

Octobre, 2022

Domaine du Meix-Foulot (Mercurey)

2020 Mercurey red 88

2020 Mercurey "1er" 1er red 90

2020 Mercurey "Clos du Château de Montaigu" 1er red 92

2020 Mercurey "Les Saumonts" 1er red 91

2020 Mercurey "Les Veleys" 1er red 91

Agnes Dewé-de-Launay, who directs this 20 ha domaine, told me that 2020 is a "vintage where I decided to do many things completely differently than I usually do. We picked from the 18th of August and brought in very clean and impressively concentrated fruit as there was just very little juice in the berries. The ripeness levels were exceptional, and I wanted to be sure that the alcoholic fermentations would finish so for the first time, I used commercial yeasts. I also usually do a 4-week cuvaison but chose to do only 14 days as I was leery of having over-extracted wines due to the extremely thick skins. Yields were variable but most wines came in between 25 and 30 hl/ha with alcohols of between 13.5 and 15%. Stylistically, the 2020s remind me quite a bit of my 2003s, which means that they are atypical but enjoyable in their fashion. They should certainly have no trouble aging as they have the concentration to do so." The 2020 reds were bottled in December 2021. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, New Generation Wines, all UK).

2020 Mercurey: (raised in 40% wood with the remainder in stainless). Notably ripe yet still fresh aromas include those of plum, earth and a suggestion of menthol. The succulent, round and nicely intense medium weight flavors exhibit good if not special depth and persistence on the youthfully austere finale where a touch of acid tang appears. 88/2026+

2020 Mercurey "1er": (from Barraults and Montaigu). There is just enough reduction present to blur the nuance of the clear ripe dark berry fruit scents so I would advise giving this some air first. The intense and solidly voluminous medium-bodied flavors possess ample mid-palate sap that buffers the notably firmer tannic spine supporting the lengthier finish where the only quibble is a hint of warmth. 90/2028+

2020 Mercurey "Les Saumonts": (the vineyard sits high on the slope and is the most northerly of all the Mercurey 1ers). A very ripe yet again, still reasonably fresh nose speaks of poached plum, black cherry liqueur and warm earth. There is again quite a lovely texture to the dense and more mineral-suffused flavors that conclude in a firm, serious, youthfully austere and lingering finale. Patience is clearly in order as this is very compact at present. 91/2030+

2020 Mercurey "Les Veleys": Here too there is an elevated level of ripeness to the cassis, plum liqueur and spice scents. The middleweight flavors possess a more refined texture thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins shaping the firm, balanced, dusty and moderately austere finale. This is also built to repay at least a decade of keeping. 91/2030+

2020 Mercurey "Clos du Château de Montaigu": Much like the Mercurey "1er", this is sufficiently reduced to hide the nuances of the fruit though it is clearly ripe. Here too the delicious and relatively refined medium-bodied flavors are supported by fine-grained tannins on the powerful, palate coating, long and well-balanced finale. Note well however that this beauty is clearly built to age so at least some forbearance is in order. 92/2032+

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 Bouscelots" 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 Bouscelots" 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.fmwines.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 Boussetots": (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 Chaux": 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 Boussetots": (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+