

Burgundy-Report

by Bill Nanson

30.12.2024

Tasted with Jean-Baptiste Lebreuil in Savigny-lès-Beaune
22 October 2024

Domaine Lebreuil – Pierre et Jean-Baptiste

Jean-Baptiste's grandfather started working with the vines in the 1960s, initially working with others but it was a time that you could also find vines at a reasonable price. The domaine that he started today covers 14 hectares with 5 Savigny premier crus and a selection of other vineyards too – 80% of the production is red wine and much of it is exported. 'A little' machine-harvesting is used in the Hautes Côtes but otherwise their grapes are harvested by hand and all destemmed. The whites and reds have separate spaces for élevage but just across the road from each other in the centre of Savigny.



Jean-Baptiste Lebreuil

'Raisonnée' since 2006: "We are not searching for organic as I don't want to be restricted," says Jean-Baptiste, "happily so in 2024. Whilst there have been no 'interventions' in the other recent years, we all need medicine sometimes..."

"I did a stage with Pierre Masson and have much interest in biodynamics, even having a couple of plots where I work like this, but it's not for the whole domaine."

Jean-Baptiste on 2024:

"We had mildew but we didn't have the level of rain of many here of some other villages, so our yields were less badly affected than in other many other places. 11.8° to 13° in 2024 – the north wind saved us a little towards the end of the maturing phase."

Jean-Baptiste on 2023:

"We started harvesting 7 September and harvest for just over 8 days. These wines are now mainly in tank, not yet bottled. 23 is tasting really well – the 22s were magnificent but the 23s also have amplitude and material"

The wines...

Very tasty wines on this first visit chez Lebreuil – the reds are delicious and then there's a great white too!!

Red wines

2023 Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Mont Battois

A large parcel here – over 2 ha. 'Its high but it's still an early ripening place – the south-facing part – and is often one of the first harvested.'

Here's a depth of cushioned red fruit – nicely defined and inviting. Hmm, that's a wine that melts its cool but ripe fruit flavour over the palate. Delicious, ripe and quite long finishing with very modest bitters in the finish. Better wait a year or two but I could also drink this also at the weekend with pleasure !!

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune

About 3 ha of vines here – from multiple lieu-dits plenty from Connardises... For bottling at the start of 2025

Super clarity of fruit and a tiny suggestion of barrel spice. A little more direct and silkier than the Hautes Côtes – a tiny fur of tannin but no grain. That's a classy village. Mouth-watering in this finish – almost juicy.

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Grand Liards

Lots of old vines in this parcel.

Higher tones and more clarity to this beautifully perfumed nose. Here is freshness and scale – lovely fruit with more finishing bitters but juicy too. This is an age-worthy wine – keep it a couple of years before attacking but I think it will be lovely...

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Aux Clous

Only 4 producers below Les Guettes

A finer though less forward nose – it's perfumed. Very silky wine with a certain fluidity. Finishing with a more engaging sweetness of flavour vs the Liards today – so already more accessible. Delicious !

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Aux Peuillets

A perfume of more ample proportions – it's very inviting. In the mouth there's more scale too – in this case with the structure growing in tandem – there's no grain but the structure would have me waiting 2-3 years – with plenty of finishing bitters, here more juicily balanced by the fruit than, again the Liards. Excellent wine.

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Aux Gravains

A larger scale of fresh perfume – that's really attractive! A good chunky mouthful of delicious flavour but supported with plenty of structure – again there's slightly drying tannin but grainless tannin. Keep 2-3 years again but here is plenty of delicious flavour – and it holds really impressively too!

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Serpentières

The oldest vines of the domaine 'but not the largest volume...'

Hmm – that's very classy – a small but really elegant perfume. A more open, slightly more architectural wine – the tiniest grain of tannin again – really a fine and juicy finish. I could drink this a hint earlier – it's a beauty...

2023 Aloxe-Corton Les Boutières

That's a broader nose – ripe and attractive. Mouth-filling – of course, it's Boutières. The structure more hidden by the fruit here – but it's still there. Lovely finishing again with more power – though less elegance – than the Serpentières...

White wines

These whites are on fining right now:

2023 Choresy-lès-Beaune Les Beaumonts Blanc

Replanted 10 years ago – so young vines...

A fresh width but here there's a core of much riper fruit. A wine that has fine texture and a slowly melting style of flavour – there's plenty of generosity but balance too. That's a tasty wine...

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune Dessus le Gollardes Blanc

There's pinot blanc in the vineyards too...

A more vertical nose – there's lots of depth here. Also calm but this has fine texture and a calm but delicious finish – better to be tasted again in a few weeks/months – but this remains very attractive.

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Aux Clous Blanc

An extra width and more airy presentation to this aromatic. Scale but fluidity – here's a step up in class. That's long too – that's the best Aux Clous Blanc I ever tasted – it's also the only one I ever tasted – but bravo!