

# 2018 BURGUNDY

## THE BALANCE OF A HOT YEAR

In the hottest growing season since 2003, the vast majority of Burgundy's vigneronns avoided excessive ripeness and jammy flavors, producing aromatic fleshy, reds and concentrated whites, both with a surprising balancing freshness, says **Joanna Simon**, as she introduces a vintage about which there is "much to enthuse." Additional notes from **Neil Beckett**, **Stephen Brook**, **Michael Edwards**, **Margaret Rand**, and **Michael Schuster**

On the face of it, 2018 is an easy vintage to sum up and categorize. It was hot, dry, early, very ripe and, for a second merciful year, volumes were satisfactory: quite often on the generous side for reds and decidedly abundant for whites.

As for quality, the fanfare began before pickers even set foot in the vineyards and there is certainly much to enthuse about. But that doesn't mean the picture is uniform. There are some overripe, jammy, high-alcohol reds that have lost sight of both Pinot Noir and Burgundy. They are, though, a small minority. The very good to excellent reds include simple Bourgognes, village wines, and higher, cooler, appellations, notably the Hautes Côtes, as well as the grander names. The best are aromatic, intense, and fleshy, with rich but pure fruit, fine tannin structure, and, counterintuitively, marked freshness, which gives them that crucial attribute, balance, and makes them, according to Pascal Marchand of Marchant-Lawse, "more lively than 2003 or 2015." Asking growers to play the likeness game produces, among others, 1947, 1990, and 2015 with a bit of 2017, but really it's a year unlike any other. As for the whites, the best have vitality, concentration, and precise, elegant fruit—even Chablis, although some aficionados will surely lament the atypical richer, weightier, less steely style.

The growing season overall was relatively disease- and drama-free,

although severe frosts hit Rully at the end of April, spring heralded some yield-reducing mildew in the Côte de Nuits, including at Domaine de la Romanée Conti, and hail savaged parts of Nuits-St-Georges in July, including the premiers crus of Les St-Georges, Les Vaucrains, and Clos de la Maréchale. But for the most part the outcome was a harvest of healthy, clean, ripe grapes for a second successive year, accompanied by another huge collective sigh of relief by growers still scarred by the effects of the frost and hail-hit trio of 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Although low on drama, it wasn't without worry. It was a season where constant vigilance and work in the vineyards paid off, particularly shoot-thinning, a point stressed by young growers such as Adrien Pillot of Domaine Fernand & Laurent Pillot in Chassagne-Montrachet and Gaetane Carré of Domaine Denis Carré, Hautes Côtes de Beaune. As the summer progressed, the biggest fear was that it would be a repeat of 2003—torrid and desiccating. It was certainly the hottest and driest summer since then: 2°C (3.6°F) warmer than average from April to September and 5°C (8°F) warmer for the first 15 days of August. Sunlight levels were also exceptional and there was 60 percent less rain than in an average growing season. But happily, with few exceptions, the fears of another 2003 proved unfounded. What made the difference meteorologically was winter rain and cooler summer nights.

A very wet winter and an often damp spring left the water table high, providing vines with a crucial store of water in July and August, to the benefit of deeper-rooted, older vines especially. It was the wettest October to March for 25 years with 500mm (20 inches) of rain, and the first quarter of 2018 was the wettest for more than half a century. (Truly, a dream year for statisticians and record keepers.)

The drop in nighttime temperatures in July and August helped retain the grapes' tartaric acid, and thus the unexpected and much appreciated freshness and vitality in the wines—an unusual signature of a vintage of generally high alcohol. (Some Pinot Noirs are an eye-watering 15% ABV.) The lower temperatures also offered welcome opportunities to pick in the mornings before the grapes heated up, which helped prevent runaway and stuck fermentations and uncomfortable levels of Brett, all threats with the later-picked, higher-potential-alcohol fruit in particular.

### Dealing with heat

The other key difference compared to 2003 is human—growers in 2018 had gained more experience of warm summers and applied it in both vineyards and wineries. The intervening 15 years had seen viticultural practices evolve in response to climate change and growers were not only more accustomed to harvesting in August but to being ready to pick at a moment's

notice—a metaphorical moment, perhaps, but a day could make all the difference in 2018. The optimum period of ripeness has gradually concertinaed with climate change, so that, with 2018's soaring sugar levels, the decision about exactly when to pick each plot was more critical than ever. Some miscalculated, resulting in rather jammy Pinot, but gratifyingly not as many as one might have anticipated.

While the majority picked early, not everyone did. In Volnay, Nicolas Rossignol started on September 1, later than in 2003 (when he began on August 23) and later than 2007 and 2011. "I'm not analyzing, I taste the berries. In 2003 we had high pH and low acid, but the wines still taste so fresh. We have a lot of other things to balance the wine, not just acid and tannin. The most important thing is ripe grapes." He is aging the wines longer than usual: "When you have a big wine you need a lot of aging." In contrast, Nicolas Potel of Maison Roche de Bellène and Domaine de Bellène is bottling four to five months earlier than usual and it's the first vintage he hasn't used new oak—or, "a tiny bit maybe." "The ripeness was crazy," he says. Harvesting began on September 4 and was completed, using 80 pickers, six days later—all 22ha (54 acres) with an average yield of 54.45hl/ha, a good vintage in terms of volume. Alcohol levels are 13.5–14.5% in the reds in bottle that I tasted. Others had an early start but a drawn-out harvest. At the 4.2ha (10-acre) Parinet-owned Domaine du Roc des Boutires in Pouilly-Fuissé, picking began on August 28 and wasn't completed until September 13. At Domaine Joseph Colin in St-Aubin, they started on August 28 and finished nearly four weeks later.

Bottling at Domaine de la Romanée-Conti began in January, which is about average. But the vintage is far from average. Aubert de Villaine, never one given to hyperbole, describes it as:

"Beautiful, beautiful. A vintage that will leave its mark." In what way? "A combination of fruit, the concentration of tastes. It's difficult to say because the wines are so obviously great. The volume in the wine, the thickness that is not at all heaviness. And at the same time there is no lack of freshness. A great combination of all these things." We have to take de Villaine's word at this stage because DRC's practice is to release its wines a year later than the norm, meaning the

2018s will be released early next year when others show their 2019s.

On that note I shall let the last word on the 2018 vintage go to Luc Pavelot, who has taken over the running of Domaine Pavelot in Pernand-Vergelesses with his sister Lise: "Exceptional. Our father said he had never seen fruit of this quality—ripe and very healthy. You can't have vintages like 2018 and 2019 every year." 2019? "It's even better balanced than 2018." He wasn't the only one to express such sentiments...

### MICHAEL EDWARDS'S VERDICT ON CHABLIS

To start on a positive note, the bountiful crop of Chablis 2018 was largely picked early, around or before September 3. The grapes were in excellent condition with a high level of maturity and no rot to speak of. After three years in a row of very short harvests, 2018 saved a lot of Chablisien livelihoods. The cellars were full again. Economically, such plenty stabilized the international market and steadied prices. For once the frequent yo-yo of pricing has ceased, at least for a while. Didier Séguier, the cellar master at William Fèvre, calls 2018 a wonderfully mature vintage, its richness and fruitiness sure to be a crowd pleaser. John B Gilman, the highly respected New York-based Burgundy critic, is also positive, finding the freshness and pure flavors of the best Chablis growers attractive and hedonistic—but to be drunk before the truly classic 2017s.

Looking deeper at the Chablis growing season, it was full of contrasts: January hot, with the highest temperature since 1945; Spring mercurial, dry but with values down by more than 30% for April and May. A successful flowering, but then high summer saw a worsening drought; rainfall in July was 70% below normal. Scorching temperatures in August. September brought a drought even more marked than in July. So, there were a lot of serious challenges. Inevitably, the final quality could turn out to be very variable grower to grower. A light touch in the winemaking—judicious and disciplined use of oak—was essential. Acidity is said to be lowish. I am a bit skeptical about this; I don't believe that Chablis acidity is that deficient in the best hands.

As is often the case in *solaire* vintages of northern Burgundy, the entry-level appellations are often successful. Petit Chablis is often a great and pleasant surprise, richer and more

succulent than I remember it. Similarly, the quality of straight Chablis can be a delight, be it from the edge of a grand cru, like Domaine des Malandes envers Valmur, or the remarkable Chablis *tout court* of Domaine Christian Moreau, which shows a lovely ripeness in balance with a subtle saline underpin of the Kimmeridgian terroir. The scale of flavors in premiers crus selectively impresses. Vau de Vey, one of the more recent premiers crus, planted in the 1980s on Portlandian soils, is for thoughtful observers the most directly Chablisien for its dynamism and energy, an invigorating aperitif before a plate of oysters—tellingly a cooler site, as is the always interesting north-facing Les Lys. Continuing this cooler theme, on the left bank of the Serein, premier cru Beauroy, on clay soils, absorbs the heat well, as does the ageworthy Côte de Léchet which, against the trend, is as always a keeper, to 2028 and beyond. For me, the big-gun premiers of the right bank show the quality and durability of the terroir facing down the weather. Montée de Tonnerre, from several hands, is a lasting winner on account of its high altitude and rocky soil.

Turning to the grands crus, exact exposition in these demanding conditions matters. Personally, I think the southeast aspect of Vaudésir will eventually show more grace than directly south-facing Les Clos, where the brilliant exception is Domaine Pinson, mitigating the intense richness of its lower Les Clos parcels with some intuitive light-footed winemaking. Other great successes are east-facing Valmur, delicacy with strength, and my favorite grand cru of all, Les Preuses, southwest-facing, benefiting from the finesse that comes from gentler afternoon sun, balancing the texture of its rich yet stony soils.



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## CHABLIS

### DOMAINE BILLAUD-SIMON

#### Chablis Premier Cru Mont de Milieu

**ME** | A very rich fruit from this suntrap. More about the vintage than the terroir. Crowd appeal, even if Chablis purists may prefer the classic 2017. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montée de Tonnerre

**ME** | The higher vineyards here, with their rocky soils show well at this cooler altitude; encouragingly, this has restraint, with a lot more to give. | **93**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Les Vaillons

**ME** | A warm cru. In the circumstances, deft early harvesting and timely winemaking achieves good mineral depth in balance with fresh golden fruit expression, energy, and tension. | **92**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Vaurent

**ME** | An excellent Vaurent, itself an extension of grand cru Les Preuses. Fine citrus and orchard fruit maturity, with the finesse of afternoon sunshine. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir

**ME** | A successful grand cru *climat* this year, with its southeast exposition. Still tight and wound, careful use of oak. Excellent potential for development and complexity. One to cellar. To keep till 2030. | **95**

### DOMAINE A & F BOUDIN

#### Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume

**ME** | Quite a lot of seductive fruit, especially so for Boudin, the masters of steely, unoaked Chablis. Rich, opulent, forward; citrus fruits both fresh and *confit*, lemon but also white peach and pear. A vital charmer. Retains definition and length. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru L'Homme Mort

**ME** | Adhémar was the first Chablis grower in the 1930s to make this Fourchaume *lieu-dit*. As always, serious emphasis of deeper acidity and added mineral tones, for connoisseurs of classic Chablis. Really welcome in *solaire* 2018. Will age to 2025. | **93**

### LA CHABLISIENNE

#### Petit Chablis Dame Nature

**NB** | Hervé Tucki, the deeply knowledgeable and passionate brand ambassador here, believes not only that Petit Chablis better reflects a vintage than a grand cru does, but also that it better supports a warm vintage such as 2018. And this exceptional AB-certified organic cuvée testifies to that wisdom. Astonishing depth and intensity for the level, but exciting vibrancy, too, the *côté brillant* coming, Hervé suggests, from both the organic cultivation and the Portlandian soils, which have more chalk and less clay than the Kimmeridgian. | **89**

#### Chablis Dame Nature

**NB** | This second organic cuvée affords a fascinating opportunity to compare the influence of the different soil types from which they originate, as both wines are deliberately vinified the same way (all stainless steel, whereas all the other wines in the range see some wood). Aromatically this conjures up images of fine bone china—more floral allure than the Petit Chablis, finer and tauter, with good definition and precision, and still remarkable concentration for the level. Very well-judged ripeness, with appetizing but controlled acidity (all the wines having gone through their malolactic fermentation). | **89**

#### Chablis Les Vénérables VV

**NB** | This consistently impressive old-vine cuvée again shows very well. Like most of the wines, it was not bottled at the time of tasting in November 2019 (Hervé insists that most wines will benefit from a long *élevage* this vintage). But it was already expressive, with good complexity and harmony and the phenolic bitterness to match the richness. | **89**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Les Lys

**NB** | While many of the Vaillons *lieux-dits* are normally blended (and the Chablisienne example is a good one, with great gastronomic potential), Les Lys certainly deserves individual expression, especially in a warm year, its cooler northeasterly aspect giving it elegance and finesse. Still shy and undemonstrative, perhaps, but not at all undernourished, and with a clear personality. | **91**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Mont de Milieu

**NB** | Hervé neatly summarizes the paradox of this intriguing wine, describing it as a *vin du sud* (of the south, because south-facing) *mais pas sudiste* (but not too southerly in the sense of sunny). Aromatic finesse, with both perfectly ripe fruit and a mineral, oyster-shell note, without any sense of reductive winemaking gimmickry. The same dual nature on the palate, which has a lovely layered softness around a mineral core, and excellent persistence. | **92**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montmains

**NB** | For Hervé, this cuvée is strongly marked by its Butteaux component, whose white-clay soil renders it a *paysan noble* (“noble peasant”), in his words. Fresh but rich on the nose, with a light quince note. Dense and powerful, but adequate tension, too, so the magnificent scale is more remarkable for its depth than its breadth, and it is on the explosive finish that it really shows its class. Impressive. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses

**NB** | A fully worthy expression of this superb, still generally underestimated site, and my favorite grand cru here this year. Focused and intense but restrained on the nose. A denser, but even more finely layered, silken texture than the softly seductive Blanchot, very graceful but with proper grand cru power, too. “*La force tranquille*” is Hervé’s typically accurate and neat summary. | **94**

### DOMAINE CHANSON

#### Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses

**ME** | Vital white-gold, green at the rim; already an open and attractive bouquet, a fine harmony of expressive *agrumes* (grapefruit), a hint of aerated vanilla. Textural, mineral mouthful, sustaining elegant acidity well-integrated in the wine. Fantail, lingering finish. Drink the 2018 before the 2017. | **94**

### DOMAINE JP & B DROIN

**ME** | A leading *domaine* for many years, Jean-Paul the eminent historian of all the *lieux-dits* of the *premiers crus*. Benoît, his son, has his own style, very attached to pure fruit expression, tailor-made to 2018’s opulence but always with a true Kimmeridgian sense of place.

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montée de Tonnerre

**ME** | Textbook Montée grip and intensity, youthful and tight, promises longer life than most 2018s. | **94**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montmains

**ME** | Slighter cooler site of authentic Chablis character. Fine definition of flavors: *agrumes* (grapefruit), lime, and *reine claudie*. Impressive energy and drive mastering the heat. | **93**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Vaillons

**ME** | Undoubtedly rich and expansively opulent but underpinned by a very characterful sense of the mineral salts of the terroir, earthy in the best sense. Best drunk before the more classic 2017s. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos

**ME** | A new expression of Les Clos, less the heavyweight champion of reputation, more emphasis on freshness and brio, an admirably light winemaking touch. Good to age till 2025. | **94+**

### DROUHIN

#### Chablis Premier Cru Mont de Milieu

**SB** | Fresh citric nose, aromatic, mineral, and tangy. Fine attack, sleek and relatively forward, with lively acidity. The mid-palate is reasonably taut, linear but bracing and long. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Bougros

**SB** | Muted lime and apple nose, yet shows some intensity. Gentle attack but concentrated and fleshy, and the aging in older barrels confers a fine texture. Good underlying acidity gives persistence and finesse, and the finish is lightly mineral, if not that expressive. Long. | **93**

### DOMAINE GILLES & NATALIE FÈVRE

**ME** | An old Fontenay family, formerly adherents to *La Chablisienne*, where Natalie was the chief enologist for 12 years. In 2004 they went on their own and have fine vineyards in top *premiers crus* and one grand cru, *Les Preuses*. They prefer Haute Valeur Environnementale because of its emphasis on biodiversity.

#### Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume

**ME** | From stainless steel. This enlightened reductive winemaking results in a poised, pure wine. Stable, too, amid the challenges of the vintage. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Mont de Milieu

**ME** | As expected from this sunny spot, this is very ripe and concentrated, any excess mitigated by the non-oak winemaking. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Vaurent

**ME** | An extension of Les Preuses, here with 15% oak aging, this hangs on stature and acidity. Still very youthful, with plenty of promise. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses

**ME** | Maybe the best wine of this and indeed any tasting in 2018. With its southwest aspect it combines finesse with striking richness. Firm yet supple; aged in barrel, it will age to 2028+. | **96+**

### WILLIAM FÈVRE

#### Petit Chablis

**ME** | More volume and ripeness than usual but well controlled by careful fruit-first reductive winemaking. As grown on Portlandian limestone, the wine matures rapidly to create a wine that is *à point*: a medley of green fruits, even gooseberry, and greengage; still has cleansing acidity. *Pas si petit*. | **88**

#### Chablis

**ME** | From Kimmeridgian soils, with just a 10% touch of oak, then back into stainless steel to keep freshness. A model Chablis, merging fruit definition, energy, and minerality; linear, saline, vertical. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Les Lys

**ME** | Always of interest because of its northern exposure and cooling influences, and especially welcome in scorching 2018; a poised, pretty, subtle wine with a vivid sense of place. May have a longer life than most this year, so worth buying in magnums for optimal longevity. | **93**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montée de Tonnerre

**ME** | The high altitude of this “craggy rocks” premier cru, deservedly regarded as very close to a grand cru in quality, comes into its own this year, its freshness and mineral impact beyond question. The opulence of citrus and orchard fruit is naturally balanced by elegant acidity. Excellent persistence. | **93+**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montmains

**ME** | A successful cru generally this year for the valley of Montmains, if picked early, here showing opulent Chardonnay fruit and touches of hazelnut from careful use of oak, further tempered by cooler exposures in the vineyards. Forward. Drink before the more classic 2017. | **91**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Vaillons

**ME** | A very warm spot this year, but in these expert hands, a seductive, golden wine; silken textured richness, nicely checked by saline mineral class. | **92**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Vaurent

**ME** | Another exceptional premier cru, as so often. Location explains a lot: an extension of grand cru Les Preuses, with the same southwest exposure, the gentler afternoon sun shaping golden ripeness with filigreed notes of minerals. The texture is sensuous and compelling, without loss of delicacy. For grilled sole or contemplation on an Easter evening. | **94**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir

**ME** | Hand-picked grapes, like many Chablis in the upper range, and up to 70% fermented in oak *pièces*; this will be an exquisite wine, mastering the intense heat of the late summer. Still tight, but should really blossom come 2023. Worth the wait. | **96+**

### DOMAINE DE L'ENCLOS

#### Chablis Premier Cru Beauroy

**ME** | Laudably, this has the punch and personality of this cool clay-rich cru. Energetic and well structured, a good wine for *rillettes de porc*. Persistent finale. | **90**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Montmains

**ME** | 50% oak barriques, 50% stainless steel. The gleaming gold of the Kimmeridgian excites. A successful cru this year, faithful to freshness and definition. Already *gouleyant*, sliding down the throat with ease yet tasting of what crystalline mineral Chablis should be. Not always the case in 2018. | **91**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir

**ME** | The same 50/50 ratio of stainless steel and oak (none new). There’s a lot going on here. Tension, vibrancy to come but held on a tight leash just now. A wine of inherent class, the beginnings of wafting wild honey and mineral complexity. | **93**

### DOMAINE DES HÂTES

#### Chablis Premier Cru Beauroy

**ME** | A green tint. Savory power from the beating sun, 25% oak fermented. Compellingly mineral. | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Bougros

**ME** | Classic white-gold, green-flecked. The 2017 was also a memorable classic. The 2018 is more silky, fine-textured, different. It needs a little more time in cask and the benefits of gentle aeration. | **95**

### DOMAINE LAROCHE

#### Chablis St Martin

**ME** | The classic domaine-bottled Chablis *tout court*, named after the 12th-century village church. Just

8% oak as a finishing touch. Subtle white-gold, green reflections; true, gentle, Kimmeridgian class for a fair price. A light mineral underlay, clarity of fruit, citrus and white peach, acidity well-integrated and sustained. Top aperitif or with scallops. | **91**

#### Chablis Premier Cru L'Homme Mort

**NB** | The dynamic and talented young team here continues to innovate, and following the consistently impressive Vieille Voye cuvée introduced a few years ago, it has added three new wines to the range this vintage: a very compelling Chablis Cuvée 0 (as in zero, because no added SO<sub>2</sub>); a pure, silky, and supple barrel-fermented and -raised Butteaux, which used to be blended into the Vaillons until the parcel was replanted less than 10 years ago; and most exciting of all for me, an exquisite old-vine L'Homme Mort, bottled separately rather than being part of the still-superb Fourchaumes Vieilles Vignes. A barrel selection (made on the same basis as the Réserve de l'Obédience) left a precious 1,000 bottles or so. Platinum; excellent clarity, intensity, and purity to the gently exotic florality on the nose, a supremely subtle weave; ravishingly silky, *aérien*, effortlessly gliding and soaring. *Lark Ascending* levity, fabulous graceful intensity and persistence. | **94**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Les Vaillons VV

**ME** | A hot spot in more than one sense. Despite all the solar heat and attendant challenges, the age of the vines and some virtuoso winemaking delivers a silky, opulent wine that miraculously holds on to tension and thrust. The 100% oak of various ages is faultlessly wound into the wine. Seductive Welsh gold hue; poised, ripe, green Chablisien fruits, apple blossom, and *pêche de vignes*. Seductive, luxuriant mouthfeel, a gentle note of vanilla. Impressive length and verticality. A star of the whole tasting. | **96+**

#### Chablis Premier Cru Les Vaudevey

**ME** | In many ways the most successful of the newer *premiers crus* from the 1980s. Shows how good and immediately Chablisien Vaudevey can be. Dynamic energy and the Portlandian terroir drive excellent *agrumes* fruits. *Plateau de fruits de mer*? | **92**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Le Clos

**NB** | A Clos fully worthy of its generally lofty reputation. Although harvested relatively early, on August 30–31, this is aromatically expressive, more so than usual at this early stage, with neither underripeness nor overripeness: spot on. All barrel-fermented, but the oak is integrating well, the lightly spicy wood framing rather than masking the very intense, pure fruit-and-flower nose (so seamless that it is difficult to identify any individual strands). Denser and richer than the excellent Bougros, but effortlessly grand, with the composure, harmony, and purity to match its intensity and potency, fully revealed on the fantastic, flourishing finish. | **96**

#### Chablis Grand Cru Blanchots Réserve de l'Obédience

**NB** | Although the Blanchots is archetypally elegant,

fine, and subtle, this is a case of the better being the enemy of the good, at least when they are tasted together, since the Réserve is, as it should be, even more special. A very lovely scent, with more floral lift, a *fête des fleurs blanches*, but nothing too heady or overblown, thanks to its aromatic transparency. A gentle grip does not detract from—indeed even seems to highlight—its silkiness; superb harmony and intensity, with a compulsively piquant saline touch on the lingering finish, which *maître de chai* Stéphane Barras refers to as a *goût de reviens-y*. | **96**

## LONG-DEPAQUIT

### Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos

**SB** | Firm and reticent nose, not upfront or fruity but none the worse for that. Rich, full-bodied, and concentrated, this has grip and minerality. It's robust and tangy, with a chalky persistent finish. | **93**

## DOMAINE DES MALANDES

**ME** | *Lyne Rottiers-Marchive, one of the Tremblay sisters, retired after the 2017 vintage. She decided to let her children Richard and Amandine do things their own way. Reductive winemaking, with limited use of oak.*

### Chablis Envers de Valmur

**ME** | Now renamed, this favorably placed little vineyard is right opposite Grand Cru Valmur. Classic white-gold, green lights; ripe but controlled citrus fruits, also yellow plum. Modulated, refined texture, dynamic tension. Multi impressions of mineral underlay. Great value. A bargain. | **91**

### Chablis Premier Cru Vau de Vey

**ME** | Faced with the heat of August and impending drought, wisely picked early, the reductive winemaking preserving incisive fruit expression. The most Chablisien of the newer 1980s-planted premiers crus, athletic and energetic. An ideal aperitif, cleansing the palate. | **92**

### Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir

**ME** | Southeast-facing rather than due south, this was always one of Lyne's most graceful wines. Even in challenging, hot 2018, it still is. Very tight and youthful, its latent complexities peeping through. Needs more time in cask before bottling. | **94+**

## DOMAINE C MOREAU PÈRE ET FILS

**ME** | *Of numerous Moreau Chablis, this highly regarded family domaine founded in 1972 is now directed on a daily basis by Christian's son Fabien, a Dijon enologist who has worked at Ngatarawa in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. Their 11.5ha (28 acres) includes holdings, a large slice of Vaillons and an exceptional Grand Valmur.*

### Chablis

**ME** | For straight Chablis, as good as it gets: purity and freshness, as close to classic as possible is the approach, with key balance between ripeness and tension. This is a fine fruit-driven wine that fits the generous character of the best 2018s within a frame of mineral complexity. Great value. | **91**

### Chablis Premier Cru Vaillon Cuvée Guy Moreau

**ME** | Basking in the sunshine but picked early to preserve vitality, this is a golden wine, in which the old vines and the terroir are the drivers. The smells of high summer are seductive but there is nothing overdone here. Real class from the citrus and orchard fruit repertoire. Will go higher. | **94+**

### Chablis Grand Cru Valmur

**ME** | So often a favorite for its balance of delicacy with strength. More east-facing than due-south Les Clos, it handles the heat with panache, and blind this could only be grand cru Chablis. That cannot always be said for other grands crus in 2018. | **95**

## J MOREAU & FILS

### Chablis

**NB** | Although the very good Petit Chablis had been bottled at the time of tasting in November 2019, the rest, including this Chablis, were still in *cuve*, because winemaker Lucie Depuydt now prefers to avoid cold stabilization to retain more tartaric acidity. Charming, but still enough animating acidity, clarity, and tenacity for typicity. | **89**

### Chablis Premier Cru Vaucoupin

**NB** | As usual, the most Chablisien of the premiers crus here. From three parcels, the best high on the plateau with old vines planted in the 1950s. Discreet on the nose, but detailed, intricate, and subtle, lightly *iodé* and smoky. Beautifully balanced, elegant, and supple, but with very good intensity, purity, and vibrancy, too: very complete, very convincing. | **92**

### Chablis Grand Cru Valmur

**NB** | Always served last here, after the Clos, and it is an even more evocative wine. Exciting aromatic restraint, a cool, elegant reserve, with light hazelnut notes. Harmony and intensity well met on the palate, a lovely flowing silk texture, the acidity running through it like a long silver thread, and a light *agrumes* bitterness extending the finish. | **93**

## DOMAINE MOREAU-NAUDET

### Chablis Premier Cru Forêts

**ME** | This *lieu-dit* of Montmains in the best part shows extra class; vibrant and joyful, so 2018, but with the restraint of a site that is about finesse. | **93**

### Chablis Premier Cru Montée de Tonnerre

**ME** | Another fine wine, benefiting from a higher site and the rocky soils. Still very youthful, but with the necessary constituents to make a great Chablis. | **95**

### Chablis Grand Cru Valmur

**ME** | One of the best Valmurs in 2018. Lovely freshness and lift, with the mineral depth that adds real distinction. Worth cellaring 5–7 years. | **96**

## DOMAINE CORINNE PERCHAUD

*An old established estate at Fleys, with a well-deserved reputation for elegant, linear wines of model definition. Overwhelmingly planted to Chablis and tiny quantities of premiers crus. Purity, transparency is the name of the game. Two wines stand out, defying the heat of August and the serious drought of September.*

### Chablis

**ME** | A very good stab at proper village Chablis in difficult conditions. Refreshing to the eye, nose, and palate. Nery and linear, the wine has dynamic vertical energy and precision. Also beguiling fruitiness beyond citrus into greengage. Commendable acidity is saved in a sound mineral frame. Great with oysters or *moules marinières*. | **90**

### Chablis Premier Cru Vaucoupin

**ME** | A highly thought of cru in Chichée, east-facing over good outcrops of Kimmeridgian limestone and marls. A complete, serious Chablis, with breadth as well as the needed tension. For great fish simply cooked; roast turbot or poached sea trout. | **92**

## DOMAINE PINSON FRERES

### Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume

**ME** | Textbook elegance and floral poise of early-picked Fourchame. The acidity is sometimes veiled but it's there. A wine for the garden deck chair after a hard day. | **94**

### Chablis Premier Cru Montmains

**ME** | A real success this year, with all the qualities that could only be fine Chablis. Generous *agrumes* fruit, carried along, metaphorically, on a breeze of fresh air. Energy, poise, tension, in control of ripeness. Above all, digestible. | **93**

### Chablis Grand Cru

**ME** | A top wine from the most prestigious grand cru. The brothers' parcels are on the middle and lower slopes affording great richness and vinosity. The miracle is that the wine is so lively, a signature of the best 2018s. Charlene, the daughter of Laurent, brings her own flair to the winemaking. | **96+**

## DOMAINE DENIS POMMIER

### Chablis Premier Cru Côte de Léchet

**ME** | The Kimmeridgian terroir speaks strongly here, Léchet's capacity for long aging still intact. Very youthful and healthy, taking the heat in its stride—a long-distance runner that should hold to 2025. | **92**

### Chablis Premier Cru Troïemes

**ME** | A *lieu-dit* of Beauroy with some of the sinewy power of its clay soils. Substance without loss of elegance. The warm summer add a silky texture *en bouche*, which will win friends. A versatile wine with food: *soupe de poisson*, tuna in several guises, fresh mackerel, well-aged Comté and Beaufort. | **92**

## CÔTE DE NUITS

### DOMAINE BERTRAND AMBROISE

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru En Rue de Chaux

**MR** | Wonderfully perfumed nose. Huge complexity, depth, and weight, but all worn lightly. Superb. | **95**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Vaucraains

**MR** | Ripe, black-cherry fruit. Very deep. Resonant, tense, transparent. Tight, with lots to come. | **95**

## DOMAINE ARLAUD

### Morey-St-Denis Aux Cheseaux

**SB** | There are rich cherry aromas on the nose, which is bold and assertive, with a touch of licorice. Plump and concentrated, this has energy and vigor as well as flesh. Spicy and assertive, it has punch on the finish and good aging potential. | **92**

### Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

**SB** | Unusually deep in color. Very rich and imposing cherry nose, with impressive weight of fruit. Very concentrated, with firm, robust tannins. It's chewy but has sweet fruit on the long finish. | **94**

## DOMAINE DE L'ARLOT

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos des Forêts St-Georges

**SB** | Vibrant cherry nose, fragrant and poised. Rich and solid on the palate, more weight than usual. Very spicy, has acidity, drive, and pungency. Long. | **92**

### Vosne-Romané Premier Cru Suchots

**SB** | Perfumed and delicate red-fruits nose, fragrant and floral, very much in the style for which Arlot is renowned. Medium-bodied, seemingly light as Arlot often is when young, but has ample tannin and grip on the finish. Spicy, with power and length. | **92**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos de l'Arlot

**SB** | Fortright oaky nose. Fresh, crisp, and juicy, this is oaky now, showing up a robust mid-palate with surprising weight but no flab. Quite long. | **91**

## DOMAINE GHISLAINE BARTHOD

#### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Beaux Bruns

**SB** | Rich dense cherry nose, with robust fruitiness. Compact and dense now but it has energy and some force. Spicy and complex, it's fairly long despite the modest acidity. | **92**

### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Les Cras

**SB** | Sweet exuberant raspberry nose. Although

the entry is supple, it's concentrated, taut, and powerful for Chambolle, with polished tannins. Spicy and persistent. | **93**

### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Véroilles

**SB** | The nose is splendid, raspberry-scented, but intense, minty, and perfumed. This cru can deliver tannic wines, and this is no exception. It's also discreet, taut, and very concentrated. Grippy now, needs time. Long. | **93**

## BERTAGNA

### Vougeot Clos de la Perrière

**SB** | Sweet ripe red-fruits nose with great purity of fruit. This monopole wine is svelte and polished, showing moderate acidity but a firm tannic backbone. There's no excessive extraction or oakiness despite 50 percent new wood. Quite long and balanced. | **92**

#### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Beaux Monts

**SB** | Reserved raspberry nose, with intense berry fruit and vanilla aromas. It's dense, with firm tannins, giving excellent grip and structure. But the palate is enlivened by bright red fruits, delivering sucrosity without overripeness. Quite long and should age well. | **92**

### Clos St-Denis Grand Cru

**SB** | Opulent but brooding cherry nose, the 100 percent new oak not too flagrant. Full-bodied and very concentrated, this has admirable power and weight. It's a hefty style but has sufficient acidity to give some lift, spiciness, and persistence. | **93**

## ALBERT BICHOT

#### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Amoureuses

**SB** | There's poised raspberry fruit on the nose, which is subdued but exceptionally elegant. Concentrated and fleshy but discreet, this is in a style that's nimble, sleek, and charming. It does lack a little depth and weight now but seems complete. Long. | **93**

#### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Malconsorts (Clos Frantin)

**SB** | The nose still seems reticent, but it has purity of fruit, and the new oak is well integrated. Aromatically, it shows more charm than force. Suave and concentrated on the palate, it's supported by ripe tannins and ample acidity. Textured and long. | **92**

### Echézeaux Grand Cru

**SB** | Reticent but elegant and poised raspberry nose. This is clearly still reserved and dense, but the weight and grip here suggest good potential, and the finish is textured and long. | **92**

### Chambertin Grand Cru (Clos Frantin)

**SB** | Given the reserve shown by other top crus here, the nose is surprisingly open and aromatic, with juicy but imposing raspberry and cherry fruit. Velvety and concentrated, this gains in grip from ripe tannins, and the oak gives plenty of spice and vigor. Fine length and potential. | **94**

### Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

**SB** | Here, too, the red-fruits aromas are subdued. On the palate it's solid and chunky, concentrated and assertive, showing pungency and force. Rather than finesse, it offers substance and weight of fruit. It will benefit from more bottle-age. | **93**

## JEAN-CLAUDE BOISSET

**NB** | *Grégory Patriat, the brilliant, highly individual winemaker, is clearly and very understandably happy both with the spectacular new Jean-Claude Boisset winery, Les Ursulines, in a beautifully restored former convent in Nuits-St-Georges, and this, the first vintage vinified there. An exciting new chapter for a range of some 40 wines that deserves even greater renown.*

## White

### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Terres Blanches

**NB** | Grégory now uses only 450hl barrels for the white wines, and there has been no *bâtonnage* here since 2007—which clearly works very well. There is only one *pièce* of this all-Chardonnay cuvée, first offered by Jean-Claude Boisset in the 2017 vintage, but from 50-year-old vines—and how distinctive and worthwhile it is. Pale gold. An enchanting nose: delicately floral (linden) and gently spicy. Ample and round in the mouth, but also bright and fresh (less than 13% ABV), with great old-vine concentration and surface tension. A rare example of a Nuits-St-Georges blanc that offers real scintillation. | **91-92**

## Red

### Gevrey-Chambertin Les Murots

**NB** | Although this village *lieu-dit* is on the lower slopes, the alluvial fan from the Combe de Lavaux means it is actually on very poor, thin soils, with naturally low yields, so the potential is far higher than might be expected; and biodynamic cultivation, then meticulous vinification (50% whole-bunch fermentation, no *pigeage*, only gentle *remontage*) have fully realized it. Still restrained on the nose, but the freshness and finesse are clear, as they are on the palate, which has the exquisite refinement of a good Chambolle, and sumptuous tannins. | **93-94**

### Vosne-Romanée Les Jacquines

**NB** | With admirable candor, Grégory admits that this is the first wine from this village *lieu-dit* with which he is fully satisfied, attributing its success partly to the vintage but also partly to his decision not to add any SO<sub>2</sub> during the vinification of 85% of the wines this year (only a little before bottling), which he is convinced gives unsurpassed

suppleness to the tannins. Mid-ruby, with an intense natural luster. A very enchanting scent, gently exotic, peppery, spicy, and roseate (but only positive signs of the 50% whole-bunch fermentation), then a dense, rich, structured palate, with effortless intensity and (yes) remarkable suavity of tannin. | **92+**

#### Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

**NB** | A cuvée Grégory has been making since his arrival here in 2002: some 900 precious bottles, from a small parcel at the south of the appellation toward the grand cru sector of Chaffots and Clos St-Denis. Grégory's beloved Chassin barrels allow the *aérien*, floral aromas (hallmark peony and violet, as Grégory says) to captivate unhindered. Amazing, if fitting, black-strap intensity and profundity, but what is still more amazing is the effortless harmony and levity with which it is all related, through richly layered but supremely silken tannins. | **95-96**

#### BOUCHARD PÈRE ET FILS

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Cailles Domaine

**MR** | Savory, black cherries and spice; fresh, good acidity. Very detailed, very fine and elegant. | **95**

#### Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

**MR** | Fine, transparent, with enormous depth; spice and fruit, very silky tannins, all in tense balance. | **96**

#### Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

**MR** | Rich, quite opulent, lovely acidity; concentrated and vastly deep, but dances. | **96**

#### Clos Vougeot Grand Cru

**MR** | Beautifully aromatic, deep, sleek. Black-cherry and incense notes. Totally at ease with itself. | **96**

#### Echézeaux Grand Cru

**MR** | Sleek and limpid, beautiful silky texture, deceptively light-feeling, deep and black-fruited, terrifically elegant. | **96**

#### MAISON CHAMPY

#### Echézeaux Grand Cru

**NB** | Although the two Vosne premiers crus, Beaumonts and Suchots, are both promising, this grand cru, from Echézeaux du Dessus, at the heart of the appellation, above Grands Echézeaux, is a clear step up and fully worthy of its name and status. A beautiful kirsch nose, where experienced and talented technical director Dimitri Bazas also finds hallmark chocolate and mint ("After Eights"), then a close-knit palate of unforced freshness, power, and persistence. Outstanding Echézeaux. | **94**

#### Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. A sample drawn from a racked barrel, new, as were all the others used

for this wine, but no negative sign of that: a very clean, reserved, but properly slightly "wild" nose, of light cherry, garrigue, and lightly smoked meat. Remarkably elegant for this often quite sturdy cru, with a very fine-spun silken texture, but excellent energy, race, and persistence as well. Superb. | **95**

#### CHANSON

**NB** | *Although the very dedicated managing director here, Vincent Avenel, makes a point of serving the house's Côte de Nuits reds before those from the Côte de Beaune—and proves the point perfectly in that the latter suffer not at all from the comparison and progression—the two Gevrey wines shown are not in any sense stooges, both being very good in their own right.*

#### Gevrey-Chambertin

**NB** | A blend from different parcels around the village, including one at the foot of premier cru Cazetiers. Deep ruby, hinting at the concentration in the grapes, from even lower yields than usual. A lovely nose, with only positive signs of the 100% whole-bunch fermentation that is one of the distinguishing features of the house: floral, kirsch, very lightly peppery and spicy. A gratifying close-knit texture, already almost velvety, ripe but not at all sluggish, and it remains succulent throughout. An outstanding village wine from what many regard as the most successful village in the vintage. | **90**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru La Perrière

**NB** | A characterful, expressive wine from a parcel with lightish soil (on the site of a former quarry) below grand cru Mazis-Bas. Deep ruby. A lightly reductive nose (barrel sample) but the purity of the freshly ripe red and black fruit still shines through. Very elegant, refined, and silky, with good definition and tension, taut rather than tight, dry but not at all drying, the finesse already showing on the finish. | **91**

#### EDOUARD DELAUNAY

**NB** | *A highly successful second vintage in the Burgundian renaissance of this fifth-generation family firm led by the admirably ambitious, well connected and qualified Laurent Delaunay. Because they carefully source from others (grapes rather than must wherever possible) and cannot always control all aspects of the viticulture, they are all the more conscientious and meticulous, explains Laurent, in their vinification (in a fully renovated winery) and élevage (with barrels from eight coopers to match the wood to the wine). There are guiding principles but no recipes, he says, no two wines being made the same way by the talented young winemaker Christophe Briot.*

#### Nuits-St-Georges

**NB** | An *hors classe* flagship cuvée, from north and south of this tripartite village to give a complete and rounded reflection of it, the most significant parcel being in Les Longecourts, below premier cru Les St-Georges, which contributes depth and structure. Deep luminous ruby. Clean and darkly fruited to smell, the oak integrating well (5 of the 19 barrels were new, which seems perfect). Remarkable density but also freshness and mineral vitality, exceptionally complex and complete for the level. | **90-91**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Crots

**NB** | A small premier cru at the northern end of the southern sector of the village, near a quarry, with light, very stony soils, which give it a distinctive, strong identity. Medium-deep ruby. A discreet but engaging nose, freshly ripe, with a light whiff of earthy licorice and smoke. Better still on the palate, which has perfectly balanced integrity, purity, race, and ripeness. Real excitement and interest. | **92-93**

#### Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | A highly successful blend of Charmes (3 *pièces*) and Mazoyères (one *pièce*). Medium-deep ruby. A very alluring nose, darkly fruited, intense, fresh but fully ripe, with light kirsch lift and no trace of the wood (even though 50% was new). Ample and mouthfilling, grandly gentle and seductively supple, but gracefully fresh and vital as well, with great elegance, finesse, and persistence on the spiraling finish—unusually complete, seeming to reflect its dual, mutually enhancing origins. | **94-95**

#### Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | An emblematic cuvée here since the days of Laurent's grandfather, from the smallest of the Gevrey grands crus. There is one precious *pièce* of this very special wine, *élevé*, along with some other top cuvées, in the cellar under the repurchased family property, Château de Charmont. Medium-deep ruby, a natural luster. A fabulous scent, captivating in its delicacy and intricacy, which, with its subtle whiffs of cherry and stone, seems to support both the least and the most likely theories of the origins of the name (in the estimable view of Jasper Morris MW): *griotte* cherries (from the former presence of cherry trees or the aroma and flavor of cherries often found in the wines) and *criotte* ("a little bit of chalk"), corrupted to Griotte. There is also an entirely enhancing very light toastiness from the wood, which Laurent describes as "*demi-neuf*," the barrel having been "softened" by another wine for six months to reduce the influence of the new oak. On the palate, the exhilarating freshness and persistence are as remarkable as the melting softness of the texture, resulting from the exquisite refinement of the tannins. | **95-96**

#### DOMAINE JOSEPH DROUHIN

#### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Amoureuses

**SB** | Deep red. Lifted raspberry-coulis aromas, the stylish nose given complexity from a touch of mint and delicate oak. This is velvety, generous, and opulent without being heavy, and has muscle as well as sucrosity. Complex, seductive, and very long. | **96**

#### Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

**SB** | Deep red. Lush plum and cherry nose, voluptuous and seductive. Full-bodied and plump, this displays volume and weight without opting for great extraction. It's generous and velvety for Bonnes Mares, but just lacks a little tension and drive. Long. | **93**

#### Musigny Grand Cru

**SB** | Deep red. Sweet, intense, cherry and mint nose, lifted and pure. The attack is silky, with polished tannins. Sleek and poised, it shows gentle acidity but it's well balanced: still in its shell but the finish is lingering, exquisite, and very long. | **96**

#### Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

**SB** | Deep red. Aromatically, this is similar to the Charmes-Chambertin, with the same fruit profile, but with a touch more force. It's very opulent and fleshy, concentrated of course, and shows awesome heft and power but enough acidity to give some finesse and drive. Long. | **94**

#### Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

**SB** | Dense and super-ripe black-cherry nose. Oak gives this rich, plump, and concentrated wine its ample tannic structure. Fortunately it also has some vigor, though the acidity is modest and it lacks some finesse and persistence. | **92**

#### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Petits Monts

**SB** | Very ripe cherry and plum nose, with a light vanilla tone. Rich and concentrated, this has bold but ripe tannins, yet it's seamless, too, and displays energy and a positive rustic edge. Long. | **93**

#### Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru

**SB** | The nose is a delight, with sweet lifted cherry fruit of great elegance. There's a beguiling silkiness here, immense clarity and precision, with polished tannins and fine acidity. Very elegant, this is beautifully balanced though it has power and pungency, too. Long. | **96**

#### Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru

**SB** | Deep red. The nose is juicy and plummy, ripe but vibrant, with some vanilla tones. The attack is supple and fleshy for this cru, and while concentrated, it has only moderate tannins and acidity. A bit rugged but not rustic, with a long piquant finish. | **92**

#### DOMAINE DROUHIN LAROZE

#### Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

**SB** | Deep red. Aromatically, this is more vibrant than the Chapelle-Chambertin, with ripe, fleshy cherry and blackberry fruit. Suave, concentrated, and generous with impressive breadth of flavor, this combines polished tannins with some sucrosity on the finish. It just lacks some force and drive to carry it to the highest level. | **92**

#### Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

**SB** | The cherry-scented nose is juicy, vibrant, and assertive. Suave, rounded and concentrated, this is unusually forward but has some grip and complexity. The finish is quite long, with spicy oak and perky acidity on the finish. | **92**

#### JANE EYRE

#### Côtes de Nuits-Villages

**MR** | An astonishingly powerful wine for this appellation. Black fruit, juicy and supple, creamy and elegant. And expensive. | **90**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin

**MR** | Big, powerful and subtle; cherries and cream, spice-tinged black fruit, nice tension. | **93**

#### DOMAINE FAIVELEY

#### Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Les Amoureuses

**NB** | Aromatically this is an enigmatic and unusually reserved expression of this special site, remarkable not for its *aérien* grace but its depth and intensity. The grapes (enough for only two *pièces*, one new) come from the normal parcel, quite near Bonnes Mares, but the richer structure seems also to result from the low yields (25-30 hl/ha) and the 30% whole-bunch fermentation. There is still a glorious refinement to the tannins, but they are more abundant and evident than usual, with a lightly bitter edge, so the gifted technical director Jérôme Flous is surely right to say that it will need and reward a long *élevage*. Difficult to appreciate fully at this very early stage, but it is easy to believe it has huge potential. | **94-95?**

#### Musigny Grand Cru

**NB** | A great experience and a great privilege to taste this (as usual there will be only 500 bottles or so). A deep ruby but a natural luster, too. An astonishing, more recognizably special, scent, at once dark-fruited, with a bitter-chocolate intensity, and elegantly restrained, with no hint that all of the oak is new. The intensity and scale on the palate, with plentiful but powdery tannins, are matched by the sublime refinement that makes this such a magical site. | **98-99**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes

**NB** | A quite magnificent village wine, even for Gevrey in this vintage. Jérôme explains that the domaine now has some 30 parcels across 11ha (27 acres), including *lieux-dits* Clos Prieur and Les Jeunes Rois, giving a global overview of the village, but after blind and rigorously selective tastings he bottles only three fifths, selling off the rest. Medium-deep ruby. A beautiful nose, complex and harmonious, not "big" but fresh, intense, and intricate, with dark cherry, kirsch, light licorice (no whole-bunch). Astonishing volume, with a layered richness, but not in the least heavy or ugainly, properly structured with high-quality tannins. | **91**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Cazetiers

**SB** | Succulent cherry nose, quite oaky but poised. Sleek and velvety, this is admirably concentrated, with polished tannins. It's oaky but not to excess, and has tension, drive, and persistence. | **92**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Clos des Issarts

**SB** | Sweet cherry and vanilla nose, intense and vibrant. The entry is supple but tannins soon kick in, as does the substantial presence of new oak. Vibrant if not very nuanced, and packs a punch. Long. | **92**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Lavaux St-Jacques

**NB** | Jérôme describes this as the perfect bridge between the other two top Gevrey premiers crus, Clos des Issarts and Cazetiers. Medium-deep ruby. Positive, lightly reductive restraint, darkly fruited, with light licorice. A lovely, layered, silky, even worn velvet texture, which compensates for the low acidity, Jérôme suggests; a properly supportive structure underneath, but so seductively wrapped, and all without any loss of elegance or freshness. | **93**

#### Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

**NB** | No Ouvrées Rodin on show this year, but this "classic" cuvée is so thrilling that it is hard to imagine that the mono-parcel selection is much more special than this blend of the other two. Medium-deep ruby. An exquisite nose, "cherry" not remotely doing justice to its depth, intensity, or purity, which is mirrored on the multi-faceted, multi-layered palate. Glorious silken refinement, combining "the drinkability of Latricières with the power of Mazis," in Jérôme's neat summation. | **96**

#### Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | Almost always a favorite wine here, and this vintage is no exception. Luminous mid-ruby. A brilliantly detailed, intricate, and seductive nose, faintly smoky, then an elegant, flowing, supple palate, finishing with a graceful flourish. | **95**

#### Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. Deep, dark-cherry scent, ripe, lightly spicy. More powerfully structured than the Latricières, as usual, but still very elegant thanks to the very fine quality of the tannins. | **95**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Damodes

**NB** | A northeast-facing site, which can struggle to ripen in cooler years but can shine in warmer ones such as 2018. Deep ruby, a natural luster. Ripe red and black fruit on the nose, lightly spicy. Brilliant focus and intensity on the palate, but beautifully enrobed, with a gorgeous refinement of texture. Great potential; should be superb in 6 or 7 years, and for at least as long thereafter. | **93**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les St-Georges

**SB** | Charmingly open on the nose, exhibiting ripe upfront red fruits; lifted and floral, too. Medium-bodied for this cru but firm ripe tannins creep up on the mid-palate, which is compact and spicy. This shows some complexity and length. | **92**

**DOMAINE FELETTIG****Chambolle-Musigny VV**

**JS** | On the paler side and jewel-bright, from vines of 40, 50, and 60 years old. Very fragrant and fine-boned with an enchanting array of aromas—peach, red apple, red cherry, sweet mint—then a palate of great finesse and length, with fruit, tannin, and acidity playing in absolute harmony. | **92**

**Chambolle-Musigny Clos Le Village**

**JS** | Red-cherry ripeness, crunchy freshness, and gossamer-fine tannins giving lovely texture. Concentrated yet so graceful. A 0.5ha monopole planted in 1973 in thin soil on limestone bedrock. | **92**

**Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Les Combottes**

**JS** | Lustrous cherry and kirsch fruit wrapped in a weightless, smoky oak shawl supported by velvet-soft tannins. Another lovely, focused wine driven with energy and clarity. From 60-year-old vines. | **93**

**Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Les Feusselottes**

**JS** | Perfumed with roses, tangy red cherries, and ripe black cherries. Deep, intense, and concentrated, with raspberry and strawberry, orange, peach, and fresh herbs, as well as cherries, unfurling in the mouth. Intense and multi-layered with a chiffon-like veil of tannins. So much concentration and intensity and yet so light and springy. | **95**

**DOMAINE FOLLIN-ARBELET****Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru**

**SB** | Deep red. Imposing cherry nose but a delightful airiness, too. Very rich and concentrated, with good acidity to give tension and cut, while the ripe tannins give structure and persistence. Solid and long. | **95**

**FOUGERAY DE BEAUCLAIR****Fixin Clos Marion**

**SB** | This monopole site offers a sumptuous black-cherry nose. Full-bodied and concentrated, it has some punch and a lot of spice, with ample acidity leading to a quite long, savory finish. | **91**

**DOMAINE FOURRIER****Gevrey-Chambertin Cherbaudes VV**

**SB** | Intense oaky red-fruits nose, polished and elegant. Fresh but juicy and concentrated, fleshy but not over-opulent. It's linear and stylish, and welcome zesty acidity gives a convincing finish. | **92**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Les Goulots VV**

**SB** | From a little-known cru north of the village. Exuberant and vibrant cherry and raspberry nose. Concentrated, juicy, yet pungent, with enough

**STEPHEN BROOK'S VERDICT**

Initial reports on the wines, especially from merchants but also from the press, suggested that this was a sensational vintage, especially for red wines. While there are undoubtedly many great wines, white as well as red, extensive tastings suggest that the wines are less consistent than their advocates first claimed.

The explanation is simple. This was the hottest vintage since 2003, although growers were spared the catastrophic heat spikes that wrecked so many vines in that vintage. Moreover, grape farmers are now more accustomed to very hot summers and take greater care not to remove leaves and expose the bunches to sunburn. Nonetheless, it was very hard to avoid a loss of acidity as sugars climbed steadily in both Chardonnay and Pinot, the latter sometimes reaching a potential alcohol of 14.5-15%. Picking dates became crucial. In addition, yields were very generous in 2018. This may have been a blessing in disguise, as a generous crop reduced excessive concentration in many cases.

Despite comparisons that have been made, this is no 2003. There are few jammy wines, or wines with drying tannins. Although most growers experienced brett towards the end of fermentation, hardly any of the bottles presented showed obvious faults. These are, without question, very good wines, many of which will give immediate pleasure. However, Burgundy fanciers are in a continuous quest for finesse, purity, nuance, and an ethereal character (in the reds), and a perfect balance of restrained fruit, minerality, and extract (in the whites).

acidity to keep it lively, this may lack some depth but has ample assertive fruit. Spicy and long. | **93**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Clos St-Jacques**

**SB** | Deep red. Reserved cherry nose, lifted by very stylish sweet oak. From very old vines, this is exuberant as well as rich, spicy, and tight, with fine acidity. It's linear and intense, very reserved now but offering fine aging potential and length. | **95**

**DOMAINE GEANTET-PANSIOT****Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Baudes**

**SB** | Sweet intense charming red-fruits nose, showing more finesse than Feusselottes. The fresh attack has briskness and charm but doesn't lack concentration. There's attractive acidity if not much force, but it's well balanced. | **92**

**Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Feusselottes**

**SB** | Lush nose, suffused in voluptuous cherry fruit. Plump, rounded, and generous, it's also compact and weighty but not clumsy or extracted. However, the acidity is modest so it lacks some persistence, and overall is rather chunky for Chambolle. | **92**

These are in short supply in 2018. The wines are delicious, but few are nuanced.

High sugars mean high alcohols, though I did not find that many wines that were evidently too high in alcohol. But many wines, especially reds from the Côte de Nuits, were so ripe that they were soft on the palate and lacked persistence and finesse. That doesn't mean the wines are poor, merely that they are fleshy and very accessible. Consumers may well relish supple wines that don't require long cellaring, but I do wonder whether forking out £100 or so for a bottle of good premier cru that probably needs drinking within six or eight years is an attractive proposition.

The skill of the winemakers, especially in giving the wines sufficient structure, is, as always, a factor too. It can't be a coincidence that some producers, such as Sauzet (now biodynamic) and De Montille, have delivered consistently excellent wines. Négociants such as Drouhin have also released impressive wines, perhaps benefiting from a wide range of vineyard sources and a flexible winemaking team. The négociants were also more generous in presenting grands crus, whereas some family estates that used to do so with a liberal hand did not show these wines. Perhaps the explanation is practical: they are already allocated and sold.

This is a year when some outlying villages excelled. Many wines from Rully, Auxey-Duresses, Monthelie, and Marsannay—for example—have produced quaffable and satisfying wines, even if most are not for extended cellaring.

**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**SB** | The discreet raspberry nose is surprisingly delicate. The palate, too, is lighter than expected though it has a tannic backbone. Spicy and springy but it lacks a little gravitas for grand cru. | **92**

**DOMAINE GOUGES****Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos des Porrets St-Georges**

**SB** | Sweet ripe cherry and raspberry nose, lifted, pure, and floral. Very ripe, with firm tannins; it's fresh and lifted by tangy acidity, and while it exhibits no great depth, it's balanced, beguiling, and long. | **92**

**Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Pruliers**

**SB** | Ripe raspberry-coulis nose, showing both juiciness and clarity. Lush and juicy on the palate, packed with fruit and concentrated. The tannins are supple, the acidity modest, as is the spicy finish. | **92**

**Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les St-Georges**

**SB** | Much of the production here was reduced by hail, which probably gave the wine even more concentration than usual. The cherry-scented nose

is dense, brooding, and intense, while the rich palate is firm and taut. It's very tannic but has energy and drive as well as formidable structure and needs years to reach its peak. Long. | **94**

**DOMAINE GRIVOT****Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Boudots**

**SB** | Ripe oaky red-fruits nose with vanilla tones, fresh and assertive. As is the palate, which is dense and concentrated, perhaps a touch rustic but with vigor and structure. Stern now but it has good potential and a long chewy finish. | **93**

**Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Beaux Monts**

**SB** | Deep color. Very ripe and oaky nose, but also intense and floral. Fresh and spicy, juicy and concentrated, this also has ample energy and grip, depth of flavor, and a long, spicy, complex finish. | **94**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**SB** | Intense, pungent, and oaky red-fruits nose. Suave and very concentrated, fleshy as well as tannic, but the acidity does seem modest so it lacks some drive though it's far from short. | **93**

**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**

**SB** | Perfumed and intense on the nose, which is oaky and very stylish. Although rich and concentrated on the palate, it also shows a light touch, with fine-grained tannins and fair acidity. Polished, yet lacks some flair and persistence. | **92**

**DOMAINE ROBERT GROFFIER****Chambolle-Musigny Les Hauts Doix**

**SB** | The lifted cherry and raspberry nose offers very ripe and seductive fruit. Silky and vibrant, this is also very concentrated, polished, and harmonious, with fine balance and length. | **92**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Seuvrées**

**SB** | Very ripe raspberry-coulis nose, intense and pure. The attack is sleek and concentrated, with polished tannins, no rusticity, and some elegance. Good if not exceptional acidity and length. | **92**

**DOMAINE AF GROS****Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**SB** | Dense oaky nose, robust and forthright. Plump and full-bodied, compact and powerful, driven by assertive and bold ripe tannins. Obviously youthful, and the 100% new oak is too evident now. Long. | **92**

**Richebourg Grand Cru**

**SB** | The lush nose has juicy cherry and raspberry aromas, given stylishness by the polished new oak. Rich, suave, and very concentrated, this offers a sweet ripe mid-palate without jamminess. Spicy, balanced, and long. | **94**

**MICHEL GROS****Vosne-Romanée**

**JS** | Alluring aromas of *fraises des bois* and peach introducing a silky, creamy palate. Bacon fat adds savory depth to the lush fruit and glistening freshness and polished tannins complete this impressive village wine. | **92**

**Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Clos des Réas**

**JS** | A lovely nose, spilling over with Christmas spice and fragrant summer berries, and a supremely silky texture around fine-grained tannins, a deep core of ripe red fruit and intricate woodsmoke, forest-floor and mineral brushwork. Complex and elegant. | **94**

**LOUIS JADOT****Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Fuées**

**SB** | Deep in color. The reticent nose is packed with sturdy cherry fruit. Suave and concentrated, juicy and fairly forward, though it does have some polished tannins. However, the finish is fluid and lacks some tension and bite. | **90**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Combe aux Moines**

**SB** | Sweet cherry nose, a touch confected but fragrant. It's supple, even soft, on the attack, but it is concentrated, with ripe tannins, ample spice, and succulence. But it lacks some energy and drive. | **92**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Cazetiers**

**SB** | Sweet and juicy red-fruits nose, lifted and upfront. The attack is svelte, but the mid-palate shows good concentration and ripe tannins. Fleshy but spicy, some complexity and drive. Long. | **92-94**

**Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Suchots**

**SB** | Very ripe and intense berry fruit, showing purity, clarity, and charm. Succulent but compact, with just the right amount of tannic grip and structure. Robust but not heavy or extracted. Long. | **93**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**SB** | Intense perfumed red-fruits nose, distinctly oaky. Juicy, suave, and concentrated, fine depth and structure, ripe tannins and good acidity. A harmonious wine, this is polished and long. | **94**

**Clos Vougeot Grand Cru**

**SB** | Deep red. Ripe and cherry-scented, the nose is resplendent and almost jammy. Compact but juicy, this shows plenty of grip and depth, with ripe tannins, power without rusticity, ample substance and a chewy texture. Fine potential and length. | **94**

**Clos de la Roche Grand Cru**

**SB** | Deep red. The super-ripe nose has boiled-

sweets aromas and is almost candied. The attack is soft and fleshy, but there are ample ripe tannins below the surface, and the palate has no rough edges. Although the finish is firm, overall this does lack a little punch and drive. | **92**

**Clos St-Denis Grand Cru**

**SB** | Deep red. Juicy cherry nose, opulent and open, with sweet generous fruit. Ripe and supple, though the tannins give texture rather than evident structure. Although quite spicy, it has less force than Clos de la Roche. Long. | **92**

**DOMAINE LAMARCHE****Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Malconsorts**

**SB** | The nose is distinctly floral, with lively and vibrant cherry fruit. The attack gives precision as well as grip and a pathway to firm, robust tannins. The palate has lift yet there's a slight hollowness on the long finish. May just need time to harmonize. | **91**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**SB** | Sweet intense nose, raspberries and violets. Very concentrated but velvety in texture, showing charm as well as density. However, it does tail off on the finish but may bounce back after bottling. | **92**

**La Grande Rue Grand Cru**

**SB** | Intense lifted raspberry nose, though shy at present. Sleek attack, showing polished tannins, as well as depth and grip. This gains weight on the palate, but is hard to read as it's reserved and inexpressive now. Long. | **93**

**DOMAINE DES LAMBRAYS****Morey-St-Denis**

**JS** | Cherries flecked with pomegranate and cranberry. Strikingly textural—at the same time rich and beautifully fine with silky, polished tannins. Lovely, fluid acidity gives vibrancy and a sense of something diaphanous (not common in this vintage) to the fleshy richness. | **92**

**Clos des Lambrays Grand Cru**

**JS** | Lifted, ripe, floral aromas—sweet iris as well as rose petal. Concentrated, dark fruit and spicy notes on the palate. More densely structured and weightier than usual, less ethereal perhaps, but the palate stretches on and on, sustained and lifted by freshness and finesse. | **95**

**LOUIS LATOUR****Chambertin Grand Cru Cuvée Héritiers Latour**

**NB** | Deep ruby. Admirable aromatic clarity and restraint: dark fruit, but no overripeness and no negative sign of its relatively short spell in 100% new oak (the wine already having been racked into stainless steel). Very gentle and graceful on entry,

with some of the minerality and profundity proper to the cru, but this impresses more for its balance, poise, and perfect proportions than for its sheer scale. A light dryness on the finish, but this should integrate, and the wine stays sufficiently succulent thanks to the finely-wrought tannins. | **93-94**

### Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru Les Quatre Journaux

**NB** | The Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Beaux Mont is very promising this year (surprisingly structured), but this consistently impressive RSV, from the heart of this special site, is predictably better still. Deep ruby. A very lovely nose: gentle, but fresh and intense, too, with roseate seduction. Characteristically elegant on entry, with very fine-grain, free-flowing tannin, but there is plenty of support there, too, and greater graceful tenacity than usual through the fresh, flourishing finish. | **94-95**

### DOMAINE DU COMTE LIGER-BELAIR

*The 2018 Comte Liger-Belair red Burgundies are deeper than usual in color ("The color came instantly and rapidly," said Louis-Michel), they are especially rich in fruit presence, fruit mass, with a notable depth, sap, and succulence. The top wines, for all their finesse, seem to have a denser style of transparency, and the flavors are more often black cherry, black-fruit sweet, than the freshly sweet, wild-strawberry fragrant, ripe red fruit spectrum more typical of the 2016s and 2017s.*

*The premiers and grands crus, especially, are ample, fairly long-term wines, but their fleshy richness may also make them attractive relatively early on, and their defining freshness of acidity, so welcome in this very ripe, flavor-replete year, is remarkable, a toothsome consequence of biodynamic farming. Once again, as year in, year out, there is an exceptional consistency of quality, at whatever level in the hierarchy, alongside clear differences of character and personality. Across the region, the finest 2018 red Burgundies will doubtless be regarded as among the "great" years and, in its often particularly sumptuous style, the vintage certainly ranks alongside the best that Louis-Michel has made.*

*There was a small fly in the ointment of this tasting—to note, but I'm sure not to fret over. Almost all the barrel samples were to some extent marked by oxidation. The samples were "bottled" a fortnight prior to the tasting, with no protective addition of sulfur dioxide. Louis-Michel says, "You sort of have to accept it if I add no sulfur at all to the samples, because I worry that it will mar their quality." Whatever the reason(s), the 2018 barrel samples were unusual in not being perfect, and in seven years of tasting the range at this juncture there has never been a problem. But even a very mild oxidation makes the noses more difficult to define, dries or hardens the tannin textures slightly, and when more marked it clearly shortens and minimizes the wine's quality overall.*

*Apart from the withdrawn Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Les Petits Monts, the two top wines, Echézeaux and La Romanée, were noticeably affected by oxidation, and thus impossible to assess and describe fully or fairly. Why the samples should have been particularly "difficult" in this vintage is not clear but, given the quality of the bottled wines and the other barrel samples today, they will all doubtless be of their normal splendor.*

*Already in bottle were the Vosne-Romanée, Vosne-Romanée La Colombière, Vosne-Romanée Clos*

*du Château, and Nuits-St-Georges Les Lavières. The remainder, the premiers and grands crus, were cask samples, and only provisionally scored.*

### Nuits-St-Georges Les Lavières

**MS** | Mid-purple; a spicy black-fruit presence, dense and minerally; beautifully balanced, rich, elegant, very finely tannic wine; deep, succulent, black-fruit sweet, sumptuous for a village Nuits-St-Georges, a premier cru length and subtlety of flavor, with a fine, lightly aromatic and fruit-suffused length. Deliciously gratifying and satisfying already. A really lovely example. 2024-35+. | **92+**

### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Aux Cras

**MS** | Deep purple, noticeably dark for the house; a hint of oxidation here too; rich, fresh to vital, fairly firm in its fine tannin; warm, ripe, plenty of rich black-fruit sweetness, long to taste, a touch monolithic at the moment, but the matter, juice, sap, and length are there, both across the palate and on the finish. A little touched in performance by its oxidation, so difficult to judge fully on the basis of this sample. 2025-40+. | **93+**

### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos des Grandes Vignes (Monopole) Blanc

**MS** | Peach and mineral nose, faintly high-toned; very nicely balanced, fresh and full; ripe, warm, ample, generous wine of mid-rank premier cru quality, with excellent fruit-cored length. Not a long-term wine, and this will probably give most of its pleasure early on. Now to 2026. | **92**

### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos des Grandes Vignes (Monopole) Rouge

**MS** | Deepish purple (not the color depth of the Aux Cras); here, too, the merest touch of oxidation; full, rich, firmly but very finely tannic, with a fresh to lively acidity; deep, long, sweet, and succulent, with a patent premier cru race, tenacity of flavor, and persistence on the finish. Top premier cru quality here, and a richness, breadth, and depth of flavor of a different order from the village wines. Top-notch Nuits-St-Georges, first-rate medium- to long-term Clos des Grandes Vignes. 2028-42+. | **93-94+**

### Vosne-Romanée

**MS** | Dark ruby; closed with, currently, the faintest reduction, and a clear minerality; elegant medium-full wine, fresh, and with a very fine, dry tannin; sweet, succulent, juicy, refined, and already seductive; a lovely harmonious, silky textured, benchmark Vosne-Romanée of premier cru scope and complexity, with really fine, gently spicy length. Complete, already delightful, top-notch village wine. 2022-28+. | **92**

### Vosne-Romanée Clos du Château (Monopole)

**MS** | Dark ruby; and like the Colombière very slightly reduced on the nose; rich, supple, a notably fresh as well as fleshy balance, very fine in tannin; elegant,

sweet, juicy, succulent and with a delectable vitality of definition; long and subtle to taste, here, too, a premier cru performance for a village wine, long and gently racy, with a lovely spicily resonant aftertaste. A touch less rich, a touch more fresh and refined, than the Colombière, but at a very similar quality level. Beautiful Clos du Château. 2022-32+. | **93+**

### Vosne-Romanée La Colombière

**MS** | Dark ruby; lightly reduced nose (as usual with this wine, just post bottling); rich and fresh, notably well constituted for the cru, and very fine-textured; deep, rich, sweet, and gently spicy, but all with the characteristic house refinement, restraint, finesse; a length of flavor which puts it, qualitatively, clearly in premier cru, a delightful Vosne "flesh," and with a prolonged, gently spicy fruit persistence. Gorgeous Colombière, accessible early. 2022-32+. | **93+**

### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Aux Reignots

**MS** | Dark purple; fine sweet nose, just on the cusp of oxidation; rich, fresh to vital, very fine in tannin; deep, sweet, sappy, and defined by a remarkable vitality for the hot-year summer, restrained in volume, but long and complex across the palate, racy, spicy, and here, too, the very faint oxidation just shortens the wine a smidgeon, takes off what is certainly its great polish. That said, this has a wonderfully defining freshness, great complexity and inner energy, and a pronounced spicy, mirroring length. A touch marred by the sample state, but clearly splendid. 2030-48+. | **94-95?**

### Echézeaux Grand Cru

**MS** | Deep purple; the first wine to really "show" the new oak on the nose [the sample tastes a touch oaky too], and also with that hint of the "sweet and sour" of oxidation to smell; rich, vital, finely and firmly tannic, but the incipient oxidation has clearly shortened this wine, so that the sample simply cannot be representative. The structure, definition and vitality are there, but not the tenacity and persistence; it's long, but it slackens after the attack, and the tannins are a touch pinched ... fine length ... but ...! Even the faintly oxidized Reignots tasted splendid next to this. The wine will doubtless be wonderful, but it is difficult to assess fairly and truly on this sample. | **NS**

### La Romanée Grand Cru (Monopole)

**MS** | Deep purple; faint oxidation clear here too; rich, generous, vitally defined, very fine in firm tannin, overall a lovely generous balance; clearly deep and rich, complex and tenacious, and seductively fleshy, but without the absolute finesse, clarity, and separation of flavors that are the norm for this great wine. Clearly a consequence of the wine just lacking freshness, and which rapidly turns a bit short and dry. Not the nature of this always magnificent cru! Impossible to assess and describe fairly on the basis of this sample, but Louis-Michel's La Romanée is regularly exceptional, and doubtless will be in this sumptuously fine vintage, too. | **NS**

### Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru

**MS** | Mid-purple; a densely black-fruit nose, but also just touched by the oxidation; rich, generous, vital, and firmly tannic; an abundance of fruit, and a flavor that is immediately much more "fruit" than "aroma" based; deep, dense and tenacious to taste, an enveloping presence of great depth as well as great reach, very long and very satisfying. There is a clear sense of mass here, but refinement, too, generosity, sinew, but a wonderful overall harmony. Stylistically a sort of "top Pauillac in Burgundy"? This is what great Clos de Vougeot is about, and shows just why parts of the oh-so famous vineyard really do deserve grand cru status. This will need 15 years to harmonize, ideally 20, but then give another two to three decades of pleasure! 2035-55+. | **95-97**

### THIBAUT LIGER-BELAIR

#### Hautes Côtes de Nuits Corvée de Villy

**JS** | Alluring perfume of floral, cherry and raspberry notes floating over more resonant spice and incense. A very pretty palate with polished tannins and touches of orange peel and redcurrant giving airy freshness. Notable length for a wine at this price. | **91**

#### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Aux Réas

**JS** | Vibrant nose; cleanly defined palate with cherry, red-berry, and orange fruit and mineral vitality. Balanced and sustained by firm but fine-grained tannins. Considerable drive and persistence. | **92**

#### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les St-Georges

**JS** | Strikingly deep. Captivating nose of scented violets and ripe black fruit. Opulent and intense in the mouth with ripe tannins that give plenty to chew on before giving way to pivotal freshness. Nothing is fully resolved yet, but everything is in place. | **93**

### THIBAUT LIGER-BELAIR SUCCESEURS

#### Bourgogne Rouge Les Grands Chaillots

**JS** | Persuasive aromas of cherry and rose, with a wild-card note of cumin that adds an extra dimension. Pure, bright, breezily fresh fruit wrapped in a silky, supple texture. Charm itself—you couldn't want for more from a Bourgogne Rouge. | **90**

### DOMAINE LIGNIER-MICHELOT

#### Chambolle-Musigny VV

**JS** | Cherry and raspberry aromas, berry freshness on the palate with summer-pudding softness and sweetness and a discreet backbone of fine tannins. More to give but harmonious already. | **91**

#### Morey-St-Denis Premier Cru Aux Chezeaux

**JS** | Expressive nose and crunchy, bright raspberry and red cherry fruit on the palate. Effortless intensity and persistence, polished, ripe tannins and mineral freshness. | **92**

### Morey-St-Denis Premier Cru Faconnières

**JS** | Less showy and expressive on the nose than Aux Chezeaux but deeper and more intense, with black fruit and firmer tannins giving more structure and incipient weight. The length is there already, the complexity is on its way. | **93**

### Clos de La Roche Grand Cru

**JS** | Fragrant, floral nose—roses leading into peaches and redcurrant. Ripe but not super-ripe fruit. Great intensity, lots of substance and power and yet elegant, long, and vital. | **95**

### DOMAINE HENRI MAGNIEN

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes

**JS** | An arresting, spicy, sweet, vanilla-pastry hint on the nose introducing crunchy, bright, raspberry fruit and deeper, richer black fruit, all of it shaped by fine, grainy tannins. Ample and persuasive. Charles Magnien's Bourgogne Côte d'Or is also a confident and expressive wine (as is his new Corton Grand Cru—see under Côte de Beaune) | **91**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Cazetiers

**JS** | Powerful, dense black fruit with spice, cocoa, licorice and saline mineral tones adding dimension and context. Wrapped in a solid structure of firm tannins and defining acidity, this is forceful but poised and polished. | **92**

### STÉPHANE MAGNIEN

#### Morey-St-Denis VV

**JS** | Intense red and black cherry aromas and plenty of tannins to chew on at present, but the tannins are ripe, fine-grained and already taking their first steps towards silkiness. Good length. A thoroughly confident wine from 55-year-old vines. | **92**

#### Morey-St-Denis Premier Cru Faconnières

**JS** | Soaring aromas—roses, strawberries, and black fruit—and joyous, generous fruit on the palate layered with touches of orange and incense. Rich and ripe but tethered by freshness, energy and elegant tannins. | **93**

#### Clos St-Denis Grand Cru

**JS** | Less exuberant on the nose than the Morey Premier Cru Faconnières, but beautifully sweet, intense, fruit on the palate—blackberries and raspberries melting into spice, with creamy intensity, superfine tannins and a mineral lift. A complex, very accomplished wine from 65-year-old vines in the original part of the Clos. | **94**

### CHÂTEAU DE MARSANNAY

#### Marsannay Clos de Jeu

**NB** | Although the entire range from this greatly improved and still improving producer is impressive,

the greatest revelations and the greatest value are among the range of Marsannay wines, very sensitively and skillfully wrought by the talented young technical director, Sylvain Pabion. The elegantly herbal-mineral, lithe, racy, and sapid Longeroies was the first of an excellent Marsannay trio that I tasted, and the other two were even more exciting. This Clos de Jeu has a natural sheen to its medium-deep ruby. Briary dark fruit, black and red raspberry, intense and lightly earthy mineral but not at all forbidding on the nose. Close-knit, firm, and gently grippy underneath, but an almost cashmere softness on top, thanks to the abundant but expertly extracted tannins. This is both characterful—you sense it comes from a special site—and complete, deep and long. | **91-92**

#### Marsannay Les Grasses Têtes

**NB** | Lustrous mid-ruby. Darkly and purely fruited, opulent and vivid, but so much more than fruit to smell here: already a light leather and *sous-bois* intrigue. Dense, open, and rich on the palate, with a perfectly struck balance between freshness and ripeness, and a seamless tannic weave. | **90-91**

#### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Champeaux

**NB** | While the Premier Cru Bel-Air is a very good expression, the even more favorable terroir of this Gevrey stablemate shines through. Luminous medium-deep ruby. A highly promising nascent bouquet: pure, ripe redcurrant and rowan fruit, with darkly floral seduction. Elegant on entry, but architectural—high English Gothic—in its depth and height, the glossy nobility and solidity of the tannins allowing the superstructure to soar. | **92-93**

#### Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | Glowing medium-deep ruby. A becoming, very distinguished nose, ripe red and black fruit, deep but pure and vivid. "Attack" seems far too aggressive a term for the initial impression on the palate: elegant, refined, and silken, and while the complexity has still to show, the harmony, intensity, and piquant salinity on the finish suggest that it will. | **94**

#### Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru

**NB** | Brilliant medium-deep ruby. Aromatically clean, finely focused, and reserved, darkly fruited and with an enigmatic, subtle spice. On the palate, there is not quite the dynamism and mineral charge that there might have been in a less warm vintage, but it is all the more accessible, charming, and effortlessly elegant in this rounder, softer guise. | **92-93**

#### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru En Orveaux

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. Darkly fruited and deep on the nose, allusive but very subtle, any mineral message subliminal after a few sniffs rather than shrill. A very fine silken weave, perfectly ripe, both succulent and vibrant, picked at exactly the right time and vinified in exactly the right way; nothing out of place on the gracefully persistent finish. | **92**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. A very enticing nose: freshly ripe, gently spicy, a little Vosne exoticism but nothing excessive. So finely layered and supple on the palate as to seem velvety, without any loss of clarity in its flavor or structure. Still to blossom, but the harmony and graceful vitality suggest it will. | **93**

**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**

**NB** | Lustrous mid-ruby. An arresting scent: darkly fruited, ripe, but with proper mineral rigor as well as softening spice. Sweet-fruited, silky, and succulent, but persistent, too, with plenty of fine-grained, supportive tannins, which act like ball-bearings and allow the rest of the wine to glide effortlessly on top. Clear cru identity, but a very accessible, elegant, and seductive expression of it. | **93-94**

**DOMAINE MÉO-CAMUZET****Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Boudots**

**SB** | Lively and exuberant raspberry nose, oaky but floral and charming for Nuits. Sleek and forward, but it does have polished tannins. Although bright and attractive, it lacks some depth and persistence, though these may become more pronounced after bottling. | **92**

**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**

**SB** | Juicy but intense raspberry-coulis nose with a cranberry tang. Velvety but very concentrated, polished and stylish with attractive acidity, poised and beautifully crafted with no rough edges and some punch on the long finish. | **92-93**

**MORON-GARCIA**

**SB** | A fairly new domaine practicing a costly berry-by-berry harvest and whole-berry vinification.

**Marsannay Clos du Roi**

**SB** | Opulent cherry nose. Firm and robust, this is assertive and structured, showing weight and grip. Succulent and mouth-filling, this is a Marsannay worth cellaring. | **91**

**Nuits-St-Georges Les Charmois**

**SB** | Fragrant cherry and raspberry nose, brisk and lifted. Medium-bodied and supple, this has sucrosity and structure, with fine acidity and persistence, leading to a long elegant finish. | **91**

**ARNAUD MORTET**

**SB** | Arnaud Mortet runs the *Domaine Denis Mortet*, but to avoid family entanglements has leased some parcels in the name of his sister and himself.

**Gevrey-Chambertin La Perrière**

**SB** | Rich cherry nose, opulent and very ripe. Full-bodied and very concentrated, this has power and density, with plenty of alcohol. Muscular in style, this is a bit too assertive now but needs to settle down. Long. | **93**

**Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**SB** | Deep red. Lush dense black-cherry nose, but superripe, oaky, and overbearing. Rich and full-throttle, this is very concentrated but lacks a light touch and hence some finesse. Very spicy, it shows energy rather than purity. Long. | **92**

**DOMAINE DENIS MORTET****Fixin VV**

**SB** | Mortet often produces excellent Fixin, and this is another. The nose has intense and vibrant ripe cherry fruit. Supple and juicy, but it has underlying tannins, giving a robust style with little finesse but ample fruit. Quite good acidity and length. | **91**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Mes Cinq Terroirs**

**SB** | Dense nose, with reserved cherry fruit. Rich but softer than expected, easygoing for Gevrey but gains more structure and grip on the mid-palate. Quite long, with a spicy finish. | **92**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Lavaux St-Jacques**

**SB** | Reserved nose, but there's opulent cherry fruit here. Full-bodied, plump, and concentrated, with ripe tannins that are not too stern but give ample structure, though it will soon be accessible. Persistent. | **93**

**DOMAINE G MUGNERET-GIBOURG****Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Chaignots**

**JS** | Dark in color and fragrant with violets and black cherries. The fruit on the palate is is fleshy yet finely focused and carried by the rich but supple tannins and a freshness that flows through to the end. | **93**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**JS** | Gorgeous perfume and great intensity, texture, and length. The fruit is fragrant and succulent but finely etched and the tannins, although powerful, are sleek, giving a wine of layered concentration, precision, and poise—and one with an assured future. | **94**

**DOMAINE J-F MUGNIER****Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos de la Maréchale**

**JS** | Seductive scents of flowery cherries spiked with savory roast almond and sweet chestnut. Rich and flattering but with purity and freshness, lithe tannins and a subtle of hint of dark chocolate in the soft oak background. Balanced and harmonious. Only half the usual amount crop from this monopole after it was hit twice by hail in July. | **93**

**PHILIPPE PACALET**

**NB** | The aphoristic Philippe Pacalet, at once frivolous and serious, educated and intuitive, opinionated and

reflective, showed a persuasive range of 2018s. From barrel (the average age around four years), and with no added SO<sub>2</sub> during the winemaking, the wines have admirable purity and no negative telltale signs of the stems he retains during fermentation and maceration.

**Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Les Chaignots**

**NB** | While the Nuits-St-Georges *lieu-dit* Au Bas du Combe, from a village vineyard on the border with Vosne, is very good, this Vosne-side premier cru is better still (unsurprisingly). Deep ruby. A light kirsch nose, then a beautifully melting texture, gently extracted tannins, elegant and restrained but fully ripe (even if Pacalet says he generally "prefers savory to sweet"). | **91**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**NB** | The fruit from around 2.5 acres (1ha) near the Clos St-Denis *lieu-dit* gives 5 or 6 *pièces*, where the absence of new oak or added SO<sub>2</sub> heightens the aromatic immediacy and transparency: exciting light exoticism and spice. Effortless, elegant, and flowing, with a fabulous layered silk texture, but bright and energetic, too, through the fine, flourishing finish. | **93**

**Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**NB** | A cuvée from the 0.5 acre (0.2ha) of Trapet-owned vines here, yielding a precious three *pièces*. Medium-deep ruby. Autosuggested to some extent it may be, but there really does seem to be a chalky stoniness to the captivating scent of this wine: austere, pure, but not at all forbidding, partly thanks to inviting, softening spice. Dynamic, energetic, but not at all shrill, accessible and effortless, with another fabulously silken texture thanks to perfect ripeness and well-wrought tannins. | **94**

**DOMAINE DES PERDRIX White****Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits**

**NB** | Pale lemon-gold. An attractive nose, delicate and subtle but positive, lightly reductive and toasty, but the lemon and white stone fruit shines through. Medium-bodied and silky on entry, dynamic, racy, and vibrant, but controlled, concentrated, and persistent, too. Complete, delicious, invigorating, even scintillating Hautes-Côtes (*ciselé*, as it says on the back label) from a 2.5-acre (1ha) east-facing plot up on the Nuits-St-Georges plateau. | **89**

**Red****Bourgogne Pinot Noir**

**NB** | A blend from favorably sited plots. Medium-deep ruby, impressive intensity. Good aromatic definition and freshness, with a distinctive but not unattractive savory note, then a lick of licorice. Exceptionally silky entry, darkly fruited, concentrated but supple thanks to remarkably fine tannins for the level, and still very vibrant, too. *Hors classe*: closer to a top *village* or even lesser premier cru in quality. | **89**

**Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Aux Perdrix**

**NB** | This southeast-facing "quasi-monopole" (as the owning Devillard family describes it) was planted between 1922 and 1980, at a high density of 13,000 vines/ha, resulting a complex, rich wine of strong personality. Lustrous medium-deep ruby. Intense, pure, black-fruited aroma, fathomless, with exciting reserve. Finely but richly layered *mille-feuille* tannins, deep and powerful but not static, a mighty slow-flowing river, with balancing freshness and a fantastic flourishing finish. | **92-93**

**Echézeaux Grand Cru**

**NB** | The different *lieu-dit* origins of this cuvée and old vines—most in Echézeaux du Dessus at the heart of the appellation, and around one quarter in the Quartiers de Nuits lower down, both planted between 1921 and 1974—result in a wine as remarkable for its class and grace as for its power and scale. Medium-deep ruby. An expressive, intricate, nose, reserved but stylish, black-fruited and lightly spicy but mineral-charged and pure. Great energy and vibrancy on the palate, effortlessly expansive and richly silky, with excellent harmony and intensity, grand cru quality and scope. | **94**

**DOMAINE C PERROT-MINOT****Morey-St-Denis La Rue de Vergy**

**JS** | Very aromatic with red cherries and kirsch. Lots of intensity, brightness, sweetness, and flesh, with suggestions of peach and orange woven into the cherry fruit. Suave tannins and effortless vitality. | **93**

**Morey-St-Denis Premier Cru La Riotte VV**

**JS** | Vibrant and intense with ripe, tangy, wild-cherry fruit and a twist of spice. Substantial and textured in the mouth, although holding itself in a bit at the moment. Impressive. | **93**

**Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru La Richemone Vieilles Centenaires**

**JS** | Less expressive on the nose than the two Moreys, but intense, vivid and tightly packed with black-cherry, berry, and wild-plum fruit, svelte tannins and long, teasingly mineral freshness. Concentrated, complex, confident wine (from vines planted in 1902) with much still to give, even though there's pleasure to be had already. | **94**

**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**JS** | Black-cherry aromas and sumptuous fruit in the mouth. Glossy texture and fluent tannins; weight balanced by energy and drive. Intricate but by no means revealing everything yet. Give it time. | **94**

**Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**JS** | Wonderful sweet perfume—perfect ripeness with enticing spicy notes. Layered palate with lustrous dark fruit and glimpses of tangerine and apricot filling a fine-boned architectural structure. Fine, chalk-dust tannins. | **96**

**DOMAINE ROSSIGNOL-TRAPET****Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Petite Chapelle**

**MR** | Fresh, concentrated, lovely aromas, all spice and black fruit. Tight, tense, deep. | **93**

**Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**MR** | Sleek, precise, silky, lovely. The structure is firm but balanced; it's a serious wine. | **94**

**Chambertin Grand Cru**

**MR** | Black fruits, plenty of structure, ripe tannins; very fine and precise, deep, tense, and tight. | **96**

**CHÂTEAU DE SANTENAY****Gevrey-Chambertin**

**NB** | Although most of the wines of this well-resourced and resurgent producer (a member of CA Grands Crus) are from the Côte de Beaune or Côte Chalonnaise, it is exciting to see what the experienced new manager, Jean-Philippe Archambaud, and talented young winemaker, François des Moutis, formerly at Domaine de la Vougeraie, are able to do in the Côte de Nuits. From *lieu-dit* Champerrier-du-Dessus, this is an *hors classe* village wine, even for Gevrey in this vintage. Medium-deep ruby. A very exuberant, fresh, and mineral nose, but with fully ripe red and black fruit and light spice (3 of the 12 barrels were new, a perfect proportion on this showing). Very good harmony and intensity on the palate, and a superb quality of tannin for the level, very fine-spun, silky, and supple, but with gentle grip and proper structure, too. Outstanding. | **91-92**

**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. Very classically correct scent: mineral rectitude but not at all forbidding or intimidating, healthy and ripe (even if harvested the first week of September), with a light spice (one of the four barrels was new). Recognizably Clos de Vougeot, but perhaps more remarkable for its approachability and elegance than its intensity or profundity, thanks to the benign vintage. | **92-93**

**DOMAINE SÉRAFIN PÈRE & FILS****Chambolle-Musigny Premier Cru Les Baudes**

**SB** | Deep color. The rich black-cherry nose has a Merlot-like opulence. Broad, fleshy, and concentrated, this isn't nuanced but still has vigor and grip as well as some polish. Long but tannic. | **92**

**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**SB** | Voluptuous cherry nose. Suave, broad, and powerful, this also has energy and vigor. Compact tannins give it staying power. Reined-in now but should evolve well. Long. | **94**

**DOMAINE DU CLOS DE TART****Morey-St-Denis Premier Cru La Forge de Tart**

**NB** | The village Morey-St-Denis is very appetizing and pretty, and the Forge de Tart finer still. Medium ruby. There is beautifully matched delicacy and intensity to the ripe red-berry scent, then the same lovely balance on the palate, which is caressingly silky but properly supportive, too. | **91-92**

**Clos de Tart Grand Cru**

**NB** | The intelligent and sensitive new *régisseur* (since March 2019), Alessandro Noli, formerly at François Pinault's sister property Château Grillet, clearly has his own ideas, but will be continuing the more elegant interpretation introduced by his predecessor Jacques Devauges (now at Clos des Lambrays). Medium-deep ruby, a natural luster. Beautifully integrated soft spice from the whole-bunch fermentation (an average of 65% across the different parcels) and the oak (80% new but the proportion will be reduced still further from 2019). At once *aérien* and mouthfilling, floating and gliding on its seductively silky tannins, which leave only the gentlest valedictory squeeze. Hugely promising, another wonderful wine from this special site. | **94-95**

**DOMAINE TAUPENOT-MERME****Gevrey-Chambertin**

**JS** | Very perfumed, rose petal, black cherry, and strawberry, and a generous but precise palate, with rounded tannins and sustaining, vitalizing acidity. | **91**

**Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru**

**JS** | Another lovely nose: intense red cherry, wild blackberry, and spice, lifted floral notes and that whisper of orange zest again. Concentrated and substantial, yet so elegant and beautifully textured you could imagine drinking it now. A splendid wine—and still a long and distinguished future. | **96**

**DOMAINE DE LA VOUGERAIE****Clos Blanc de Vougeot**

**SB** | Opulent toasty nose, at the riper end of the spectrum. Full-bodied and weighty, a touch heavy and lacks some acidity and verve. Solid and oaky rather than elegant but it has reasonable length. | **90**

**Gevrey-Chambertin Evocelles**

**SB** | Super-ripe cherry nose, showing lavish fruit. Plump and full-bodied, this has ample weight of fruit and polished tannins, and although very fruity, it doesn't lack structure or persistence. | **91**

**Vougeot Clos du Prieuré**

**SB** | Fortright cherry nose. Concentrated, dense, and tannic but not too extracted, displaying weight and grip but also a vein of acidity to cut the richness. Fairly long. | **93**

**CÔTE DE BEAUNE****DOMAINE COMTE ARMAND****Pommard Premier Cru Clos des Epeneaux**

**MR** | Big and powerful but aromatic. Blackberry, cassis, black cherry, concentrated, and deep. Lowish acidity, floral, lavender notes, but very fresh. | **91**

**DOMAINE BALLOT-MILLOT****Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Morgeot Tête de Clos**

**SB** | Pear and apricot aromas dominate the nose, which is rich and brooding. Plump and full-bodied, creamy and luxurious, this has opulence without heaviness. The finish is toasty and nutty, showing discreet power and admirable length. | **93**

**Meursault Premier Cru Genevrières**

**SB** | Rich and generous on the nose, which is mineral, appley, and quite toasty. Sleek and concentrated, with assertive lemony acidity, this has a welcome tartness without greenness. It shows complexity, and has a long, nutty finish. | **93**

**BICHOT (DOMAINE DU PAVILLON) White****Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Morgeot**

**SB** | The nose is bright and appley, precise and poised. The fresh attack contributes more tension than most wines in this vintage, and there is fine acidity, force and persistence, and a toasty finish. | **93**

**Meursault Premier Cru Charmes**

**SB** | The nose is opulent with ripe pear aromas. Suave and concentrated, this has a fine texture, while delicate acidity gives finesse. Balanced and charming with depth of flavor; fine and long. | **92**

**Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru**

**SB** | The nose has typical force, robust and mineral, with appley aromas. Creamy and concentrated, this shows power and force. It's mineral, gently toasty, with good potential and welcome grip. | **94**

**Red****Pommard Clos des Ursulines**

**SB** | The nose is ripe but delicate, with cherry and raspberry aromas. Lean and fresh, though there are tannins in the background. Polished, quite long. | **90**

**DOMAINE BITOUZET-PRIEUR****Meursault Premier Cru Charmes**

**SB** | The spicy, toasty nose delivers finesse and lift. Suave but not heavy, it displays spry acidity, enough concentration, and a tangy, lemony finish. | **91**

**DOMAINE HENRI BOILLOT****Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Clos de la Mouchère**

**MR** | Tense, smoky, tightly wound, and savory; very good, very earthy and salty. | **92**

**Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru**

**MR** | Smoky, very struck-match, tense, compelling. Almost floral, almost delicate, very fine, but very concentrated. | **95**

**DOMAINE JEAN-MARC BOILLOT****Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Referts**

**MR** | Savory, herbal, celery, a touch of hay, salt; complex. Structured and concentrated, but tense, too. Substantial finish, salty and earthy. | **90**

**Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru**

**MR** | Fresh, creamy, smoky; concentrated and tight, yet feels light on its feet. Restrained, holds back. Tightly knit, precise, detailed. | **94**

**JEAN-CLAUDE BOISSET White****Beaune Premier Cru Les Vignes Franches**

**NB** | A unique expression of Les Vignes Franches as a white wine, from 80-year-old vines whose small *millerandé* bunches yielded only 15hl/ha even in the generous 2018 vintage. Aromatically, a little muddled because racked only the day before, but the quality is abundantly clear from the palate: dense and rich but with excellent animating acidity, especially for the vintage (harvested on September 3, the feast of St Gregory the Great, his namesake Grégory Patriat, the winemaker recalls) and a fabulously flourishing finish. I agree with Grégory that many Corton-Charlemagnes are less exciting than this. Fewer than 1,000 bottles, sadly, but well worth seeking out. | **92**

**Puligny-Montrachet Le Trézin**

**NB** | The altitude of this high vineyard (1,000-1,150ft [300-350m])—the only Puligny village *lieu-dit* at the top of the slope—was beneficial this warm vintage, and even late-harvested it reached only 12.5% ABV. There is nothing at all undernourished about the nose though, which is restrained but ripe. An excellent balance on the palate, too, the acidity perfectly pitched but far from shrill, the body sleek but silky, and the finesse on the finish thrilling. | **91**

**Red****Beaune Premier Cru Les Grèves**

**NB** | Grégory uses different, but equally meaningful, images for this cuvée—"the beast of the cellar," "a wild horse that needs to be tamed"—and for such a special wine you do indeed need to reach for the words. The power stems partly from the

distinguished site and partly from the genetic material of the vines—an old massal selection, now 80 years old, which even in the 2018 vintage yielded only 28hl/ha. A medium-deep ruby, natural luster. Aromatically, very intense, pure, and profound, with light positive pepper notes (50% whole-bunch). Grand cru concentration and scale, but grand cru class, too, with no roughness to the abundant but very fine-grain, silky, and supple tannins. It may be "*un Monsieur*," as Grégory says, but he has revealed his gentler side, partly (Grégory is sure) because there is no stiffening SO<sub>2</sub> starch to his collar. | **94-95**

**Pommard La Combotte**

**NB** | Grégory has the admirable aim of producing the best wine of its type, and it is hard to imagine a more exceptional village Pommard than this, in what he describes as its "glory vintage." No whole-bunch, but a long (30-day) maceration. A very *aérien*, graceful scent—"anti-Pommard," perhaps, *pace* Grégory, but very inviting. Equally seductive on the palate, with an astonishing cashmere softness, but also the freshness and supportive structure underneath not to seem loose or aimless. | **92-93**

**Savigny-lès-Beaune Premier Cru Aux Serpentières**

**NB** | As with the Pommard above, this is surely unsurpassed of its type. From old vines, ravaged by *millerandage*, so very low yields, but very healthy and ripe, which allowed Grégory to retain 50% of the stems, which may have contributed to the aromatic freshness of the wine, though there is hardly any sign of them as such (certainly no negative trace). Real depth on the palate, and exciting freshness on the flourishing finish, but enobed in the softest velvet: a superb texture. No SO<sub>2</sub> to "burn the terroir," as Grégory believes now, and Serpentières certainly shows through supremely well here. | **92-93**

**Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru**

**NB** | Only the second vintage from a "super" parcel of 45-year-old vines, harvested at perfect ripeness on September 4. Medium-deep ruby. A completely captivating, harmonious, and intricate scent, pure raspberry and subtle spice (50% whole-bunch, 50% new Chassin oak), the other allusions being not animal but floral. Balance, elegance, freshness, and grace on the palate, and another gloriously fine texture. Certainly not "*all in finesse*"—there is proper grand cru intensity as well—but finesse may well be the most remarkable of its many qualities. | **94-95**

**BOUCHARD PÈRE ET FILS White****Meursault Premier Cru Charmes**

**MR** | Pure, tense, very complex, very tight, very restrained and subtle. Smoke on the finish, very fine and elegant: linearity made flesh. | **93**

**Meursault Premier Cru Genevrières**

**MR** | Pure, tense, tight, taut, very subtle, with a very powerful finish. Lovely. | **93**

**Meursault Premier Cru Les Gouttes d'Or**

**MR** | Tense, rich, very terroir, with salt and citrus notes, all tucked in and tightly packed. | **93**

**Meursault Premier Cru Perrières**

**MR** | Tight, tense, all the chalk and cream in a tight knot, very fresh and fine. Great length. | **93**

**Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru**

**MR** | Closed; some restrained exuberance, all reined in, with great detail and precision. | **94**

**Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru La Cabotte**

**MR** | Energetic, driven, tense, and closed. All packed power, but worn lightly, and perfect poise. | **95**

**Montrachet Grand Cru**

**MR** | More exuberant, more extrovert than either Chevalier at the moment; almost bouncy, with peach and stone-fruit notes, cream, all showing much more. But on the finish it suddenly goes serious, and is long, tight, and powerful. | **95**

**Red****Beaune Premier Cru Grèves Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus**

**MR** | Supple, with a creamy coating over a firm structure, and huge depth. Restrained, subtle, complex, compelling. | **93**

**Volnay Premier Cru Les Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot**

**MR** | Expressive, juicy, spicy; lots of mineral cherry fruit and a huge finish. Will be lovely. | **94**

**DOMAINE JEAN-MARC BOULEY****Volnay Clos de la Cave**

**JS** | Intense, juicy, sweet cherry perfume, with a peck of spice and good depth and fruit definition on the palate. Silky tannins and well-tailored acidity: a classically elegant, well-balanced Volnay. | **91**

**Volnay Premier Cru Les Cavelles**

**JS** | Fairly deep. The nose is a little shy, but there's pleasing red fruit (raspberry, cherry, redcurrant) and a rose-floral waft alongside coffee-edged oak. The palate is positive and intense, with sappy acidity and tannins that have some grip. | **91**

**DOMAINE MICHEL BOUZEREAU & FILS****Meursault Les Grands Charrons**

**SB** | Assertive nose, with apple and citrus aromas. The attack is firm and concentrated, showing good extract, and a mineral, chewy finish. This isn't crafted in a fruit-forward style but is classic and stylish. | **92**

**Meursault Premier Cru Genevrières**

**SB** | The nose is rich and exuberant, with apple and lime aromas. Rich, creamy, full-bodied, and concentrated, this is nonetheless assertive and nutty, with good mineral grip. It's harmonious despite a slight lack of acidity and punch; long. | **93**

**MAISON CHAMPY White****Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Folatières**

**NB** | The Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Chenevottes is elegant, fine, and subtle, but this Folatières, with no new oak, may be even more complete and expressive. Pale gold. Lovely florality and minerality on the nose, while the freshness is well-matched by richness on the palate, where its class shows most fully on the long, taut finish. | **91-92**

**Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru**

**NB** | This stylish wine comes from three parcels in the cooler, west-facing En Charlemagne sector, which seems to have been an advantage in this warm year. Still reserved on the nose, where the oak is integrating well (only two of the eight *pièces* were new). Silky and supple, but with all the hoped-for mineral race and tension, the terroir showing through more strongly than the vintage. | **94**

**Red****Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée Edme**

**NB** | An outstanding regional wine, most from parcels opposite Volnay, the rest from Ladoix, all hand-harvested and oak-raised (15-20% new). Deep ruby. Very clean and fresh, lightly reductive, with attractive licorice notes on the nose. Appetizing and deliciously drinkable but with very good body, density, and texture for the level. | **88-89**

**Beaune Vieilles Vignes**

**NB** | The organic village wines from Chorey, Savigny, Pommard, and Volnay are all compelling, but this organic *vieilles vignes* Beaune cuvée, from vines planted in the late 1940s, has an added dimension in terms of depth and volume. Deep ruby, luminous. A reassuring light whiff of SO<sub>2</sub>, the wine having been bottled the day before I tasted it in November, but this did not detract at all from its gloriously creamy texture; remarkable harmony, integrity, succulence, and volume for the level, and a persuasive reminder of how good Beaune can be. | **90**

**Beaune Premier Cru Aux Cras**

**NB** | An excellent expression of this very fine Beaune *climat* (roughly one third new oak). A lustrous medium-deep ruby. Darkly fruited on the nose, but with a lovely floral overlay. Appetizing and sapid on the palate, with *cras* elegance, freshness, and race, the finely granular quality "mineral rather than tannic," suggests Dimitri Bazas, but there is nothing at all hard, and it remains silky throughout. | **91**

**Pernand-Vergelesses Premier Cru Île des Vergelesses**

**NB** | While the characterful, ripe Pernand *lieu-dit* Clos de Bully and the Pernand Premier Cru Les Vergelesses are both excellent, this cuvée fully justifies the reputation of Île des Vergelesses as the top vineyard in the village. Medium-deep ruby. A lovely amalgam of ripe red and black fruit on the nose, with a seductive touch of kirsch (the liqueur rather than the eau de vie). Fine-spun and supple, but greater density, intensity, and volume than the Vergelesses, and even more beauty of flavor. | **92**

**Corton-Rognet Grand Cru**

**NB** | A fully worthy rendition of one of the Corton *climats* that most clearly warrants grand cru status. Medium-deep ruby, a natural luster. Very clean, intense nose, no excess oak (only one third new) masking the ripe red and black fruit. Excellent balance, freshness, and poise, with a layered silk texture and gentle mineral tenacity. | **93**

**CHANDON DE BRIAILLES****Pernand-Vergelesses Premier Cru Île des Vergelesses**

**SB** | The nose shows piquant floral cranberry aromas of great charm. Medium-bodied but concentrated, graceful, with polished tannins; pretty and delicate but deep. Persistent and stylish. | **93**

**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**

**SB** | Intense red-fruits nose, floral and delicate for Corton. The attack is sleek and silky, displaying effortless tension and finesse. Understated but delicious, poised, and long. | **95**

**CHANSON White**

**NB** | *The admirable house philosophy of nothing added or taken away means that there is no acidification, the freshness in the whites from the warm 2018 vintage coming less from acidity than from pure fruit, minerality, salinity, and a well-judged phenolic twist. As usual, full malolactic but no bâtonnage, and 12-14 months in 15-20% new oak, so all bottled at the time of tasting.*

**Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Mouches**

**NB** | Pale lemon-gold. A very winning nose: ripe but not overripe, with admirable restraint and a light saline note. Beautifully limpid palate, rich, round, and silky, but very well-balanced by the definition and tension, the sheer concentration also helping it hold its shape. The finish is extended and made more nuanced by the faint bitterness of the perfectly pitched phenolic valediction. An excellent expression of this famous site. | **91-92**

**Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Chenevottes**

**NB** | Pale lemon-gold. Ripe yellow fruit but with attractive floral lift on the nose. Concentrated, a little

languid and meandering on the mid-palate, but it rallies and rises on the finish thanks to the lightly phenolic tension. Good gastronomic potential. | **90**

#### Corton-Vergennes Grand Cru

**NB** | Pale gold. A very fine, subtle nose, the lightly smoky whiff seeming to come more from the terroir than from the wood. On the palate, the pedigree shows in its understated elegance and finesse, showing the enigmatic rather than the electric side of the site, with deceptive gentle length. | **92-93**

#### Red

**NB** | *Careful picking dates, the cooling tunnel for grapes, and the retention of stems all seem to have contributed to the elegance and freshness of these exciting reds.*

#### Savigny-lès-Beaune Premier Cru Dominode

**NB** | Deep ruby. A captivating nose, impressive intensity and purity of fruit, with light kirsch lift. An almost cashmere douceur of texture, real softness, but also elegance, finesse, and supportive structure underneath, with a graceful vitality on the finish. | **92**

#### Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Fèves

**NB** | A quite superb wine, the finest of an excellent trio of Beaune premiers crus, served last and a fitting finale. Even greater aromatic intensity than the Clos des Mouches; darkly fruited, mineral, pure, profound, highly promising. An exhilaratingly effortless palate, which soars, supported by flying buttress tannins. This would bear comparison with a Clos de Bèze or Laticrières-Chambertin. | **95**

#### Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Mouches

**NB** | Deepest ruby. A captivating nose: elegant, pure, light kirsch. Thanks to its effortless scale and supremely silky texture, Vincent Avenel's neat nickname, Le Mouchiny, doesn't seem at all far-fetched for this wonderful wine. Succulence, tension, and a flourishing finish. Outstanding. | **94**

#### Beaune Premier Cru Teurons

**NB** | A brilliant deep ruby. Good freshness and purity of fruit, but also light leather and spice. Harmonious, round, and supple, with a gorgeous melting texture, gratifyingly gourmand. | **92-93**

#### DOMAINE DE COURCEL

#### Pommard Premier Cru Grand Clos des Epenots

**SB** | A splendid nose: cherry and blackberry. Rich and creamy, with robust but ripe tannins. Alcoholic and chocolatey: a bit overpowering now. Long. | **92**

#### Pommard Premier Cru Rugiens

**SB** | Voluptuous and imposing cherry nose. Full-bodied and concentrated, with a chocolaty sheen, this has grandeur and power but little finesse. | **90**

#### DOMAINE DES CROIX

#### Beaune Premier Cru Cent Vignes

**SB** | Super-ripe cherry nose, exhibiting a slight Portiness. Rich, silky, and reasonably concentrated, this is spicy, and thanks to its acidity has a direct fruitiness and no Porty flavors. Long. | **91**

#### DOMAINE HENRI DARNAT

#### Meursault Clos du Domaine

**SB** | Brisk and fragrant, with lively lemony aromas. The palate mirrors the nose, with a fresh attack, taut natural acidity, and invigorating tension and bite. Tangy and long, this is impeccable Meursault. | **92**

#### Meursault Clos Richemont (Monopole)

**SB** | The monopole's nose is citric, too, but more reserved and toastier. The freshness is admirable, but it's also creamy and concentrated, elegant and tight, with a long, tangy, citric finish. | **93**

#### EDOUARD DELAUNAY White

#### Bourgogne Aligoté

**NB** | This Aligoté (d'Orée) is the golden exception to Delaunay's Côte d'Or-only sourcing. Laurent having been unable to resist the offer of grapes from his former Dijon enology professor, Monsieur Feuillat, from some of the highest vines in the region. Cool-fermented, it finished fermenting in barrel (one to four years old), and was then *bâtonné* and *élevé* like a Chardonnay, but bottled after only 5 months to capture its aroma and freshness. Pale gold. Fine, fresh, and pure in scent, alluring light citrus but nothing at all vegetal. Very good density, intensity, and persistence, but matched all the way by elegance, purity, and succulence. Outstanding. | **90+**

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Baudines

**NB** | Even finer than the excellent village Chassagne is this scintillating wine from the highest premier cru at the southern end of the village, whose altitude was helpful this hot year, allowing it to be picked relatively late for perfectly balanced freshness and flavor. Pale lemon-gold. A very attractive nose, not at all marked by the wood (one of the four barrels was new): delicate, gentle citrus scent, finely floral, lightly iodine, saline. A beautiful consistency, dense and rich, but with more than enough balancing intensity and purity, precision and tension, so there is scale and subtlety but no excess weight. | **93**

#### Meursault

**NB** | An exceptional village wine from four parcels, the barrels included being rigorously selected after being separately vinified (four of the 15 were not deemed worthy). Lemon-gold, intense. Very clean, with well-integrated oak (one new barrel for each parcel), not at all buttery but invitingly rich. Thanks to the balanced acidity, the palate is creamy but not

at all heavy, and the light *agrumes* bitterness gives a refreshing twist to the long finish. | **90-91**

#### Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru

**NB** | A fully worthy wine, from a single parcel high in the cooler En Charlemagne sector, which was wholly helpful this warm vintage. Aromatically discreet, the oak integrating seamlessly (one of the three *pièces* was new), with very clean, freshly ripe yellow fruit, and a very light whiff of white pepper: lovely detail and finesse. An exceptionally fine palate, too: at once effortless and enigmatic, not explosive or imposing, still with grand cru intensity, but most remarkable for its sheer beauty of flavor, the faintest benign bitterness giving the finish even more interest and length. | **94-95**

#### Red

#### Pommard Premier Cru Les Fremiers

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. A very engaging nose: elegant and finely spicy (Laurent identifies juniper, which seems spot on). Right on the border with Volnay Frémets, and this seems very Volnaysien on entry, but there is proper Pommard structure underneath, where there are substantial but very well-drawn, ripe tannins, rubbery rather than rough. The fresh finish confirms its potential. | **91-92**

#### Santenay Premier Cru Beauregard

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. A characterful, intriguing nose, darkly fruited (black cherry) and ripe, completely clean but with a light, earthy minerality as well as a floral touch, and the faintest hint of polish from barrel reduction. Dense and powerful, nothing excessive, but impressive both in its scale and in the refinement of its tannins—a house signature throughout the range. | **91-92**

#### DOMAINE JOSEPH DROUHIN White

#### Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Mouches

**SB** | Apricot and apple nose, showing delicacy and charm. Although the nose is reticent, the wine is rich and compact, with fine depth of flavor and spiciness. The firm acidity gives energy and pungency but there's a creaminess, too. Complex and very long on the finish. | **94**

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Morgeot (Marquis de Laguiche)

**SB** | Muted appley aromas mark the nose, along with some toasty oak. Broad, generous, and juicy, this is quite concentrated, yet supple and relatively forward. Quite good acidity and length. | **91**

#### Meursault Premier Cru Genevrières

**SB** | The nose shows muted ripe citrus aromas, as well as discreet oak. There's a good attack, which is fresh and lively, svelte and concentrated, delivering a wine that's finely balanced with a welcome thread of acidity. Perky and long, but has depth, too. | **93**

#### Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Folatières

**SB** | Intense, waxy, citric nose. The fine attack is lean and elegant, and the wine's evident sucrosity is balanced by good acidity and concentration. This shows purity of fruit and a long, racy finish. | **93**

#### Montrachet Grand Cru (Marquis de Laguiche)

**SB** | Subdued but mineral nose, not overtly fruity and distinctly oaky now. Creamy and full-bodied, with volume and sucrosity. Although concentrated, it's reserved now as the mineral bite dominates the fruit. But the finish is long and voluptuous. | **95**

#### Red

#### Côte de Beaune

**SB** | This blend includes some declassified premier cru wines. It has a ripe, vibrant, and charming cherry and raspberry nose. The palate is initially rounded, even soft, but the finish has surprising heft, and is long and silky. | **91**

#### JANE EYRE

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Bondues

**MR** | Beautiful, tense wine from 80-year-old vines. Great concentration and confidence, but subtle. | **93**

#### DOMAINE FAIVELEY White

#### Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru

**SB** | The nose, while nutty, is inexpressive. Rich, dense, and powerful, as one would hope, and with a velvety texture and integrated oak. It's very spicy, lightly mineral, and has drive on the long finish. | **94**

#### Red

#### Corton Clos des Cortons Grand Cru

**SB** | Sweet, intense, raspberry nose, stylish and airy, with discreet new oak in the background. The attack is vivid, fresh, and precise, with fine acidity and a taut structure. Crystallized fruit on the long finish, and no trace of Corton rusticity; long. | **95**

#### DOMAINE FOLLIN-ARBELET

#### Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru

**SB** | Dense, nutty, mineral, and ripe nose. Dense, with chewy extract, very youthful but has grip and minerality. Classic, with impressive length. | **94**

#### Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru

**SB** | Bright piquant cherry nose, scented with violets. Concentrated, with firm tannins. Robust, even a touch earthy, with moderate acidity, and overall less vibrant than the nose. Moderate persistence. | **90**

#### DOMAINE JN GAGNARD

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Boudriotte

**SB** | Attractive lime and apple nose, ripe and charming. Rich and firm, extract and density, and a light bracing bitterness that augurs well. Long. | **92**

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Chaumées

**SB** | Lightly toasty nose, generous apple and apricot fruit. Reasonably fresh, clarity of fruit if little nuance, but a mineral bite on the persistent finish. | **92**

#### Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

**SB** | Lush apricot nose. Plump and weighty, as one would expect, but there's extract as well as volume; this has power and force balanced by acidity, and a lingering finish untroubled by the 50% new oak. | **94**

#### VINCENT GIRARDIN

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Blanchots-Dessus

**NB** | The Chassagne Caillerets and La Romanée are both first-rate, and this Blanchots-Dessus, from low-yielding 40-year-old vines near Montrachet, is sublime. *Aérien* scent, floral and *mentholé*, as Eric Germain says. Beautifully creamy but light, intense, and subtle, with restrained vitality. Exquisite. | **95-96**

#### Meursault Premier Cru Genevrières

**NB** | Both are excellent, but I find this Genevrières, from some vines more than 100 years old, even finer than the scintillating Perrières. Perfectly ripe, intricate, and subtle to smell, with grace to match the persistence and vibrancy. Outstanding. | **94-95**

#### Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Folatières

**NB** | The Combettes and Pucelles are both wholly worthy of their positions and reputations, but this Folatières, from organically cultivated vines in the upper part of the site, is even more compelling. Aromatically discreet but intense: *fleurs de vigne*, apricot, white peach, then breathtaking delicatessen, finesse, and gentle freshness. Thrilling. | **95-96**

#### Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru

**NB** | A very fine expression (as is the Bienvenues), from vines near La Cabotte. Floral/herbal, citrus, and greengage, lightly saline. Silken *mille-feuille* texture, at once ethereal, poised, and rich, with a fabulous flourishing finish of almost painful intensity. | **95-96**

#### Montrachet Grand Cru

**NB** | Only one *pièce*, and how fortunate anybody who has one bottle. A noble scent: exquisite, intricate, floral, and herbal. Effortless, seamless, at once grandiose and graceful, its depth and power so gradually and thrillingly revealed. Superlative. | **97-98**

#### LOUIS JADOT

#### Beaune Grèves Clos Blanc

**SB** | A rare white wine from a great site, this exhibits muted pear aromas. It's fresh and limpid, quite oaky, with impressive concentration and considerable weight and grip. Finishes toasty and fairly long. | **92**

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Cailleret

**SB** | The nose is firm and mineral, even austere, with a distinct nuttiness. Taut and very concentrated, it's spicy, pungent, and youthful, leading to an assertive and long citrus finish. | **94**

#### Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Grandes Ruchottes

**SB** | A complex nose, with pear and lime aromas, a robust fruitiness with a mineral undertow, too. Svelte and concentrated, this is creamy but lacks some precision and clarity. It's hard to assess as not yet harmonious. Fairly long, bitter-lemon finish. | **91**

#### Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Combettes

**SB** | The nose is reserved but intriguing, with aromas of almonds and ripe citrus. It's fresh, zesty, and concentrated, with ample force and punch. This is an assertive style, dry and mineral, with tangy acidity, length, and good aging potential. | **93**

#### Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

**SB** | Smoky, toasty nose, reticent but powerful. Weighty and powerful, this is textured and saved from flabbiness by its fine underlying acidity, which gives tension and bite, and a long, citrusy finish. | **95**

#### Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru Les Demoiselles

**SB** | The nose is complex and vibrant, with heady apple and apricot aromas, as well as nutty and toasty notes from the oak. It's both taut and flamboyant, with a fine acidic backbone. While not overtly fruity, which is as it should be, it's evidently very concentrated and spicy, with a toasty, austere finish. Long and built to last. | **96**

#### Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru

**SB** | Closed nose. Rich and robust, this shows weight, density, and swagger. Although very concentrated, it's still skeletal but very mineral and taut. Long, but needs years of cellaring. | **95**

#### Red

#### Beaune Premier Cru Cras

**SB** | Deep red. Sweet, intense, raspberry nose, perfumed and stylish. Medium-bodied, supple, and juicy, the palate is bolstered by light tannins that give some grip. There's lively acidity, so the finish is stylish, linear, and persistent. | **93**

**Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Ursules**

**SB** | The elegant nose is packed with sweet, ripe, raspberry fruit. Medium-bodied but concentrated, it's svelte and elegant, offering lovely, succulent red fruits and fine, lifted acidity. Long. | **93**

**Pommard Premier Cru Grands Epenots**

**SB** | Sweet if reserved red-fruits nose, intense and poised. Broad and fleshy, this nonetheless displays firm but integrated tannins. Imposing and concentrated, it has sufficient acidity to give persistence and structure. Long. | **92**

**Volnay Premier Cru Santenots**

**SB** | Unusually deep in color. Opulent nose, with rich, juicy cherry aromas. Full-bodied and very concentrated, this is supported by bold, ripe tannins. It's dense and muscular yet doesn't lack finesse or persistence. Long and needs cellaring. | **94**

**DOMAINE HUBERT LAMY****Puligny-Montrachet Tremblots**

**JS** | Glorious hazelnut intensity on both nose and palate. Long and taut, the hazelnut richness reined in by mineral steeliness and crystalline acidity. | **92**

**St-Aubin Princée**

**JS** | Blossomy, fresh-linen aromas, slender, elegant fruit, a flicker of leafy herb, and a mineral underpinning. Balanced and quietly assured. | **90**

**LOUIS LATOUR  
White****Meursault-Blagny Premier Cru  
Château de Blagny**

**NB** | Pale gold. An appetizing fragrance, freshly ripe yellow apple. The same excitement and refreshment on the palate, thanks to the higher, cooler vineyards and sensitive treatment in the winery (no *bâtonnage* but retaining a high proportion of the lees). | **90-91**

**Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Cailleret**

**NB** | Pale lemon, a greenish tinge. Aromatically engaging, properly tense and vibrant, with light apple, quince, and freshly ripe pear, lightly leesy but positive, no sense of being overworked. Dense, quite *doux* for the site, thanks to the warmth of the vintage, but there is good concentration and still enough tension, which should be ratcheted up once the wine has been filtered and bottled. | **92**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Sous le Puits**

**NB** | A very convincing expression of this helpfully high site. Pale lemon-gold. A beguiling light citrus (lemon) and floral scent, at once mellow, pure, and vibrant, with good integration of the wood. Silky and supple, with considerable finesse but no weakness,

as there is good definition and tension through the gently spiraling finish, enhanced and given even more interest by a lightly bitter twist. **91-92**

**Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru  
Les Demoiselles**

**NB** | Pale lemon-gold. Sheer beauty of scent, with all the finesse and poise one would hope for from this special site: fresh, pure, subtle, light greengage and quince, the oak integrating seamlessly. The discretion, restraint, and subtlety are matched perfectly on the palate by the gentle expansion without any loss of precision or tension, while the light *agrumes* bitterness counteracts the warmth of the vintage. | **92-93**

**Montrachet Grand Cru**

**NB** | Pale lemon-gold. Admirable aromatic restraint, at once enigmatic and enticing, seeming very much itself, so completely does it represent the personalities and qualities of its surrounding grand cru satellites. Very gentle and graceful on the palate; the intensity and subtle minerality are there but it is all so gradually revealed, and it shows its pedigree most persuasively on the finish, where all that detracts very slightly is the warmth of the year. | **94**

**Red****Château Corton-Grancy Grand Cru**

**NB** | Deep, lustrous ruby. A very enchanting nose. Black-fruited and fully ripe, good depth, but very good freshness, minerality, purity, and vitality as well (the rigor and vigor coming from the Grèves and Perrières *climats* in this complete and rounded blend); light licorice and spice, more from the terroirs than the wood, which at 50% new is well-integrated. An exceptionally fine grain to the tannin, which renders this unusually supple, but there is still sufficient graceful supporting structure, and a fresh, flourishing, long-lasting finish. A compelling, richly satisfying Château Corton-Grancy. | **93-94**

**OLIVIER LEFLAIVE****Chassagne-Montrachet Les Blanchots**

**MR** | Smoke, big, opulent fruit, cream and orange peel, rich and ripe. | **91**

**Puligny-Montrachet Les Meix**

**MR** | Very struck-match nose, powerful palate, also very struck-match; big and tense. The finish is long and mineral. | **90**

**DOMAINE FIONA LEROY**

**JS** | *The debut vintage for young Fiona Leroy, who established her biodynamically run 2.7ha (6.7-acre) domaine in Dezize-lès-Maranges in 2017.*

**Maranges Blanc Au Chêne**

**JS** | From a steep, rocky, 0.75ha (2-acre) site. Aromatic, pure fruit, with woodsmoke, spice, and mineral notes. Supple texture, chiseled acidity. | **90**

**Maranges Rouge Sur le Bois**

**JS** | From 0.2ha (0.5 acre) planted in 1950 on south-facing clay-limestone. Wild cherry and raspberry aromas, a waft of violets. Bright, juicy, and precise, with peppery spice and appealing tension between suppleness, crisp acidity, and savory tannin. | **89**

**Maranges Rouge Premier Cru  
Le Clos des Loyères**

**JS** | From 0.2ha of 35-40-year-old vines; 80% whole-bunch. Crisp red cherry, ripe black cherry, and jasmine on the nose. More positive fruit on the palate than the Sur le Bois. Slightly sinewy tannins, but these should loosen their grip soon enough. | **90**

**DOMAINE HENRI MAGNIEN****Corton Les Lolières Grand Cru**

**JS** | An impressive first vintage from Charles Magnien's two new plots (the other in Aloxe-Corton), his first vineyards outside Gevrey-Chambertin. Expressive, ripe, pure fruit, flecked with spice, licorice, and orange; great intensity and concentration in the mouth, with finely textured, architectural tannins and effortless freshness. | **94**

**CHÂTEAU DE MEURSAULT**

**NB** | *With the direction of Stéphane Follin-Arbelet and the winemaking talent of Emmanuel Escutenaire, this domaine continues both to advance and to expand year-on-year under enlightened Halley family ownership. Certified Haute Valeur Environnementale in 2018, this was also the year that the estate began conversion to organic cultivation, as well as supplementing its already impressive holdings with the addition of 3ha (7.5 acres) in Ladoix. Samples showed even better in London in January than in Meursault in November, the wines having benefited from longer time in barrel.*

**White****Bourgogne Terroirs d'Exception**

**NB** | Exceptional by name and by nature, this *hors classe* Bourgogne Blanc, from favorably positioned vines near Meursault Perrières, planted on the site of a former quarry in 1977 (hence its lowly official status), represents spectacular value, as usual. Medium-deep gold. Attractive, with balanced ripeness on the nose, then all the density, minerality, and tension one would hope for from this wine. | **91**

**Meursault Clos des Grands Charrons**

**NB** | Normally the most imposing of the very good Meursault village *lieux-dits* here, and again so this year. Medium-deep gold. Still showing its oak (35% new) on the nose, but good on the palate, where there is concentration and richness, and the refreshment of an agreeably bitter phenolic twist. | **91**

**Meursault Premier Cru Les Perrières**

**NB** | The Charmes-Dessus is gratifyingly gourmand, but the hallmark qualities of this Perrières make it even more exciting in this warm vintage. Elegant as

well as ripe to smell, then the intensity, minerality, and salinity to match the richness on the palate. | **92**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Champ Gain**

**NB** | While the Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Champ Canet is opulent and sumptuous, the altitude of Champ Gain gives it the edge for sheer refreshment this year. The exoticism of the vintage on the nose, but gentle rather than overwhelming, while the palate is remarkable for its elegance, finesse, and graceful flourish on the finish. | **92**

**Corton-Vergennes Grand Cru**

**NB** | Aromatically, this seduces with its fresh but very ripe yellow fruit and sweet oak. Proper grand cru density and intensity on the palate, elegantly refreshing rather than scintillating, but the personality and quality of the site still shine. | **93**

**Red****Ladoix Les Chaillots**

**NB** | A very successful debut release from this newly acquired village *lieu-dit*. Deep ruby, and equally deep on the luxuriant nose, with ripe red and black fruit. A lovely, supple, old-vine texture, but showing very good elegance, finesse, and freshness as well. | **90**

**Beaune Premier Cru Grèves  
Les Trois Journaux**

**NB** | Of the admirable Beaune Premier Cru trio, the Fèves is as briskly mineral, and the Toussaints as richly silky, as one would always hope in the vintage, but this special cuvée seems to express the best of the other two, with something on top. An alluring, old-rose nose, then appetizing freshness on the palate, wrapped in close-knit, velvety tannins. | **92**

**Pommard Premier Cru Clos des Epenots**

**NB** | A appropriately distinguished nose, detailed, elegant, fine, and floral. The palate is properly serious, with supportive structure from the ripe tannins, but also racy, sapid, and persistent. | **92**

**Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru**

**NB** | The inaugural release of the Aloxe-Corton Premier Cru Maréchaudes is highly successful, and this wine from the grand cru sector slightly higher up the slope is (unsurprisingly) better still. Deep ruby. A ripe scent, with a restrained spiciness. Effortlessly expansive, with very fine-spun silken tannins. | **93**

**DOMAINE DE MONTILLE  
White****Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Cailleret**

**SB** | An intense nose, which is elegant and toasty, with admirable purity of fruit. Good attack, racy and fresh, displaying the acidity and flair that so many 2018s lack. It's concentrated, of course, delivering a classic oaky style that's long and balanced. | **93**

**St-Aubin Premier Cru En Remilly**

**SB** | Lush, toasty nose, opulent but not overbearing. Despite the sumptuous scent, this is fresh, juicy, and vibrant, with beguiling stone fruits. It's very ripe but without heaviness, with a lifted lemony finish. | **91**

**Red****Beaune Premier Cru Grèves**

**SB** | The nose is intense and floral, cherry-scented, with an odd hint of boiled sweets. Although rich and flamboyant, this shows fine underlying acidity. It's compact and vigorous, has freshness and energy, and the balance is excellent. Long. | **93**

**Volnay Premier Cru Taillepieds**

**SB** | Charming raspberry nose, lifted, intense, and stylish. The attack is sleek, polished, and elegant, lots of oak but not too obtrusive. This has structure and weight, spice and complexity. Long. | **94**

**DOMAINE PAVELOT  
White****Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru**

**JS** | Tightly sprung but ample, rich, and savory, with salty, citrus-peel and fresh pear fruit entwined with a seam of dark chocolate from the oak. Driven by forthright acidity and energy to produce a wine of both depth and length. | **92**

**Red****Pernand-Vergelesses Premier Cru  
Île des Vergelesses**

**JS** | Another alluring nose—perfectly ripened strawberries as well as red cherries—and another wine that shows an impeccable balance of freshness, energy, and fine tannic structure. With a little more intensity than the Caradeux comes the promise of longer life but both good for a decade. | **93**

**DOMAINE F & L PILLOT****Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Grandes Ruchottes**

**JS** | Mineral intensity, woodsmoke, and salty, chalky minerality, with fruit recalling greengage and mirabelle plum. There's a lot to this wine, but it's compressed and coiled like a spring—for now. | **93**

**Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Morgeot**

**JS** | Delicate struck-match toastiness complements fragrant peach and pear on the nose. Enticing fruit layered with hazelnut and a seam of saline minerality. Supple texture and racy acidity. Long. | **92**

**Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Vergers**

**JS** | Smoky hazelnut, green apple, and fresh pear,

with mouthwatering minerality and sinewy acidity. Precision, balance, and all the other components for complexity. From 55-60-year-old vines. | **92**

**DOMAINE JEAN-MARC PILLOT****Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru  
Caillerets**

**SB** | The nose is more complex than the Village wine, with more intensity and toastiness, and a firm citric character. Fresh but juicy, this is concentrated and firm, with discernible extract and minerality. Fairly long, nutty finish. | **92**

**CHÂTEAU DE POMMARD  
White****Ladoix Premier Cru Les Gréchons**

**NB** | The passionate but sensitive winemaker, Emmanuel Sala, rates this site almost as highly as the best premiers crus in Meursault or Puligny-Montrachet, and this sensational wine makes a compelling case, as well as showing that Emmanuel has as deft a touch with whites as with reds. Pale gold. Aromatically, this is rich and ripe, with an alluring gentle exoticism, but (harvested on September 7) there is no overripeness, and it even has an almost minty freshness. Excellent harmony, magnificent scale, but enough intensity and mineral tension for it to hold its shape. The phenolics (there is very little *débourbage*, so some of the heavier lees are retained, though there is no *bâtonnage*) show in an enhancing light bitterness of flavor rather than in any roughness of texture. Well worth discovering. | **93**

**St-Aubin Premier Cru En Remilly**

**NB** | Sadly, there are only four *pièces* of this wine, but it is an excellent expression of one of the top vineyards in the village. Pale gold. Rich and ripe to smell, but there is exciting purity, too. Concentrated and dense on the palate, but the light bitterness and nuttiness from the lees preclude overopulence. | **91**

**Red****Pommard Clos Marey-Monge**

**NB** | After the individual parcels, culminating in the sublime 100% whole-bunch Simon, some of which will again be given individual expression, Emmanuel presented a representative blend as the flagship Clos Marey-Monge. Mid-ruby. Very naturally expressive on the nose, an amalgam of dark but not black fruit, with a beguiling delicatessen and douceur. Medium-bodied, elegantly firm, fine-grained, gently grippy. Still nascent and not the final blend, but very harmonious and highly promising. | **92-93**

**DOMAINE NICOLAS ROSSIGNOL****Volnay Premier Cru Chevrets**

**JS** | Very, very ripe aromas and flavors, although stopping short of baked characters. Rich, ripe, and very well-padded, but with a sappy, stemmy element to cut the fat and propel it forward. | **91**

**Volnay Premier Cru Roncerets**

**JS** | Ripe but crisper and more floral on the nose than the Chevrets—scented roses drifting over cherry sweetness. There's no questioning the ripeness on the palate, or its silken quality, but it's drier, brighter, tighter, more mineral and more intense than the Chevrets. | **93**

**Volnay Premier Cru Santenots**

**JS** | Rich, dark cherry and earthy, brickly mineral notes on the nose. The sweetness of the vintage is all there, but it's a more savory expression, a more powerful and monumental one, than the Roncerets or Chevret. It will take its time to evolve. | **92**

**CHÂTEAU DE SANTENAY White****St-Aubin En Vesvau**

**NB** | Pale gold. Lightly but positively reductive, so restrained, but still very appetizing to smell, with light apple (ripe green rather than yellow) and quince. Medium- to full-body, but real scintillation and tension through the flourishing finish of impressive length. Outstanding village wine. | **92+**

**Santenay**

**NB** | A completely *hors classe* village wine. A little reserved still, but clearly healthy on the nose. A gravelly minerality on the palate, characterful and *terrien* in a positive sense, round and supple, but animated by excellent energy. | **90**

**Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Abbaye de Morgeot**

**NB** | Pale gold. Reassuringly rather than worryingly reductive to smell, clearly both deep and serious. Classic Morgeot density and power, but there is nothing excessive here (around 13% ABV and 25% new oak), and enough complexity, definition, and surface tension to enthrall. | **92-93**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Les Folatières**

**NB** | Pale gold. Good aromatic depth and detail, and light spice from the well-integrated, well-judged oak (both barrels one year old). Round and silky, but balanced by an almost numbing intensity and minerality, finishing magnificently. A wholly worthy rendition of this top Puligny premier cru. | **93-94**

**Red****Pommard Petit Clos**

**NB** | Another exceptional village wine from a small monopole of 60-year-old vines near Château de Pommard. Medium-deep ruby. Lightly reductive to smell, muscular but well-toned, an amalgam of dark fruit but not "black"—nothing excessive. Supple, very elegant, flowing, and racy, excellent harmony, intensity, and scale for the level. Distinguished. Petit by name, perhaps, but not by nature. | **91-92**

**DOMAINE SAUZET****Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Champ Gain**

**SB** | Intense citrus and apricot nose, with an oaky sheen. The attack is fresh, while the mid-palate is very concentrated. Youthfully assertive, but balanced, with fine acidity and persistence. | **93**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Combettes**

**SB** | The nose is subdued, with aromas of pears and some tropical fruit. Rich and broad, it's more fluid than Perrières, which is surprising. Silky and stylish but it lacks some drive and pungency. | **90**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Folatières En La Richarde**

**SB** | Lime and pear dominate the nose, which is exuberant and oaky, with a stylish intensity. Svelte and creamy, this is very concentrated and spicy, displaying fine underlying acidity. Stylish and balanced, it has a lovely texture, too. Moreish, but long and should age well. | **94**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru La Garenne**

**SB** | Very ripe and perfumed lime and apricot nose. The attack is limpid, delivering mouthwatering fruit with admirable concentration and spice. Long. | **93**

**Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Perrières**

**SB** | Oakly but reticent nose, with pear aromas. Sleek and fresh, concentrated and poised, the palate sustained by a fine thread of acidity. Long. | **93**

**DOMAINE TAUPENOT-MERME****Corton-Rognet Grand Cru**

**JS** | Very aromatic, with floral notes, red and black cherries, and a wisp of orange zest. The palate is alluringly succulent, creamy and round, but behind it is an athletic, life-giving structure of fine tannins and this domaine's signature 2018 freshness. | **94**

**DOMAINE T VIOLOT-GUILLEMARD****Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Mouches**

**JS** | Fresh and aromatic on the nose, glistening cherries, with vanilla, nutmeg, and a transient but evocative whiff of incense that is transmuted fleetingly into jasmine tea on the palate. Immediate, fleshy, round fruit hiding underlying grip. | **90**

**Corton Grand Cru Les Chaumes**

**JS** | From purchased, organically grown fruit, the first time Thierry Violot-Guillemard has made this wine. Wonderfully perfumed. Succulent and rich-textured, with a firm tannin base, but at the same time light on its feet—not exactly dainty but graceful. | **92**

**CÔTE CHALONNAISE****CHÂTEAU DE CHAMIREY White****Mercury La Mission (Monopole)**

**NB** | The Mercury En Pierrelet is exotic and elegantly sumptuous, and this flagship La Mission even more complete and vibrant. Intense pale to mid-gold. At once intense and restrained to smell, clearly fully ripe, with good harmony, the oak integrating well. A dense, gratifyingly rich texture, voluminous, but there is enough animating, finely pointed acidity at the heart of the wine to keep it fresh and provide a gently burgeoning finish. | **89-90**

**Red****Mercury Clos de la Maladière**

**NB** | Gleaming medium-deep ruby. Very attractive and vivid on the nose, darkly fruited but much more than that, too: completely clean but earthy. Medium-bodied, silky, very appetizing, sapid, and succulent, thanks to very fine, old-vine tannins. Clear premier cru quality in a village wine. | **90**

**Mercury Cuvée Hors Ligne**

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby, with a natural luster. Aromatically, this is deeper and even more intense than the very good Mercury *tout court*, opulent and rich but not overripe even in this warm year, darkly fruited but more blackberry than black currant, serious but far from somber. An astonishing, close-knit density, highly impressive intensity and scale, but nothing exaggerated or forced, with plentiful, powerful, but very well-wrought tannins. "Offline" (*hors ligne*), perhaps, but very much on song. | **90-91**

**Mercury Premier Cru Clos l'Evêque**

**NB** | Luminous medium-deep ruby. Restrained but seemingly well-balanced on the nose, darkly fruited, lightly earthy and mineral. On entry, a very seductive velvet, worthy of any bishop's gown, grand in scale, with proper supporting structure, but for all its breadth, depth, and length, this manages to remain refreshing and stimulatingly vibrant as well. | **91-92**

**Mercury Premier Cru Clos des Ruelles**

**NB** | Lustrous medium-deep ruby. Admirable aromatic restraint, but intense, slightly higher pitched, more detailed, intricate, and subtle than the Clos l'Evêque. Medium-bodied, with a very finely layered silken texture, excellent balance and harmony, good energy and race, but all very well controlled: a thoroughbred at a comfortable canter. Persistent, stylish, and succulent throughout. | **92-93**

**Mercury Premier Cru En Sazenay**

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. Aromatically reserved but stylish, with graceful lift. Medium-bodied and silky, but racy, sleek, and vibrant through the mid-palate, with gentle grip on the finish. | **90-91**

**DOMAINE DE LA FERTÉ****Givry Premier Cru Clos de la Servoisine**

**NB** | Medium-deep ruby. A very distinguished nose: darkly fruited, intense but nuanced, pure and vivid. A gorgeous entry onto the palate, round, silky, and supple, effortlessly expansive but with good core density and perfectly ripe acidity, well-wrapped in close-knit, succulent, even sumptuous, old-vine tannins. Controlled but very stylish wine. | **92-93**

**CHÂTEAU DE SANTENAY White****Mercury Le Closeau**

**NB** | The Mercury La Brigadière is excellent, and this village *lieu-dit* may be even more exciting, bottled separately only since 2015 but surely worthy of the special treatment. Pale gold. A light mineral reduction, but from the limestone terroir rather than any gimmickry in the winery. Similarly, the restrained vitality on the palate comes less from acidity than minerality. Needs time, but the exciting finish suggests it will be well worth the wait. | **90-91**

**Red****Mercury Les Doués**

**NB** | A dazzlingly successful debut vintage for this village *lieu-dit*. Medium-deep ruby. A beautiful scent: darkly fruited, lightly, positively reductive, but nothing to mask the aromatic finesse, intricacy, and subtlety. Equally impressive on the palate for its balance, harmony, and intensity, with remarkable structure. An exciting new cuvée is born. | **91-92**

**Mercury Premier Cru Les Champs Martin**

**NB** | A very good expression of this highly regarded premier cru, from 70-year-old vines. Medium-deep ruby. An expressive, open, ripe nose, with light licorice and spice. Medium-bodied and round, with gentle grip from the fine-grain tannins and a fresh finish of good length. Should reward time. | **91-92**

**DOMAINE DE VILLAINÉ White****Bouzeron**

**NB** | The passionate and sensitive Pierre de Benoist believes that biodynamic cultivation helped the vines cope with the warmth of the year, resulting in grapes that were amazingly fresh in acidity as well as perfectly healthy and ripe. And so it seems from this brilliantly complete expression of the village, from 17 different parcels across nine *lieux-dits*, vinified in nine *foudres*. Pierre is surely right that this reveals itself as a true *vin de terroir* only after a few years, but even now there is nothing shrilly varietal: a captivating scent, enticingly ripe but totally transparent, with the faintest whiff of white pepper from the whole-bunch pressing. Excellent energy, intensity, and limpidity on the palate, not at all angular but exquisitely finely pointed, with a perfectly pitched phenolic pithiness. | **90-91**

**MARGARET RAND'S VERDICT**

Do not buy this vintage without tasting first. Style, and success, varies by domaine rather than appellation. There is no general agreement on extraction levels for the reds; some domaines have taken the infusion approach and produced wines that are forward and delicate, but at the other extreme a few have gone for apparently maximum extraction and have produced wines of enormous tannins, enormous muscle, overripe even raisined fruit, and (at the moment) little charm. The best wines are found somewhere in the middle, where there is freshness to compensate for the undoubted low acid levels, and enough tannin to give grip and purpose.

It is a year that redefines Pinot Noir in Burgundy: much resembles Grenache in its floral notes and low acidity. As such, many reds are very aromatic, very pretty, and very seductive, but not typically Burgundian. They can lack definition. But where growers have got it right the wines can be beautiful: very aromatic, with finely judged tannins and enough sweet fruit to please anybody.

Whites are more homogeneous, with a lot of creaminess. Some have tension, and there is plenty of saltiness about, but again, it is not a very Burgundian year. A lot of wines combine Burgundian flavors with the opulence of a hot climate; some, even riper, have almost

Rhône-like flavors of hay and honeysuckle. Concentration is mostly good (there's a bit of dilution), but acidity is mostly low. It would be interesting (and I confess I haven't done it) to compare levels of acidity at biodynamic and conventional estates, to see if biodynamic claims of higher acidity hold up this year.

Geographically, higher vineyards often did well; if a vineyard normally has trouble ripening, it has probably produced something good this year. Wines like Côtes de Nuits-Villages, which were not always very attractive in the past, are this year ripe and rich; if you want wines for everyday drinking, the cooler corners are worth exploring. But I wasn't over-impressed by the basic Bourgogne Rouge and Blanc offerings this vintage: a lot seemed just underwhelming.

For the producers, it wasn't an easy year. Bouchard Père et Fils, whose wines (for me) are exemplary in 2018, reduced the crop with a green-harvest but left plenty of leaves on the vines for shading; and then focused on the right date for picking, starting with the basic Pinot Noir on August 30. The berries had a lot of pips, says Frédéric Weber, so in the cellar they reduced the maceration to ten days, with no pumping over, no punching down; "just infusion." They used more whole-cluster for aromatic expression. But it was, he said, a tricky vintage in the cellar, prone to oxidation and Brett.

**Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise Les Clous Aimé**

**NB** | An exciting expression of this charmingly named wine, from the local term for Bouzeron Chardonnay, also vinified in *foudres*. Pale lemon. Discretion, intensity, and purity of white stone fruit all well matched on the nose. Astonishing density and harmony on the palate, which offers a scintillation that it is quite rare this vintage. | **91-92**

**Rully Premier Cru Les St-Jacques**

**NB** | Pierre has drastically reduced the yields from this parcel at the north of the village in recent years, from an already reasonable 54hl/ha to 32-35 hl/ha, and has been rewarded in 2018 with a concentrated, ripe, but far from sluggish wine, as its sheer intensity allows it to hold its shape. It is animated by an appetizing *agrumes* bitterness from the skins, and rendered irresistible by a piquant salinity. | **92-93**

**Red****Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise La Digoine**

**NB** | The fresh red-cherry, earthy Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise La Fortune is brisk and compact, while its sister cuvée may be even more seductive, with its kirsh-lifted raspberry scent (only positive signs of the 70% whole-bunch) and silky vitality. | **91-92**

**Mercury Les Montots**

**NB** | This village *lieu-dit* is south-facing, but there is

no excess; Pierre explains that the 60% whole-bunch fermentation has contributed freshness and lowered the alcohol, too. An effortlessly enchanting nose, with finesse and lovely floral (violet) lift. Already expressive, and it should blossom fully in 3-5 years (the 2014 is sublime now). | **92-93**

**MÂCONNAIS****DOMAINE DE LA GARENNE****Mâcon-Azé**

**NB** | Pale gold, lovely sheen. Seductive, not heavy, but a mildly sultry nose, with ripe citrus, quince, and an exotic melon note. Medium-full body, a caressing, melting, sumptuous texture, but enough balancing acidity for vibrancy. Attains good altitude, and continues to rise through the long finish, with an agreeably pithy twist. | **89-90**

**DOMAINE DU ROC DES BOUTIÈRES****Pouilly-Fuissé En Bertillonne**

**JS** | Lively, bright, well-defined nose of citrus and orchard fruit. Intense, precise palate, with creamy roundness and salty, tangy length. Elegant. | **92**

**Pouilly-Fuissé Aux Bouthières**

**JS** | Oak showing on the nose, but mouthwatering ripe citrus peel and creamy texture beyond it. Plumper and fleshier than the Bertillonne, but the flesh lies around a core of tensile acidity. | **92**