

JASPER MORRIS

Inside Burgundy – January 2025



Pierre et Lucie Cornu

Edmond Cornu & Fils

Having been impressed by the wines shown during the Grands Jours de Bourgogne, I made a point of adding Domaine Edmond Cornu in Ladoix to my list for the 2023 barrel tastings. I tasted with Lucie and her father, Pierre Cornu. Lucie has been working at the domaine since 2016, full time since 2020 and is now responsible for vinification. The domaine covers 16ha of which 14 are in production. They will also be gaining some Savigny-lès-Beaune Fourneaux next year. In 2023, for the first time, they made five separate cuvées of red Ladoix.

They began on 8th September, and Lucie noted two profiles for the red wines: those which were fruit forward which she vinified classically, and those which had caught more of the sun where she reduced the temperature to 26-28C instead of 32. Degrees ranged from 13 to 14.5%, acidities held up. One third whole bunch in the middle of the vat was the rule in 2023. The whites are not crushed before pressing, are vinified without sulphur until after malolactic, though this can be blocked. The whites tend to receive 20% new oak.

WHITE WINES

2023 Meursault

89

A vineyard they took over in 2006, 0.14ha in Les Corbins. An attractive lemon and lime colour. Prettily grapey, very perfumed, almost musky, shows the sun but in an attractive way, medium plus length. First picked. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Chorey-lès-Beaune

88

Planted in 1959 by Edmond Cornu on the advice of grandfather Tollot, in Champs Longs, a clay and marl rich white soil, which makes for a richer style. The bouquet is undemonstrative but pleasing and there is a wealth of attractive white fruit on the palate, with adequate acidity behind. I am not very familiar with white Chorey but this strikes me as a good one. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix

88

Planted where they found the reds less interesting. Pale colour again, but with a noticeably more lifted nose. Some attractive greener notes lift the bouquet and return on the palate, giving a clean mineral feel to the wine with a fine aftertaste. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Bourgogne Aligoté

86

Pale colour with a greenish edge. Made in tank. A pretty and typical nose. Good energy, medium depth of fruit, tangy greengage style, with some citrus. Sound length, attractive. Tasted Oct 2024.

RED WINES

2023 Corton Bressandes Grand Cru

91-94

In the middle of the vineyard. An even mid purple, with a generosity of red berry fruit, including some ripe strawberry. This shows in style that it is a bit richer in alcohol, though it carries it without any burnt fruit flavours. But lower in acidity so not quite the classic it could have been. A lovely balance between the fruit and the acidity. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix La Corvée 1er Cru**90-93**

Ruby purple with a pinker edge. A more backward style. South facing, red earth, clay and stones together, Pierre Cornu's preferred spot. Oldest vines from 1948 and early 1950s. Took it on in 1986 and had to repique a quarter. There is certainly quite a bit of power here, and the energy is concentrated at the back of the palate, with a good pick of acidity. The most complete of the Ladoix offerings. Still in barrel. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix Carrières 1er Cru**90-92**

There is no slope here because as the name suggests, the vines are planted on the floor of a former quarry. Slightly more powerful purple and a sterner dark red fruit. Then the fruit plumps up through the middle of the palate with some luscious strawberry fruit joining the raspberry. A correct balance of fruit-acid and tannin. More Corton like than the Bois Rousot, I find. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix Bois Rousot 1er Cru**89-91**

Red soil in what they feel could be considered an extension of Corton. A glowing mid ruby purple. The fruit on the nose comes across as fresher than Buis. Good acidity, picked at the right time. Savoury side of raspberry with good persistence. Juicy and elegant together. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Aloxe-Corton Les Valozières 1er Cru**89-91**

A brawnier crimson colour, with a solid meaty nose. This is classical, more tannic, Aloxe without the vivacity or elegance of the Ladoix side. A bit more new wood has been used here to manage the tannins, so it will take longer. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes**89-90**

A fine fresh purple colour. The bouquet has an elegant style of raspberry fruit, a tiny fraction of reduction, that one cannot see on the palate, which is full, satisfying and not too rich. Refined tannins, adequate acidity and agreeable persistence. Very nicely done. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Chorey-lès-Beaune Les Bons Ores**89**

Vibrant purple. Mostly from Les Bons Ores and some Champs Longs, on gravel. Some Beaumonts, more muscled. This is beautifully juicy, the tannins already tamed, with a lovely aftertaste. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Savigny-lès-Beaune**89**

From Les Bas Liards. Attractive lighter ruby, with a little more whole bunch showing on the nose. A very accessible fruit across the whole palate, with a more savoury touch to finish. Good length once again. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Aloxe-Corton**88-91**

The village Aloxe-Corton comprises two hectares in all. The main plot is in Les Cras, on gravel, mainly younger vines in pinot fin, plus a bit of Boutières, Crapousuets and Morais which are more typical clay Aloxe. More new wood for these older vine plots than for Cras. Overall, an intense purple, and this makes quite a deep rich mouthful, still with some tannins, but so much fruit to manage them. A darker raspberry fruit overall. Needs more time. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Aloxe-Corton Les Moutottes 1er Cru**88-91**

Made from little millerand berries. An attractive mid purple. Elegance on the nose, well supported on the palate, this is very pretty, though the fruit is as ripe as it can be before going too far. Respectable length. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Côte de Nuits-Villages**88-89**

The origin is Creux de Sobron in Corgoloin, which has plenty of topsoil, but drains well. A rich deep purple. There is plenty of concentrated red fruit here, not excessively sunny but clearly more opulent than the preceding wines. Thicker in texture, with a tannin or two. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Bourgogne Pinot Noir**87**

Some in Chorey, Grandes Terres on the gravel, on riparia, so early ripening, along with a late plot below Ladoix. An attractive pretty pink purple, this is solid with good length, a few tannins which will be subsumed into the fruit in due course and good length. 5% new wood. Tasted Oct 2024.

2023 Ladoix Buis**86-88**

South facing, in the village sector which may perhaps one day be joined to the 1er Cru plot. Planted in 2014 with pinot très fin. A noticeably darker colour. Not a lot emerging on the nose. The fruit on the palate is pretty ripe but with no cooked aromas. There is not much acidity either but enough to hold its balance. Tasted Oct 2024.