



François Bitouzet-Prieur

## Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur

The 2023 harvest started on 2nd September, with whites, finishing by the 10th despite stopping work in the vines by 2pm each day. François was very happy to have the space of his smart new cellar in Meursault where he filled every tank. He had full yields from almost all vineyards, despite severe debudding. The harvest needed rigorous sorting as well, to remove some botrytis, some grilled grapes and some unripe verjus. Degrees vary from 12.5 to 13.5% with good acidity in white, a little lower in red but not adjusted. Some of the malolactics were late to finish, so some wines had been recently sulphured. François had just finished racking when I visited, with sulphurs and Co2 adjusted.

## WHITE WINES

### 2023 Meursault Perrières 1er Cru

92-94

A fuller lemon yellow and the bouquet is making much more of a statement than the Charmes. A complex range of fruits, a little greengage alongside the pear and fresh peach, an adequate thread of acidity and excellent persistence. Even a little tannin to add grip. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Meursault Charmes 1er Cru

90-93

An even mid lemon yellow. The bouquet suggests a robust wine to follow, though less fruit up front. At the moment the bouquet has a temporary suggestion of something slightly rubbery which will come out with fining. Plenty going on, good structure, just the detail to refine. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Meursault Clos du Cromin

90-92

An attractive pale lemon, the bouquet offering discretion and finesse. White orchard fruit with some stones behind, this is an elegant rendition of Clos du Cromin, an extra touch of class compared to Les Corbins. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Puligny-Montrachet Les Levrons

90-92

Mid-lemon yellow. The nose shows more oak than the Meursaults. This has more substance on the palate too, quite broad white fruit, including pears, with a useful thread of citrus through the middle to maintain freshness. Fine length. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Meursault Les Corbins

89-91

Mid lemon yellow, with some citrus notes on the nose. Not a buttery Meursault. Rather more rounded on the palate, still with a citrus note to the fruit, balanced with some energy towards the back, plenty of persistence, no sense of heat. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Meursault Santenots 1er Cru

88-90

First picked. Plump and rounded, some yellow plums too, just a little bit short. Fair acidity but the wine does not flow across the palate as well as some of the village wines. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Bourgogne Chardonnay

87-88

Pale lemon colour, not much in evidence yet on the nose, the fruit builds the further back you go on the palate, to display good energy right at the back, enough acidity to infuse the white fruit with a light oaky element. Tasted Oct 2024.

### 2023 Bourgogne Aligoté

86-87

Pale lemon. Lightly perfumed, floral and citrus, fair tension which helps the slightly softer and oakier fruit, with a little toast behind. Tasted Oct 2024.

# RED WINES

## **2023 Volnay Taillepieds 1er Cru**

**91-94**

A bright mid purple. Here the nose is a little fresher, almost a suggestion of whole bunches coming from a light reduction, since François always destems. A recent sulphur addition has tightened this up but the quality of the fruit bursts through. Red fruit with wild strawberries. Very persistent, Taillepieds is a cut above. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru**

**91-93**

Another intense purple colour. The bouquet has been knocked back a bit by a recent sulphur addition. No doubting the balanced intensity of the fruit, a correct degree of ripeness, the finish tightened up by the recent racking and treatments, but a wealth of classy dark berry fruit stretching out into a long finish. Needs more elevage to finish getting where it is going. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Volnay Pitures 1er Cru**

**91-93**

A ripe dense purple. This is heady stuff, but not in the sense of excessive ripeness. The fruit is lively across the palate, vibrant raspberry, good acidity, and fine persistence. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Volnay Les Aussey 1er Cru**

**90-92**

A rich mid purple, with a wealth of dark berries on the nose, including blueberry as well as the softer red fruits. Medium bodied, with some minerals and a firmer finish. Agreeable with some persistence and a little wood behind. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Volnay Les Mitans 1er Cru**

**88-91**

A dark and concentrated purple. The fruit on the nose is rather riper here. Definitely more in the black fruit register, with furrier tannins to finish, perhaps a touch too much sun or extraction. One of the last picked. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Volnay**

**88-90**

A very similar rich purple. Despite the darkness of the cherry/raspberry fruit, it has successfully retained freshness, with fruit following all the way across the palate. Slightly softer and fuller at the finish. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Beaune Cent Vignes 1er Cru**

**88-90**

A bright and even purple. Quite lively red fruit, which has avoided getting cooked as far as the nose goes, a little closer to the line on the palate with the firmer tannins which one can find in these sunny situations. Middleweight. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Bourgogne Pinot Noir**

**87-89**

A bright and even purple. The nose takes a moment then offers a generous dark cherry fruit, assisted by some raspberry on the palate, adequate acidity, a light barrel toast, and good length. Picked at the right time. Tasted Oct 2024.

## **2023 Bourgogne Passetoutgrains**

**87-88**

A rich luxuriant purple. Quite an explosive nose combining the two grapes in one. Plenty of energy, adequate acidity, more at the front than behind, but an enjoyable and exuberant Passetoutgrains. Tasted Oct 2024.