 1986 and 1990 when drainage was put in. Their part of the vineyard is on clay, silt and sand soil with marl below, which retains the water. Even so, I think the conditions of 2019 have tested this to the limit. The fruit is rich and dark, but stops a little short, with some quite toasty notes. A solid, even rather chunky, Nuits-St-Georges. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Rue de Chaux 1er Cru, 92-94 – 4*

Planted in 1936, the birth year of Jean Chauvenet. Magical dense purple, brilliant fruit weight here, such energy, only a little acidity but it is enough. Fills the mouth with stylish, I won't say elegant, but really suave fruit. The wines from this vineyard are the epitome of Nuits-St-Georges for Christoph Drag, who wishes the name was better known in the wine world. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Poulettes 1er Cru, 90-92 – 3*

Dense rich purple, just a little touch of prunes, from this hot dry site, as Christophe explains: there are rocks all round the plot, south wind gets in, but the cooler north wind does not. The 2019 Poulettes offers a depth of black fruit, but only so much flesh on the bones. Not too much heat though and there is fair acidity. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Perrières 1er Cru, 92-95 – 4*

Rich purple, an even colour throughout the glass. Robust red fruit. There is a fine depth of flavour and some class here, plump in the middle, juicy and long, filling the mouth again, while keeping a mineral fresh feel too. Tasted: November 2020

[Full information](#)

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Vaucrains 1er Cru, 93-95 – 4*

Super concentrated purple and with a rich dancing, fruit, this has the cool firm streak I associate with Vaucrains, but covered with a red velvet coating which is the warm vintage speaking. Clearly the grapes were picked late – but not too late I am pleased to say, judging by the wine in my mouth. Tasted: November 2020