



Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron

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I first tasted Philippe Chéron's wines (2019 vintage) in the spring of 2021 and was impressed enough for another visit, this time to try the full range of wines since he has taken over most of the vineyards of the Domaine des Varoilles (which his family previously co-owned). The name of the business is now Domaine du Couvent, but distributors who work with the Philippe Chéron label are able to continue as before, I understand.

Harvest began on 31st August through to 9th September. Most wines came in between 13 and 13.5% except at the end which hit 14%. Yields averaged out at 28 hl/ha and were fairly even across the cuvées. Philippe employed little or no punching down during the three weeks cuvaision. All wines were tasted from barrel, unracked and unsulphured since the harvest. As a result, there was a fair amount of reduction at least on the nose – not a problem in itself as this will be cleaned up later, but it makes the wines a little harder to judge at this stage.

Red

2020, Gevrey-Chambertin Sevrées, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron 3* 88-90

Rich black purple colour. 25% whole bunch vinification for this cuvée. The wine displays a powerful bouquet of ripe cherry, showing a little too strongly at the back, though still finishing on fresh red fruit. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Gevrey-Chambertin Clos du Couvent, Domaine du Couvent 3*
89-91**

This vineyard enjoyed a slightly better yield around 33 hl/ha. All destemmed, with a very dark purple colour and rather reductive nose. Peppery finish with brisk red fruit, good length. This is a little more harmonious compared to the Gevrey-Chambertin Les Seuvrées, partly because there is no sign of the reduction on the palate. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Gevrey-Chambertin Meix des Ouches, Domaine du Couvent 4*
90-92**

Black purple, with a light reduction on the nose, followed by a thick texture of dark fruit. Very concentrated, very peppery indeed, on top of the dark red fruit. Not cooked and with some generosity and length. I think after the racking that this will develop into a very stylish Gevrey-Chambertin. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Chambolle-Musigny Les 40 Ouvrées, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron
4* 90-92**

Blended from 11 plots across the village. Rich black purple, concentrated dark fruit too with the same very light reduction. Generous plump fruit, quite Chambolle in style with increasing elegance to the back of the palate. The tannins are very nicely integrated. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Chambolle-Musigny Clos de l'Orme, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron 3*
88-91**

25% whole bunches have been used for this cuvée. Another powerful dark colour. Deep dark fruit as well, blackberry and blueberry on the nose. A later spot to ripen, so picked later and has become just a little bit tarry at the finish. Has not gone too far in structure. Tasted: December 2021

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93-95

Made up of one plot east facing and one north facing, thus representing the two aspects of Barreaux. Dark purple. Here the vibrant deep red fruit is really taking the lead, showing great potential. There is very good acidity as well, strict despite the generosity of the fruit, with superb length at the back. This is really quite a striking Vosne-Romanée though it will need time in bottle to express itself fully. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Gevrey-Chambertin Champonnet 1er Cru, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron
91-94**

This is the one vineyard which already existed in the Philippe Chéron range which is also part of Domaine des Varoilles. Philippe has made the two wines separately but they will be blended before bottling. There is some reduction again, along with a very deep black purple colour. The blend gives a greater sense of weight than either component, but the Chéron cuvée adds the juice in the middle which the Varoilles was maybe missing. There is a fine long finish overall. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Gevrey-Chambertin La Romanée 1er Cru, Domaine du Couvent 3*
90-93**

9 barrels only from over a hectare - not a generous spot in a drought year, picked at the end of the harvest. Rich dark purple. A certain austerity to the nose, a little bit peppery, clearly a higher slope wine, with a slightly dry finish. Less ripe red fruit, still a good wine but would do better in a year with a bit more water. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Nuits-St-Georges Aux Murgers 1er Cru, Domaine du Couvent 4*
93-95**

50% whole bunch – though Philippe can use 100% in some vintages. A fine dark purple black. The nose is heady but with Vosne side excitement rather than over-ripeness. It is certainly fully ripe, with sweet dark raspberry and a little deep red cherry, plus a touch of pepper behind. Good length. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Clos Vougeot Grand Cru, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron 3*
92-95**

50% comes from the lower section and 50% from the middle, to the south. The plots are vinified together at the moment, and all destemmed. Some reduction but the power of the fruit is stronger. Indeed, there is no doubting the power of the rich dark fruit, with slightly firmer tannins than the other wines, and the fruit is a bit on the riper fruit. Tasted: December 2021

[Full information](#)

**2020, Charmes-Chambertin Aux Mazoyères Grand Cru, Domaine du Couvent / Philippe Chéron 4*
93-96**

Another dark black purple colour. Also, the characteristic mini-reduction I have found in this cellar this year, which does not show in the mouth. Actually, it is behaving a bit Charmes like in its exuberant opulence on the palate with just a faint mineral touch at the finish after the succulent dark strawberry fruit. Long and stylish though. Tasted: December 2021