

Issue 81 First Quarter, 2021

Domaine Christian Clerget (Vougeot) 2019 Bourgogne red (86-88) 2019 Chambolle-Musigny red (87-90) 2019 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er red (90-93) 2019 Echézeaux – En Orveaux Grand Cru red (90-93) 2019 Morey St. Denis red (87-90) 2019 Vosne-Romanée "Les Violettes" red (89-91) 2019 Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeots" 1er red (90-92)

Christian Clerget's daughter Justine conducted the tasting again this year and briefly commented that "we picked from the 7th to the 12th of September and brought in super-clean fruit. Unfortunately, between the high heat of the summer and the extensive shatter suffered during the flowering, yields were notably lower than we realized in 2018. Potential alcohols averaged right at 13%, which was lower than the roughly 13.5 to 14% we had in 2018. Everything except the Aux Croix completely destemmed during a relatively quick fermentation. Even so, the structural elements were so ripe that we extracted a bit more than we did in 2018. As to the wines, they offer excellent freshness and vibrancy with fine terroir definition." Clerget also noted that the domaine has moved to lengthening the *élevage* period to 18 months while the percentage of new wood will now be between 20 and 50%. Clerget noted that none of the wines had been racked so some of them displayed reductive notes. (P. Comms International, www.pcommswines.com, NC, USA; New Generation Wines, www.newgenerationwines.com and Handford Wines, www.handford.net, both UK; Wine Culture (Beijing) Limited, www.wineculture.com.cn, Hong Kong, Bouquet Wine, www.bouquetvin.com, China; David **Johnstone** & Associates Pty Ltd., www.davidjohnstoneandassociates.com.au, Australia).

2019 Bourgogne: An agreeably fresh and bright nose speaks mainly of red pinot and cherry fruit trimmed in touches of spice and warm earth. The succulent, round and vaguely sweet middle weight flavors display reasonably good depth and length. This is sufficiently forward that it should drink well after only a year or two of bottle age. (86-88)/2022+

2019 Morey St. Denisw white: (from Les Crais). This is surprisingly elegant with its perfumed and very pretty essence of red currant and a whiff of Maraschino cherry. The attractively textured if not especially dense medium weight flavors possess fine length on the mildly austere finale. This will need to add depth to achieve the upper end of my projected range. (87-90)/2024+

2019 Chambolle-Musigny: (from a range of vineyards all over the commune that include Nazoires, Les Condemennes, Les Athets, Les Babillières, Les Herbues and Les Bussières). An herbal tea top note is present on the cool, airy and layered essence of red currant and raspberry. The mid-palate mouthfeel of the medium weight flavors is almost delicate that contrasts slightly with the youthfully austere and dusty finale. This too could use more depth but it's certainly very pretty. (87-90)/2025+

2019 Vosne-Romanée "Les Violettes": (from .50 ha parcel planted in 1946; Les Violettes abuts Clos de Vougeot). This too is sufficiently reduced to blur the underlying fruit though a whiff of wood does peek through. Otherwise there is good energy to the sleekly textured middle weight flavors that aren't quite as well detailed though more seductive, all wrapped in a sneaky long finish. This is a lovely combination of finesse with punch and also worth your interest. (89-91)/2026+

2019 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": (from 4 parcels of 30+ year old vines aggregating 1 ha). A highly perfumed and vaguely exotic nose offers up notes of red berries, lavender, rose petal and a hint of cinnamon. The super-sleek, intense and more concentrated flavors exude a refreshing salinity on the balanced, long and more complex finale. Lovely. (90-93)/2027+

2019 Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeots": Firm reduction dominates the fruit at present. The lilting, elegant and wonderfully pure and transparent flavors possess a highly attractive underlying tension as well as a subtle minerality on the refreshing and mildly austere finale. This is clearly very young but it's so pretty that it could actually be enjoyed young, assuming of course that the nose cleans up before it's bottled. (90-92)/2026+

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2019 Echézeaux – En Orveaux: (from a 1.1 ha parcel planted in 1947). Here too the fruit is dominated by reductive notes though the intrinsic spice elements of a typical Echézeaux are discernible. More interesting are the racy and equally tension-filled if larger-scaled flavors that possess solid mid-palate volume if only average density before culminating in an inviting, firm and serious finale. As one would reasonably expect, this is going to need 12 to 15 years to reach its peak. (90-93)/2031+