

January, 2023

Domaine Jean Chauvenet (Nuits St.-Georges)

2021 Bourgogne "Noyer Pendu" red (86-88)

2021 Nuits St. Georges red (87-89)

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Boussselots" 1er red (90-92)

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes" 1er red (90-92)

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Perrières" 1er red (91-93)

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Rue de Chaux" 1er red (89-92)

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains" 1er red (91-93)

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Ravioles" red (88-90)

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Boussselots" 1er red 91

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes" 1er red 92

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains" 1er red 93

Jean Chauvenet's son-in-law Christophe Drag told me that 2021 was "completely different than the trio of vintages between 2018 to 2020, both in terms of the growing season but also in terms of the wines its produced. There was obviously the frost but also, we had a series of disease pressures that kept us constantly on our toes as it seemed as though as soon as you had beaten back one threat, another took its place. In the end we made it to the harvest, which for us began on the 18th of September and lasted until the 23rd. Despite our best efforts, there was some sorting required though mainly for underripe fruit rather than damaged berries. Yields were variable though coincidentally enough, came in at the exact same average of 25 hl/ha that we obtained in 2020. Potential alcohols were really pretty good at between 12.5 and 13% so while I did chaptalize a touch, it was more with the idea of prolonging the fermentations than actually adding alcohol. I did a relatively light vinification because it was clear that while we had adequate ripeness levels it was no better than that. I am though happier with the results than I thought that I would be as the wines are super-fresh with a lovely sense of vibrancy as well as possessing fine balance. They're reasonably well-structured but not so much so that they couldn't be approached in their youth if desired." Drag noted that the Les Argillas and Les Poulettes were sold off in bulk and will not appear under the domaine's label in 2021. The 2020s revisited below were bottled in February 2022. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

2021 Bourgogne "Noyer Pendu": (the name of the *climat* is used only for the American market but it's the same wine sold in other markets around the world). A relatively deeply colored hue, at least for 2021, is consistent with the fresh and earthy dark berry scents. The rich and solidly dense middleweight flavors possess good if not special depth on the moderately rustic and youthfully austere finish that is sufficiently firm to repay a few years of keeping. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Ravioles": (like the Bourgogne, the name of the *climat* is used only for the American market but it's the same wine sold in other markets around the world). A subtly spicy nose combines notes of both red and dark pinot, violet and plum. The supple, round and delicious medium weight flavors possess a velvety mid-palate that contrasts mildly with the slightly rustic if persistent and balanced finale. (88-90)/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges: (partially from Les Chaliots). Hints of green tea and crushed fennel suffuse the fresh aromas of red and dark pinot fruit along with plenty of newly turned earth character. The is excellent density to the vibrant medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a rustic, muscular and austere finale. This somewhat meaty effort is very Nuits in style. (87-89)/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes": (from a .28 ha parcel). Here too there is a touch of green tea to the spicy aromas of dark currant, plum and an interesting hint of orange peel. The notably finer medium weight flavors exude an inviting salinity that adds a sense of vibrancy to the balanced, long, dusty, austere and understated finale. Lovely though compact so at least moderate patience is advised. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Busselots": (Drag noted that his parcel abuts Chaignots). Deep ruby color. This is very ripe 2021 with its aromas of dark berry liqueur, violet and cool spiced tea. There is excellent underlying tension to the delineated and stony middleweight flavors that conclude in a moderately austere and well-structured finale that offers fine length. As with the Damodes, at least moderate patience will be necessary. (90-92)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Rue de Chau": This is also ripe though there is a hint of herbal tea sitting atop the liqueur-like dark berry aromas that are liberally laced with cool earth nuances. The rich, generously proportioned and nicely voluminous flavors also possess very good underlying tension while displaying moderate amounts of rusticity and austerity along with solid length on the mildly warm finale. This is also very Nuits in character. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Perrières": (from a .23 ha parcel). Deeply colored. Here too the nose is quite ripe in the context of the vintage with its mix of black cherry, anise and more subtle earth influence. There is excellent mid-palate density to the sappy medium-bodied flavors that exhibit fine power and minerality on the very firm and tightly wound finale that isn't rustic though it is youthfully austere. Built-to-age and a wine that's going to need at least a decade of it. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains": (from a .41 ha parcel). Ripe yet cool aromas include those of cassis, poached plum, an array of spice elements plus a whiff of the *sauvage*. The very rich and even bigger and more voluminous large-scaled flavors also brim with sappy dry extract before culminating in a balanced, powerful and lingering finish where a touch of bitter chocolate slowly emerges. This isn't massive in the way that it usually is though it is borderline opulent, which is a descriptor I use very rarely with respect to the 2021 reds. (91-93)/2033+

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes": (from a .28 ha parcel). A gamy and earthy nose features decidedly ripe yet fresh liqueur-like notes of black cherry and poached plum along with pretty spice nuances. The sleek, refined and precise medium weight flavors coat the palate on the balanced, complex and lingering finish. This is a firm and serious Damodes of both power and refinement. 92/2032+

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Busselots": (Drag noted that his parcel abuts Chaignots). Ripe but cooler aromas include those of plum liqueur, black raspberry and airy floral nuances. There is excellent energy to the delicious and nicely detailed flavors that exude evident minerality on the borderline rustic, youthfully austere and balanced finale where the only nit is a subtle hint of warmth that doesn't really detract from the overall sense of harmony. Note that this dusty and moderately austere effort could use more depth so this will require at least mid-term cellaring. 91/2032+

2020 Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains": (from a .41 ha parcel). There is a touch of mocha lurking in the background of the notably ripe aromas of cassis, poached plum, anise and plenty of earth and *sauvage* elements. The broad-shouldered and decidedly muscular flavors are surprisingly supple on the palate drenching mid-palate that contrasts materially with the firm tannins on the decidedly compact and youthfully austere finish. This is a big wine and absolutely structured to reward 15 plus years of aging, indeed it's very much a "buy and forget you own it" Vaucrains. I would add that this is an atypical example of the terroir as it's very ripe yet somehow manages to remain balanced. 93/2035+