

• Antonio Galloni vinOUS

Neal Martin – Millésime 2020, février 2022

Philippe Cheron

Chambolle-Musigny Clos de l'Orme - 89-91

The 2020 Chambolle-Musigny Clos de l'Orme offers raspberry, red cherries and bergamot scents on the nose, very Chambolle-like and with commendable delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannins, fleshy and very easy-drinking. Fine cohesion with just the right amount of tension on the finish, this is a well-crafted Chambolle-Musigny that will be difficult to resist in its youth.

Gevrey-Chambertin La Rue des Mées - 89-91

The 2020 Gevrey-Chambertin La Rue des Mées has a well-defined, quite vivacious bouquet with dark berry fruit, pressed rose petal and hints of blue fruit coming through with time. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins, good weight for a Village Cru, the oak neatly folded into the peppery finish. This is another well-made wine from this producer.

Domaine Edmond Cornu & Fils

Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru - 86-88

The 2020 Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru has a generous nose, a mixture of red and black fruit, iris flower and light truffly scents. Good fruit intensity here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite "voluminous" in the mouth although I find the finish missing some tension and a little cloying compared to some of its peers.

Ladoix Le Bois Roussot 1er Cru - 86-88

The 2020 Ladoix Le Bois Roussot 1er Cru was surprisingly backward on the nose, unfolding in the glass to reveal black cherry and raspberry fruit laced with violets. The palate is ripe and rounded on the entry, fine acidity, quite concentrated for a Ladoix with kirsch and desiccated orange peel on the finish. Fine.

Domaine Chofflet

Givry Clos Jus 1er Cru - 85-87

The 2020 Givry Clos Jus 1er Cru offers light and airy red cherries and dried rose petal scents on the nose. The palate is sweet and slightly saccharine on the entry, smooth and a little plump, just missing a little grip and tension on the finish. Slips down the throat with ease though, so pop 'n pour over the next three to five years.

Lavantureux Frères

Chablis Bougros Grand Cru - 90-92

The 2020 Chablis Bougros Grand Cru has a composed nose with flint and green apples scents, not the most complex Bougros on the block, yet focused and conveying a sense of energy. The palate is well balanced with a saline entry, fine weight and well-judged acidity. I appreciate the steely finish in this Chablis and envisage 12-15 years drinking pleasure.

Chablis Fourchaumes 1er Cru - 86-88

The 2020 Chablis Fourchaumes 1er Cru has a fresh nose with lime and light citrus peel aromas, not complex but demonstrating plenty of vitality. The palate is quite intense with a strong sour lemon and Granny Smith apple note on the entry. Fine acidity here, but there is a nagging sense of shrillness that just knocks the finish off-course.

Domaine Meix Foulot

Mercurey Clos du Château de Montagu 1er Cru - 87-89

The 2020 Mercurey Clos du Château de Montagu 1er Cru offers attractive raspberry crumble and wild strawberry notes on what is a "joyful" nose. The palate has a touch of sour red cherry on the entry, quite structured and with a powdery texture. A fine sturdy backbone on the fresh finish, this thoroughly respectable Mercurey will offer five to eight years of drinking pleasure.

Domaine Lebreuil

Savigny-lès-Beaune Village - 89-91

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Village has a commendable bouquet with well-defined raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, a touch of marmalade emerging with time. Good energy here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannins, well-judged acidity, perhaps a little savoury towards the finish with quite a spicy aftertaste. Excellent.

Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Gravains 1er Cru - 88-90

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Gravains 1er Cru offers slightly smudged red fruit on the nose, moderate delineation, not the most complex you will find from the appellation. The palate is better with a gentle grip, tertiary red fruit with plenty of *sous-bois* character, quite harmonious towards the finish. Fine, though not long-term.

Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Grands Liards - 87-89

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Grands Liards is superior on the nose compared to the Les Serpentières - better delineation and focus, a little more vibrancy and complexity. The palate is ripe on the entry with candied red berry fruit, gentle grip, fine acidity, if just missing a little finesse on the finish. But it has a kind of rustic charm.

Savigny-lès-Beaune Dessus Les Gollardes - 85-87

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Dessus Les Gollardes curiously does not quite possess the tension or complexity of its Village counterpart. It "fails to ignite" so-to-speak. The palate is better, thankfully, with simple grapefruit and lemon rind notes, slightly nutty towards the finish. Not long term, but it should drink well for five or six years.

Domaine Jean Chauvenet

Nuits-Saint-Georges Vieilles Vignes - 90-92

The 2020 Nuits-Saint-Georges Vieilles Vignes has a pretty, floral nose with hints of rose petal infusing the vivid red fruit. The palate is smooth on the entry, sweet and fleshy with red cherry, strawberry and a touch of white pepper. Fine cohesion here and good length, this Vieilles Vignes is worth seeking out.

Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Bouscelots 1er Cru - 87-89

The 2020 Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Bouscelots 1er Cru has quite an opulent nose, more dictated by the growing season compared to the over-performing Vieilles Vignes. The palate is ripe and sweet with fleshy red cherry fruit, quite plump, almost Chambolle-like, but here I am just seeking a little more complexity and tension on the finish.

Domaine Georges Lignier et Fils

Clos-Saint-Denis Grand Cru - 91-93

The 2020 Clos-Saint-Denis Grand Cru has a lovely, well-defined bouquet with dark berry fruit, undergrowth and light autumn leaf scents - very natural and charming. The palate is medium-bodied and perhaps does not quite replicate the élan of the aromatics, yet it is underpinned by a fine bead of acidity, and there is grip on the fresh, balsamic-tinged finish. Give this three or four years in bottle.

Morey-Saint-Denis Clos des Ormes 1er Cru - 86-88

The 2020 Morey-Saint-Denis Clos des Ormes 1er Cru has a bright nose with vivid red cherry and raspberry fruit, though there is a very slight metallic reduction that will require bottle age to address. The palate is medium-bodied with tart red fruit on the entry that merges into more black fruit towards the finish. I would have liked a little more weight on the back end, though the acidity is commendable. Oddly, a little straight-laced for this vintage.

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur

Volnay Les Caillerets 1er Cru - 93-95

The 2020 Volnay Les Caillerets 1er Cru has a generous nose with red cherries and crushed strawberry aromas, nicely defined though maybe the Taillepieds has a touch more complexity. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, plenty of red fruit with a precise and lightly spiced finish. This is very expressive and I can see it ageing with style. Excellent.

Meursault Les Charmes 1er Cru - 92-94

The 2020 Meursault Les Charmes 1er Cru has a slightly reduced bouquet, but there is real intensity here and fine mineralité. The palate is well balanced and carries the reduction well, fine weight, quite sappy and grippy towards the finish with a touch of ginger on the aftertaste. This will require some bottle age.

Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru - 92-94

The 2020 Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru has the most backward bouquet of the Domaine's Volnay: undergrowth, damp moss scents infusing the red fruit, broody but pure. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red berry fruit, a mouth-filling and voluminous Volnay with firm grip on the finish. Cellar this for 4-6 years. Excellent.

Volnay Les Pitures 1er Cru - 92-94

The 2020 Volnay Les Pitures 1er Cru has a floral, quite elegant and well defined bouquet with red cherries, wild strawberry, crushed stone and light rose petal scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine definition, black and red fruit comingling with black pepper and white pepper towards the involving and quite persistent finish. This is another classy Volnay from Bitouzet-Prieur.

Puligny-Montrachet Les Levrans - 91-93

The 2020 Puligny-Montrachet Les Levrans has a delightful nose with candied orange peel, camomile and white tea scents. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, a touch of bitter lemon with a persistent finish. Excellent for a Village Cru

Volnay Les Taillepieds 1er Cru - 91-93

The 2020 Volnay Les Taillepieds 1er Cru has a perfumed, floral bouquet with rose petals infusing the raspberry and wild strawberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fine structure, lightly spiced with quite dense, almost muscular tannins towards the finish. A bit broad-shouldered perhaps but this has very good length and charm. Give it 4-5 years in bottle.

Meursault Clos de Cromin - 90-92

The 2020 Meursault Clos de Cromin has a perfumed nose with yellow plum, touches of saffron and jasmine, all well defined. The palate is well balanced with a saline entry, good weight in the mouth, a little waxy in texture towards the finish with stem ginger on the aftertaste. Very fine.

Meursault Les Perrières 1er Cru - 90-92

The 2020 Meursault Les Perrières 1er Cru is more hesitant on the nose compared to the Meursault-Charmes, touches of wax resin and crushed stone, a little jasmine, quite tight on the finish. Like others I am just missing a sense of tension and mineralité here.

Meursault Les Santenots Blanc 1er Cru - 90-92

The 2020 Meursault Les Santenots Blanc 1er Cru has a precise bouquet with lemon zest, orange blossom and crushed rock scents, all well defined and focused. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, perhaps just missing a little precision towards the lightly honeyed finish, though there is good persistence here and a spicy aftertaste.

Volnay Les Aussy 1er Cru - 90-92

The 2020 Volnay Les Aussy 1er Cru has a fresh raspberry and cranberry scented nose, earthy/mossy scents emerging, a touch of bacon fat. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, crisp acidity, the 30% whole bunch (by accident!) lending black pepper and clove notes towards the finish. Very fine.

Meursault Les Corbins - 88-90

The 2020 Meursault Les Corbins, matured in 20% new oak, has a well-defined and quite focused bouquet with touches of white flower. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, smooth and quite harmonious with grapefruit and peach skin towards the finish. Enjoy this over the next 10 years.

Volnay Village - 88-90

The 2020 Volnay Village has a backward nose at first, opening with touches of black pepper and sous-bois, just a tiny bit of reduction. The palate is medium-bodied with a lightly spiced opening, quite fleshy on the mid-palate with strawberry, raspberry and a pinch of white pepper on the finish. Fine, probably early drinking.

Bourgogne Aligoté - 87-89

The 2020 Bourgogne Aligoté has a light waxy bouquet, the palate well balanced with a fine bead of acidity and pleasant nectarine and ginger tinged finish. This should drink well after bottling - a fine Aligoté.

Bourgogne Chardonnay - 86-88

The 2020 Bourgogne Chardonnay, which comes from two parcels, offers primal grapefruit and leesy scents on the nose. The palate is well balanced, again, quite leesy with fine acidity and a slither of tangerine on the finish.

Bourgogne Pinot Noir - 85-87

The 2020 Bourgogne Pinot Noir has a very strawberry jam driven bouquet, maybe just a little too candied for my palate. The palate itself is sweet and fleshy, low acidity but gentle grip on the finish that nods to the New World (in a positive way.)

Bourgogne Passetoutgrain Grange Le Duc - 83-85

The 2020 Bourgogne Passetoutgrain Grange Le Duc has a light mulberry scented nose, just a little smudged at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with light tannins, quite soft and needing more brightness on the finish.