

## Brunswick Fine Wines Burgundy 2018 En Primeur Offer

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‘Belle Surprise’ and much ‘Rejoicing’.



*‘The most successful 2018 reds hit heights only found in the greatest vintages...How good are the best wines? The best wines are superlative, in the class of the very best that Burgundy can produce.’*

Jasper Morris, Inside Burgundy, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*‘I was taken aback at how well many of the white wines show in 2018. I was expecting heavy wines with low acid levels, viscous textures, loads of tropical fruit and short drinking windows. On the contrary, I discovered whites with surprisingly zingy acidities that impart more tension than anticipated... far greater articulation of individual terroirs. Moving on to the reds...generally, the 2018s in barrel tend toward vivid and bright red and blue fruit aromatics. They seem to leap out of the glass with a sense of nascent joie-de-vivre on reflection, the 2018 Burgundies exceeded my estimate.... finally, I doff my hat to the manner in which so many 2018 reds adeptly articulate their respective climats...’*

Neal Martin, Vinous, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

*‘The 2018 whites are therefore surprisingly classically balanced in profile...the best reds are rich, enveloping and sensuous but display none of the jammy, overripe and overtly liqueur-like qualities... Mention of 1947, of course, should also underline the point that for all the 2018 vintage’s challenges, its best renditions will be wines of considerable depth, dimension and sheer drama.’*

William Kelley, The Wine Advocate 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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## Brunswick 2018 Burgundy Vintage Report

If 2017 could be characterised as ‘a new classic Burgundy vintage’ in the context of several early harvests in a changing climate - then what of 2018? A similarly early harvest, with picking in Cote de Beaune commencing in the last week of August, 2018 has been heralded with epithets such as *‘the ideal vintage’* and producers using the term *‘rejoicing’* to sum up their view of this potentially great year. Having spent an extended week in late November tasting the region we think that this may be an oversimplification, but where the wine producer was diligent then certainly **many great wines have been produced and should be purchased in 2018**. And, remember...we only deal with diligent, top class growers!

The normally onerous task of comparing with previous Burgundy vintages is, as usual fairly redundant and most producers would not commit to exact comparisons. They employ the term ‘annee solaire’ to place 2018 within a broader stylistic range. There is no one obvious vintage that it recalls directly. Variety of vintage is the order of the day in Burgundy and 2018 has its own separate identity but continues the run of successful recent years for the region. While 2018 was a sunny vintage the style of the wines, both red and white, came as a big surprise. The term *‘Belle Surprise’* was one we heard repeatedly from growers all week, encapsulated in the beautiful freshness and superfine tannins of the wines emerging from this warm vintage. We preferred the style of the red wines to recent years like 2015 and the fragrance found in them was often stupendously pretty. Violets and frequently delightful rose petal scents were the notable high points in aroma and the fruit profile tended to red and blue fruits on the palate. This attractive array in the glass over, perhaps, an anticipated surfeit of deep black fruits provided the big and beautiful surprise. This is what excites us in 2018. The array of fresh fruit allied to nice acidity and the supreme finesse of the tannins in the wines. Compared to 2009 or 2015 a greater transparency of terroir could also be detected in many of the wines.

The ‘Belle Surprise’ was borne of a summer of extended sunshine - 9 % higher than average - yet the Cote d’Or saw less than further North in Chablis and the wines, while full of charm, yet retain more classicism than their counterparts in the Yonne. It was a warmer summer than average then, with the greatest heat occurring in late July and early August. The temperatures calmed as harvest approached towards the end of August and exceptionally healthy fruit was picked and brought to the sorting tables. Prior to the summer warmth, however, the region like France as a whole saw high levels of winter rain – 120% higher in January and 190% in March. The replenished water table proved key to the healthy progress of the vines as summer tightened its grip. Additionally, there were more bunches on the vines in 2018 than in some recent years, depending upon individual de-budding and green harvest strategies. However, growers seemed very happy that the water reserves and additional potential yields helped control the maturation of the grapes allowing for a hugely successful eventual harvest. This factor also proved instrumental in the success of the whites of the Cote de Beaune and Maconnais with several growers contending that larger yields nearly always benefit Chardonnay allowing an optimal picking window and retention of the all-important acidity. This was a refrain in Meursault, Chassagne and Puligny and among the great growers of red wines further North several of them felt the wines they produced were the greatest since the similarly generous and now hugely feted 1999 vintage.

It was not a deckchair vintage or a walk in the park. There was springtime mildew as a result of the prevailing early season rain costing some growers around 20% of potential yields. And just as the French were about to celebrate a second World Cup football win, some growers in Nuits St Georges were met with the curious and agonising sight of 3cm of hail lying like snow, in late July. Yields were significantly reduced but few in 2018 faced a repeat of 2016 or 2017’s decimating frosts. Instead the trickiest issues began with the marvellous health of fully mature grapes. Speedy and well drilled picking at the correct moment was utterly crucial in 2018. Acidity in reds as well as whites was key to the success of the vintage. With Pinot Noir a further factor was the balance between sugar levels and phenolic ripeness and, in virtually all cases the growers we represent, showed their true mettle in this regard. In the hands of less responsive or less organised growers this balance was less evident and on occasion the fuller body and generous plumpness of the fruit turned to excessive power and alcoholic warmth where grapes were picked too late. The sugars were naturally high and stopped fermentations were problematic even at the best addresses. But winery knowhow and knowledge of their terroirs allied to the canny use of whole bunches produced wines that managed alcohol, acid and tannic structure beautifully. The resulting wines show the silkiest textures, complex fruit profiles, generous mouthfeel and beautiful fragrant charm. Add to this the freshness and tannins based on exceptionally gentle handling – *‘remontage no pigeage’* was the common mantra – then one can understand why growers consider 2018 an exciting vintage.

**Substantial yet perfumed wines, 2018 should be of great interest to those who love and collect Burgundy.** The warm summer conditions had to be managed by diligent growers but where they did finer, more sumptuous wines were produced than 2015 and with greater terroir transparency than those in 2009. As with these earlier vintages wines from the lesser classifications did well (depending on picking regimes.) It is a good year for Bourgogne Rouge and village level wines from normally cooler terroirs, where growers marshalled their picking troops to best effect. Conversely, it was easy to miss the pinpoint timing on these naturally later ripening regional parcels. Due diligence in buying also required! There is no shortage of great 1er and Grand Crus, of course, for the long term. Broadly speaking the vintage success applies to both the Cote de Beaune and the Cote de Nuits. For sure there is variability in the vintage but the heterogeneous aspect of 2018 has more to do with the dedication and skill of the individual growers than intrinsic variability between communes or between the 2 Cotes. **'Producer, producer, producer' - as always this is the story and the key to Burgundy.**

For white wines the *'Belle Surprise'* could be extended to *'Grande Surprise'*. We have a year that is richer than 2017 with excellent density in the mid-palate but one that shows superb fresh, ripe citrus notes. Think orange and ripe lemon signatures in the great Cote de Beaune villages not white fruit. They have real depth but the reverse gradient of sun hours from north to south meant that conditions were not as 'solaire' as in Chablis a few hundred kilometres further north. This reversal of warmth north to south extended to Maconnais where some stunning whites were produced and the freshness was even more pronounced than in 2017 in some of the wines. There are some great wines to be had and the whites provide the biggest and happiest surprise of the 2018 vintage. They perhaps resemble brighter, fresher 2015's or fall somewhere between 2009 and 2010 to an extent in style – good weight, wines of scale with freshness and yet definition. While they may lack the cut of, say, the great 2014 they are seriously gourmand affairs and they will drink a little earlier than 2017. The white grapes reached good concentration levels at higher than normal yields and many a grower expressed delight at this state of affairs, suggesting the vintage success depended on this unusual balance. 2018 provides an extremely interesting canvas for the best growers to show their skills. The best growers have produced fine, concentrated and aromatic whites that show clear terroir characteristics and an exceptionally bright core to them. Flamboyant is too strong a term but they are not angular or austere. They have flesh allied to the necessary vibrancy to put a smile on the face of wine lovers.

2018 continues an excellent run of recent vintages and where the producer was at the top of his (and increasingly so 'her') game **there is cause for 'rejoicing'**. It has a chance of greatness. As Burgundy modernises and younger winemakers take charge they are learning to juggle the generally warmer climate with real aplomb. It was noticeable also that our domaines with a strong female presence produced some blinding portfolios in 2018. This is the future guys! 2018 shows that a supremely sensitive approach produced wines to delight the senses. **The violets and roses you will find in these wines will reaffirm your love of great Burgundy. 2018 is a unique and a potentially brilliant vintage.**

## Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini, Gevrey Chambertin



*'There is nothing that gives me more pleasure than seeing ...a domaine, ratchet up the quality a few notches—and that is undoubtedly the case here with Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini... a perfectly fine substitute if your allocation of Rousseau has been cut, since there are stylistic similarities...this is a domaine on the move.'* [Neal Martin](#)

The superb 2018's from Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini are guaranteed to put this talented couple ever more firmly in the spotlight. Envious notices have been flying around confetti and comparisons to icons such as Rousseau have accompanied the rise of the domaine in recent years. Jasper Morris recently contributed to the buzz reporting that he was *'extremely excited by my first visit to this domaine, having received a tip off from Norway...on this showing there is another star on the rise in Gevrey-Chambertin.'*

It is quite clear from our visit in November that Florence Heresztyn and husband Simon Mazzini, have followed up their memorable 2017's with some special wines in 2018. They are potentially spectacular, showing great assurance throughout the range. Dedication in the vineyard and flair in winery are obviously not disconnected and the couple continue to tweak their approach looking for ever greater perfection. Rootstock and soil management are current predilections in their meticulous approach to the vineyard work. They are fully organic and Florence's long-established whole bunch addition 'en cuve' find the perfect vintage to lay the foundations for a sumptuous yet beautifully controlled set of wines. They epitomise brightness and lift with poise and depth complementing the splendid perfumes on show.

The domaine benefits from a plethora of very old vine stock – the vivacious 'Les Jouises' is from 65 year vines but these are mere striplings compared to plots that form Les Songes, some of which are 90 years old. The only disappointment is the allocation which is tougher due to increasing world demand and early season mildew which cost the couple around 20% of their potential crop. The good news, however, is a glorious set of age-worthy yet inescapably bright, fragrant wines to mark a great year. Florence's selective whole cluster fermentation techniques to suit each cuvee and soft vinifications bestow brilliance and energy to the wines. In 2018 the first of our celebrated 'ladies of Burgundy' brings absolute precision and sets the standard for the vintage in Gevrey Chambertin.

### **Bourgogne Pinot Noir**

#### **GBP 95 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

100% destemmed. This comes from a single vineyard in Gevrey and it shows a flamboyant blue fruit note in 2018 with the more classic Gevrey cassis notes. As ever there is a touch of damp earth and alluring hints of spice. The palate, like the nose, is bright and open and there is a chalk note to the layered dark berry core. Good definition and the generous dark fruit is well balanced by its soft tannins and a nicer alcohol level than some Bourgognes in this vintage. Exemplary Bourgogne.

### **Gevrey Chambertin Vieilles Vignes, 'Les Jouises'**

#### **GBP 225 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite deep in colour and leggy in the glass this comes from 2 plots of around 65 years located in the southern part of the village. A very different nose – we are squarely back in Gevrey with fondant blackberries, cassis and some strawberry showing along a trace of incense. The palate has a brilliant attack – excellent freshness and cut. The fruit is intense and there is serious body but its lively freshness is an exemplar of the vivacity found in the wines at this address. Impressive depth, acidity and a chalky and mineral seam below hint at more serious complexity ahead. A bright star of a wine and very promising.

### **Gevrey Chambertin Vieilles Vignes, 'Les Songes'**

#### **GBP 225 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From 80-90 year old vines to the north this is no ordinary village Gevrey. 'Les Songes' is a wine of considerable depth and colour from 70% whole bunches. Florence almost regrets not going the full 100%. We think it is perfect just as it is! Round and harmonious this is really lovely and the intensity from small grapes and low juice to skin ratio provides greater density. But the feel and fragrance are so harmonious as to balance perfectly this depth. Cool and perfumed it radiates tight blackberry bunches but its fragrance is sensuous and delightful at every turn. Has the structure to keep more than a decade. So finely delineated on the palate with a great chalk and saline tanginess. It has notable old-vine presence but Les Songes is harmony and complexity in a glass. A must have.

### **Chambolle Musigny**

#### **GBP 235 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

One of the 2 plots for the Chambolle villages is Bas Doix on the slope of the fabled Amoureuses and a beautiful fragrance of violets accompanies an engaging array of red and soft dark berries. Subtle, and quite complex, this cuvee has 60% whole bunch in 2018. Lovely feel and texture but also terrific acidity on this, bringing notable lift. A mounting attractive inner-mouth fragrance too, as it opens. Svelte affair with soft layered tannins and harmonious blue and purple toned fruit on the long finish. Excellent Chambolle.

### **Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru, La Perriere**

#### **GBP 339 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Lying just below Mazis Chambertin, La Perriere which is much lighter is a contrast in colour to Les Songes and Florence feels 50% whole bunch addition is more appropriate for this plot. Rarely has this cuvee been as expressive. Perfumed and open with pressed flowers, wild strawberries and then a flourish of rose petals this is a pure Burgundy lover's delight on the nose. Silky in texture in the glass the fleshy palate is so vivid with bursting wild strawberries and cherries. Sweet, juicy fruit optimally ripe, with a touch of youthful oak and a trace of Gevrey's famous 'reglise' this 2018 has a splendid fluidity. Again, an effortless internal harmony to it. Florence's greatest Perriere to date.

### **Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru, Les Goulots**

#### **GBP 339 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Florence's first fully organic plot, Les Goulots is a tricky to farm, elevated site close to Champeaux and Combe aux Moines. Unsuitable for tractors or horses, the hand of the vigneron is crucial here. That hand has produced a sensational 2018! Beautifully perfumed a dark creamy fruit core is heightened with brilliant lifted red fruits and an undergrowth, forest floor terroir signature. Tiny berried dark fruit infused with violets and cream hit the top notes on the palate with a touch of 'sauvage' complexity. Vibrant too, this is a dynamic and veritably bouncy affair with a sense of joy. Great energetic, juicy end to it with a lively chalkiness driving the wine and very fine-grained tannins adding to the beautiful impact made by this superior 1er Cru. Not to be missed.

### **Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru, Les Champonnets**

#### **GBP 339 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Situated by Ruchottes Chambertin, Les Champonnets is from 100% whole bunches in 2018. Deep colour, limpid appearance with a tiny rim this is serious stuff showing fresh and dried rose petals dark fruit, cassis and a complex perfume. Wild strawberry, dust, cold steel, spice, blood and blood orange – a tremendous nose. The palate is youthful larger scaled with more palate weight yet superb cut, precision and length. Black cherry and bright juicy blackberries cover a saline, stony minerality. Sleek, powerful wine that requires time but the patient will be rewarded with a stunner that bridges the gap between 1er Cru and Grand Cru levels.

### **Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Les Millandes**

#### **GBP 345 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Also 100% whole bunch in 2018 the old vine holdings range from 63 to 70 year vines in richer soils. Millandes is named after the small berries it routinely produces. And as ever it is beautifully perfumed, offering an expressive nose of spice, fresh violets, pressed flowers, incense with red and blue fruit. This adorable perfume continues to the impressive palate where the splendid blue, black berries show the domaine's customary freshness and depth. This is substantial too in 2018 with layered tannins support a palate staining depth of fruit. But in the end like Florence's range it's all about freshness in 2018. The quintessential allure of top-class red Burgundy can be found here!

### **Clos St Denis Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 449 per case under bond (3x75cl) – on allocation**

Only 4 barrels in 2018, two of them new is lighter in colour than the 1er Crus. Its nascent at this early stage but already the fireworks are on display. Beautifully pure and clear nose with florality and innate classiness intertwined. Clos St Denis always has perfume and the overused 'sexy' applies here unashamedly. Beautiful, velvet texture on the palate with fleshy sweet black fruits but the clarity and elegance stand out. The thrilling perfume of the nose is mirrored but joined with a seam of cool stony mineral. Dark fruits and pot-pourri florality continue to shine contained within this silky, fleshy feeling wine. The essence of both Pinot and also of Burgundian terroir a cool limestone backbone laces this to the end. Thrilling and sensual and exemplary Clos St Denis.

## Domaine Tortochot, Gevrey Chambertin



This domaine's star has been on the rise for some time now – but it was been pushed into a new galaxy by the work of 'the Master of Marsannay' Sylvain Pataille who aids Chantal Tortochot in a senior consulting role.

Blessed with an enviable collection of vineyard plots dotting the upper part of the of Cote de Nuits, requiring a team of 45 pickers, Chantal's shrewd appointment was a masterstroke. Sylvain's reputation is now perhaps as the young genius of Burgundy. It certainly cements the domaine as one not to miss and is a source of some fantastic 1er and Grand Crus, in particular. Great news for our clients. As are the prices, which remain rooted in reality. Allen Meadows has noted *'It's clear that quality is on the upswing here and this is a domaine worth following. Moreover...they are bargains, a descriptor one rarely hears uttered in the same breath with Côte de Nuits Grand Cru...'*

Excellent press across Europe accompanies the domaine. 2018 sees the double act take things further with a strongly expressive range of wines. Fully organic since 2013 having began the project in 2005, Sylvain and Chantal have tweaked the oak regimen here using a lighter toast in their barriques. The village wines – and you really should grab a sensational Champerrier - have zero new oak, the Morey 1er Cru a maximum of only 10% and the top Gevrey 1er Lavaux has only 20%. The top wines will be bottled in March and the range shows greater concentration and power from smaller thicker-skinned berries in 2018. They are full of energy with greater acidity in 2018 than in 2017. The brightness of the vintage is nicely married to this added tensile quality. Given the vineyard riches on offer it is really quite difficult to 'pick a winner' as they impress top to bottom but aside from Champerrier clients should look at the stunning Mazis Chambertin and Clos Vougeot. Both excelled and obviously Chambertin at the very top was exquisite. Lavaux and Champeaux showed particularly well among the 1er Cru this year.

### **Gevrey Chambertin, Champerrier Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 180 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Lightish in colour but a stellar nose of purple fruit and violets with lashings of creamy blue fruit. Gorgeous ripe blue and blackberry with a soft chalky tanginess on the palate. Wonderfully deep, caressing fruit on the palate again and this has great energy and freshness. There is some complexity from Champerrier's setting just under the 1er Cru line and a superb chalk and stony underlay is present. Tension, length mesmerizing depth for a village level wine. One of the most overperforming village wines in the 2018 vintage.

### **Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Cuvee Renaissance**

#### **GBP 250 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From Clos Bauley and Clos des Ormes 1er Crus bottled early to preserve the fragrant fruit quality. Complex, sensuous, raspberry and blue tinged fruit with spice nuances. Only 10% new oak and obviously delicately handled fruit. Fairly saturates the palate, full bodied with excellent juicy freshness to the fruit and superb tannins. Excellent grip with ripe, soft-grained tannins. Generous but precise with mineral tones on the back allied to good, balanced acidity.

### **Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru, Champeaux**

#### **GBP 285 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Super-bright ripe, dark fruit – classic Gevrey with stone and marl notes poking through. Good ripeness perfume and shows the openness of the vintage at this stage. The generosity of the vintage is evident - no shortage of fruit and has a complex chalk terroir aspect. More structure than last year, an expansive middle and this is full bore in 2018 with lots of ripe blackberries and cassis. Great dusting of powdery tannins – this will be a very good mid to long-term wine.

### **Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru, Lavaux St Jacques**

#### **GBP 289 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

The domaine's garden leads on to this higher altitude vineyard and this is choc-full of garden flowers – violets and beautiful rose petals. Dried flowers and ink too – lots going on here. The palate has real power – a wine of puissance in 2018. Huge depth of fruit with a stony aspect. Striking brightness allied to a focussed minerality from the 'Argilo-calcaire' in the Combe in Gevrey. A much bigger wine in 2018 without losing the cherry and dark berry fruit charm. A memorable combination of the delightful and the powerful side of Burgundy 2018.

### **Clos de Vougeot, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 665 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Tasted last in the line-up after the Chambertin this is another superb Clos Vougeot in the vintage. A wine brimming with interest and not surprisingly a surfeit of blue and black fruit. Grand Cru in scale from the harmonious enveloping nose through to the round, expansive palate. Sumptuous and expansive Clos Vougeot the perfume comes through nicely on the palate the more it sees aeration. Full and deep - a big wine with finely integrated tannins – it has a long life ahead. Superior stuff.

### **Mazis Chambertin, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 719 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

An enchanting nose of wild strawberries, pressed flowers violets and some cassis – this is spectacular stuff. Mazis is one of the great Gevrey Grand Crus and it can be brooding one in youth but the 2018 is positively flamboyant. Superb complexity and power on the palate with concentration of the vintage and glorious ball bearing tannins. This will make great old bones and is framed by superb acidity. A huge success with beauty to the fore – tremendous brightness to the forest fruits with a sumptuous aspect. soft fruit. Excellent complexity with a dynamic texture make this a great Grand Cru and the tangy mineral cut on the Mazis is to die for.

### **Chambertin, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 829 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From a steeper elevated parcel that is farmed manually for all vineyard operations, the Chambertin seems to have suited the warm vintage perfectly. Gobs of soft black fruit are presented in a high-toned, lifted affair. It is youthful and poised and the palate has a real restraint and purity. Yet there is in a quiet way more depth and resonance. Great delicacy yet a staining palate presence that builds and shows supreme length. For now the fine boned fruit is showing an almost youthful reticence on the palate but there are flashes of blue and black and the depth becomes apparent. The sheer resonance signals the special nature of this Chambertin in 2018.

## Domaine Stephane Magnien, Morey St Denis



Having introduced the wines of Stephane Magnien's small domaine to Brunswick clients a couple of years ago this brilliant winemaker is now officially a 'made man' with a soaring reputation for his wines from Jasper Morris, Neal Martin, William Kelley and now enormous ratings in the Revue du Vin de France for the 2018's below.

We have been singing the praises of these fine, fresh wine since the similar 'solaire' vintage of 2015. Stephane's range stood tall amidst the heavyweights of the Cotes de Nuits in numerous tastings two years ago but the 2018's below are simply the pinnacle so far in this young grower's career. Vivacity, poise and enormous character across the range. We were extremely lucky to get in early before the cat properly escaped the bag. Furthermore, Stephane's prices remain very reasonable despite all the new-found attention.

Stephane represents the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of this small family domaine, in charge since 2008. As with so many of the new generation in Burgundy he is pushing the property to new heights and the wines are characterised by great vitality and purity. No herbicides, manual tilling, subtle and limited use of oak - 10 to 35% maximum - and no fining nor filtration are the key aspects. This leads to the mouth-watering style that first caught our attention. Stephane is also a top guy, an impressive character: enthusiastic, serious, good humoured and reflective. He is proud of the region and his part to play in it. You will find verve and excitement in all his wines here. From stupendous village level wines that exude (his words) 'buv-ability' to the few bottles of Grand Crus that come our way. In 2018 the wines are off the scale – Morey St Denis VV and Petit Noix are the best he has produced to date. His Charmes Chambertin too - pure Mazoyeres - and the Clos St Denis holding is right next to those up and comers Ponsot and Dujac! The particularly astute should reap rewards in Stephane's great range of 1er Cru in 2018. This is a domaine going places and we feel lucky to have jumped on the bus when we did. We may have told you this already...

### **Morey St Denis Grains Fines**

#### **GBP 132 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Only 10% new oak. Youthful, quite deep in 2018 this hails from gravel and mainly calcaire soils in Les Crais Gillon and Bas Chenevery (next to the 1er Cru Chenevery) Stony at first then a nose of deep, ripe red fruit and spice along with bluish tones of Morey. Generous and open, ripe and deep like the nose on a sumptuous palate for a wine at this price. Trace of stone and touch of violet. A textured wine – good mouthfeel, layered tannins and excellent limestone end. Good little villages and an obvious top value.

### **Morey St Denis Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 150 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From 55 year old vines in Clos Solon and Cognees there is more clay underlying this wine and its terroir excelled in 2018. Pronounced perfume and depth follow a limpid appearance. Impressive density of dark, perfumed fruit on the palate but supreme tension to it. Superb control in 2018 there is weight of fruit that stains the palate in smooth velvety strokes. Greater power with harmony but ultimately brilliant freshness underpinning – Long, tense – a great of example of 2018 at its best. Stephane’s previous description “buvability” does this no justice in 2018.

### **Chambolle Musigny Vieille Vigne**

#### **GBP 179 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Planted in 1902/3 in Les Athets although gradually being replanted this has the depth of colour of old vine material. Textured appearance and initially a touch reductive from tank but some beguiling, generous red and blue fruit emerges. Glorious perfume and a touch of cream but as it is aged in only 10% new oak it is the fruit talking. Masses of interest as it hits the palate and the inner mouth perfume echoes within. Dark, creamy Bonnes Mares-ish fruit style - the latest Chambolle V.V. is exceptionally inviting. Very good indeed and worth making a particular detour in 2018.

### **Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Aux Petites Noix**

#### **GBP 245 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From Gruenchers and Clos Baulet just below Clos des Lambrays with 20% whole bunches. Dark powder and dust notes from mainly clay terroir, almost a touch of sand. Inviting, deep fruit with brilliant freshness and lift. The water retaining clay works in 2018! High energy fruit – superbly expressive - there is a crunchy brightness to the fruit – and this is the most exciting wine we have tasted from this vineyard. Excellent tannins (remontage only) and its structure makes it a 1er Cru to watch over the next 15 years and more. The palate shows bright blue and black fruits with added salinity and ‘le crunch’ like the old TV ads. Very, very good – terrific energy and excitement. Best Petites Noix tasted. A sure thing for the 2018 portfolio.

### **Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Les Faconnieres**

#### **GBP 259 per case under bond (6x75cl) \* magnums available\***

Deeper, verging toward a purple colour this is a stony site producing smaller berries with thicker skins. In 2018 there is an explosive perfume and major interest and lift. One of the best 1er Crus in Morey, Faconnieres joyous dark fruit and high-toned floral aromas are particularly seductive. Quite beautiful purity it is bright, brimming with energy and superb black and blue hued fruit but there is much more to it. It is unarguably a lovely wine in 2018 and a clear step up. Fleshy and generous but ultimately unforced and elegant flowing serenely across the palate. Super expressive aromatics meet succulence and minerality. It is one of Morey St Denis’s top 1er Crus – and one of the best 1er Crus we tasted anywhere – Stephane has clearly made the most of it in 2018.

### **Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Mont Luisants**

#### **GBP 265 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A rare chance to taste this excellent 1er Cru located just above Clos de la Roche. Lighter in colour than Petites Noix there is a similar dust/powder aspect then an intriguing trace of the ‘sauvage’. The nose is little preparation for the spectacular palate – this is ‘wow’ material en bouche with fabulous violets and purple fruited high notes being stuck. Terrific, complete wine – everything in place with the sauvage, wildness adding an extra dimension. Enormous presence and character and long palate staining power. Very, very good. Memorable - grab it.

### **Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru, Les Sentiers**

#### **GBP 275 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A blend of vines from 40 to 65 years and some planted in 1902. From 400 metres across the Morey border and lying just below Bonnes Mares. The Sentiers has deep, sweet black fruit but it is bright with an ‘airien’ floral quality. Not dense but great depth and the complex nose is followed by an intense palate with violets and a forest floor dimension. A great blend of dark fruit and minerals the effect is one of salinity to complement a layered bright core of sappy fruit. The greater palate weight allied to its perfumed lift is a winning combination. Saline, staining, very long - a quality Sentiers.

### **Clos St Denis Grand Cru**

**GBP 580 per case under bond (6x75cl) \* magnums available\***

From vines aged 65 years in the original Clos St Denis 'climat' based on poor soils before the Grand Cru was extended in the 1930's. Stephane's vines are direct neighbours to both those of Dujac and Ponsot. Lighter colour than the Sentiers it is slightly reductive for now in this nascent period. Its aristocratic origin and potential scope show on the palate with a fleshy, almost flashy entry. Great acidity and minerality ride in tandem with the soft, perfumed fruit. This has a lovely inner fragrance and great blue/black fruit. Exquisitely succulent and lots of depth. Again, just a humming presence. Like Faconnieres there is a sense of the unforced to this. Some oak on the back end suggests a decade or more will show this beauty to full effect. A long crescendo with an almost hidden structure but this feels so effortless. Distinctly superior.

### **Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru**

**GBP 580 per case under bond (6x75cl) \* magnums available\***

Very small holding of 20 acres situated in the Mazoyeres part, around 35 years old. Deeper colour than Clos St Denis – very textured in the glass. Touch of toast and then the delight of roses on the nose – very exciting and charming – superior to most Charmes. A swathe of dark berry fruit – tiny bursting berries is captured on the lovely attack with violets. The lightly creamy, soft fruit is matched every step by a stone and particularly saline minerality. Excellent acidity again and the salinity adds to this impression. Succulence and purity. Great presence – all of these wines, in fact, have a tremendous presence in 2018. Smooth, textured and a velvety mouthfeel but it is the presence and length with fabulous tangy salinity from beginning to end that makes this a special Grand Cru.

## Domaine Hubert and Laurent Lignier, Morey St Denis



We met Laurent by the enormous cedar tree overlooking his chai as he contemplated modest building work for a new office. That was the only prosaic element of our visit as we left the domaine 90 minutes later - ecstatic as usual. Our love of Laurent's work is not exactly news, but we left more convinced than ever of the quality at this property, one of Burgundy's very finest. We tasted 2017 and 2018 as Laurent bottles and releases later than other growers. Please note it is 2017 on offer here except for the ever-impressive Bourgogne Rouge from 2018. The domaine is capable of producing wines on the level of many of the recognised greats (fill in the names your iconic superstars as you prefer...) Laurent's wines have a sublime dimension these days and should be considered in the top tier of Burgundy producers.

Style-wise, the following quote from Neal Martin sums things up neatly: *"elegant, refined, classic, vivacious, poised and intense, these wines were suffused with personality and charisma"*. We would go further: they have an undeniable whiff of magic to them. There are not too many of those around. This holds true across the range – perhaps only Mme Bize Leroy produces greater wines across such a wide array of different communes. The 2017's are charming and open and so balanced and elegant. There is selective use of whole bunch fermentation around 33% for most of the cuvees and it is a year of softer tannins though great harmony. There is, however, excellent palate weight and concentration chez Lignier – a proper core to the wines. Laurent, unlike many growers who had seen yields decimated in 2016, chose in 2017 to green harvest 20 days after flowering to maintain potential quality over compensatory quality. As ever, kudos to one of the nicest and most thoughtful winemakers in all of Burgundy.

**[Note: ALL wines from 2017 vintage, except Bourgogne]**

### **2018 Bourgogne Rouge**

#### **GBP 115 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

The Bourgogne Rouge, 30% down in 2018 due the untimely World Cup Final hail, is racked by gravity and sees no fining or filtration, just like the more prestigious wines in the line-up. Chalky nose and some dark berry fruit but a palate that bursts into life. A lovely serious wine experience that saturates the mouth blending florality and ripeness of fruit. Excellent red/black fruit some cherry. Full bodied yet with good acidity there is major concentration here and the chalk that began things comes back on the saline finish. Intensity beyond its expectations. Overperforms, absolutely.

### **2017 Gevrey Chambertin La Justice**

#### **GBP 243 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A lieu-dit site close to the border of Brochon highly perfumed with smoky, patchouli and bright cherry/berry and black fruits. Fragrant, a touch of the feminine this is true of the palate but with extra bounce – a youthful bounce with great juicy fruit. Fresh and black berries this has the nice open, generous nature of the vintage with a floral note. Juicy and excellent balance but also elegance it shows Laurent's gentle touch on the tiller perfectly. Pure, nice texture and a distinctly superior Gevrey villages.

### **2017 Gevrey Chambertin Les Seuvrees**

#### **GBP 259 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Much closer to home base in Morey this is the first time we have tasted an offered Les Seuvrees. There is a deeper fleshier look in the glass and has touch of spice and possibly a licorice aspect – one a trait of Morey the other classic Gevrey (and also an aspect of Nicolas Groffier's same cuvee) On the palate good weight and a blast of perfume on the inner mouth and has delightful freshness – a chalky dimension adds further brightness of the cassis and berry fruit. Considerable depth and a great addition.

### **2017 Morey St Denis Les Tres Girard**

#### **GBP 243 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Sumptuous look with a cherry coloured core. Touch of spice, ink and chalk on the nose with some fragrant black and blue berried fruit - classic Morey. Pure and open, also ripe cherries. The palate has depth and great vivacity and also super tension – a superb vintage for Tres Girard. A hint of cream accompanies fragrant blackberry and raspberry fruit. Really excellent – tremendous energy but beautifully sculpted. It is nothing like a village level wine, surely another rung up on the classification. Fragrant to the end, harmonious, pure with nice length. Exemplary.

### **2017 Morey St Denis Trilogie**

#### **GBP 259 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From 3 old vine parcels between 50 and 70 and one of 80 year old vines, on the edges of the Morey 1er Crus - 60% coming from Bas Chenevery. All low yielding. Brilliant blue fruit, coolly done with the usual precision – notably discrete red berry fruit plus a pronounced pure chalk mineral note that adds a terrific salinity when the wine hits the palate. Good fruit delineation and depth combine on the palate – a beautiful silky texture on this and Trilogie extremely harmonious. Admirable tension too – lovely. A Premier Cru in a village label. Super finesse and a very fine Morey.

### **2017 Chambolle Musigny Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 295 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From 2 parcels Drazey and Gamaires these 50-55 year old vines. The wine not yet racked – wine see no racking after malo and kept on lees for 21 months and nose slightly closed. On the palate... au contraire...some highly perfumed dark fruit on the palate with a touch of sous bois. Lovely definition the fruit is delicate but pure and fragrant. Nice lift and a palpable saline tang to this too and lovely lip-smacking acidity. Lively fresh wine with an attractive red and blue fruit. Really good length – cool, bright, long and rangy.

### **2017 Nuits St Georges 1<sup>er</sup> Cru, Les Poisets**

#### **GBP 275 per case of Magnums under bond (3x150cl)**

Les Poisets is a sneaky and decidedly cracking lesser known 1er Cru near celebrates Les Cailles. The 2017 has a beautifully transparent relationship with its terroir and a lovely cool, stony nose supported by a nice blend of red and black fruit and some bright cherry too. The palate has a firm, stony entry too – Clive Coates might say grip – but great vigour and the key thing is the splendid vibrancy of the fruit and freshness that accompanies the terroir traits. Nice tannins and a moreish, adult affair. Superior NSG – real interest on Poisets in 2017 – the magnums should be a winner!

### **2017 Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Les Blanchards**

**GBP 389 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

This is a classic Morey 1er Cru on clay soils is from its heart, close to both Clos Baulets and La Riotte. It combines lifted aromatic complexity and classic Morey red and blue toned fruit and has a juicy, dynamic aspect on the nose. On the palate cream-flecked blue fruit and strawberry mingle with compelling and transparent damp clay mineral notes. Good vibrancy to Blanchards and has a surprisingly full body and open fruit. Juicy end with some morello cherry coming through. A lovely 1er Cru that majors in bright expression and a clearly tangy quality from its terroir.

### **2017 Morey St Denis 1er Cru, La Riotte**

**GBP 450 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

**GBP 459 per case of Magnums under bond (3x150cl)**

Lighter in colour with a limpid texture this is a very good 1er Cru there is something reminiscent of Mazis Chambertin on the gently smoky nose with griotte cherry and wild strawberry fruit. Deeper in structure than the village wines there is some of the sweet/sour cherry on the palate too. Attractive fruit and the palate is layered with red fruits along with nicely grainy tannins and a distinctly generous mouthfeel and weight. More tannins than the Blanchards and a longer lifespan. Enveloping aspect and ends with notable some length.

### **2017 Morey St Denis 1er Cru, Les Chaffots**

**GBP 475 per case under bond (6x75cl) – on allocation**

Darker in colour, lovely robe in the glass and more concentrated looking appearance. This site next to Clos St Denis can produce a dynamite 1er Cru from its small berried Cordon Royat vines close to the bedrock. A lifted nose this is exciting stuff with brilliant open nose suffused with floral notes and delightful blue and bright red berried fruits. Great perfume here allied to that of nearby Clos St Denis. Classy, controlled palate that continues the excitement and bears out its stony mineral origins but it is the inner mouth flamboyance and vitality of the wine which is striking. Good grip but fine tannins and a super harmonious Chaffots in 2017.

### **2017 Morey St Denis 1er Cru Vieilles Vignes**

**GBP 579 per case under bond (6x75cl) – on allocation**

As ever a tremendous wine that conquers many top Burgundy 1er Crus. From Faconnieres and Chenevery and from vines over 80 years old it is little wonder the concentration in fragrance and flavour is palpable. It is combined with exceptional crystalline purity and a clear chalk element seems to linger in the air. A touch of cream on the youthful palate – lovely expressive rich-fruited palate is super-smooth. Layers of interest with black cherry tones showing the proximity to Clos de la Roche and also ripe red fruits. Another vivacious showing for this brilliant 1er where the tangy mineral aspects and tactile quality surpass the realm of fruit. Great presence. Very close to Grand Cru level.

### **2017 Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru, Les Baudes**

**GBP 605 per case under bond (6x75cl) – on allocation**

Directly below Bonnes Mares this has a medium dark colour and limpid appearance. It's a classic Baudes on a nose laden with blue and black fruit with sous bois and woodland aspects. Dark soil notes are present on tasting and smoke, blackberries, raspberry and blueberry. Excellent texture to and a dollop of cream. Les Baudes is open and charming in line with the nature of the vintage but not a giveaway – one can sense hidden depths and the fine tannic structure suggests a good life but we loved the punchy vitality of this wine in 2017.

### **2017 Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru**

**GBP POA per bottle under bond (1x75cl) – on allocation**

From Mazoyeres Chambertin and a parcel adjacent to the Morey border, the Charmes was a touch backward on our visit with some cool stone and black fruit on the nose. It is lighter than Chaffots, a medium cherry red colour although on aeration the wine begins to open revealing a cool purity of fruit. Lively burstingly-fresh cherries on the expressive palate this is vibrant with generous, perfectly ripe fruit. Some violets and ink come through on the inner mouth and touch of cream. Fragrant, exuberant almost, after the nose, with black cherry and little black berries. Not a huge wine but one perfectly in harmony with the vintage and showing superb resonance and length.

**2017 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru****GBP POA per bottle under bond (1x75cl) – on allocation**

Moderate in colour as always but more very textured and concentrated. Unlike the Charmes the 2017 Roche has no broodiness but has a celebratory showstopping lift to it! Blackberry, blue notes, red fruit and even a little damson pour forth with a bunch of violets thrown in the air. There is also the great blast of cold stone that one associates with the wine like freshly hewn rock dust. Transparency of terroir on the palate too the stone anchoring a flattering, layered palate with plump fruit. Bouncy, vital quality to the fruit with lashings of creamy blackberry and plum. But ultimately a long, fragrant mineral wine with great lipsmacking tension. Very fine with an exceptional tangy, resounding mineral finish. What can we say – we rather like it...Grand Vin!

## Domaine Robert Sirugue, Vosne Romanee



This small family-run Vosne Romanée domaine is very much on the up. We can't get enough of the wines these days and, thankfully, good yields in 2018 mean we are still reasonably well positioned for this spectacular vintage. They are increasingly well-respected in Europe and very sought-after in the Far East. The 2018's are quite clearly the best we have tasted since first coming in 2013 outpointing even the 2015's and 2016's. We have included the lively, perfumed Bourgogne Rouge again, for the first time since 2015, as it was really singing. It is probably the best value wine in our offering. Our visit was accommodated between the growing list of Asian buyers with Marie-France and good-humoured nephew Arnaud also popped his head round the door to say hello and taste with us.

The wines in 2018 were on seriously great form. It is no surprise that the critics are beginning now to visit. Neal Martin was a recent convert. It will be interesting to see their thoughts on 2018 as the vintage finds the wines at a shining peak. The domaine is blessed with excellent holdings in 'Les Réas' and particularly in 'Les Barreaux' situated next to the fabled 'Cros Parentoux'. Marie-France, like the sisters at Mugneret-Gibourg, farm a small amount amount of 'Les Chalendins' and the combined juice produces a harmonious, vivacious Vosne Romanee villages. The Vieille Vigne cuvee from 70 year-old+ vines originating from vines on the border of Clos Vougeot and Echezeaux is distinctly different and shares the darker fruit qualities of both the Grand Crus. Les Petit Monts is a cult 1er Cru these days and a real beauty. It shares some of the characters of bordering Cros Parantoux and Richebourg – a couple of particularly fabled spots. We also tasted a super Nuits St Georges too which we may offer if they give us a magnum or two of the 75 to be bottled. A more than commendable range in 2018 showing extra dimensions and sheen but retaining the requisite energy, depth and structure for the long term. Industry figures now consider this a domaine to follow – follow their heed!

### **Bourgogne Rouge**

#### **GBP 85 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From 2018 this is one of the Bourgogne rouges you *can* trust in the vintage. From 4 vineyards on the edge of Vosne Romanee and Flagey. Touch of creamy dark fruit and some violet with a twist of the Vosne spice rack. Excellent texture on the palate and lively vibrant entry – red and a trace of black fruit but super depth and freshness. Easily the best here since Marie-France's 2015 Bourgogne – the blend of texture, surprising power and excellent acidity make this one of the best Bourgogne's we tried all week. Recommended.

### **Vosne Romanée**

#### **GBP 215 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From the 3 climats mentioned in the intro plus fruit from the 'commune' in the centre of the village. A complex, well-balanced whole. Serious, detailed, showing classic Vosne elements of small red berries, limestone minerality and dried flowers. The supple tannins across the various parcels back up the delicate, beautifully fragrant floral and citrus notes provided by Les Barreaux, the violet and patchouli tones and red fruit of Reas along with the greater staying power and darker notes of Chalendins. The end result is a classic Vosne Romanee with perfect cherry ripe fruit and a very fine one at that. Looks a brilliant buy in 2018.

### **Vosne Romanée Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 310 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite dark colour and textured look in the glass. No real surprise as the origin of the grapes are a strip of 70 year-old vines just outside the walled Clos Vougeot towards Echezeaux. Darker, riper fruit - richer on the nose. Still quite closed although dark chocolate and a whiff of pretty violets. The fruit on the palate shares these perfumes notably darker fruit as its origins dictate. Fine entry – chalky and a touch of savour. It runs smoothly and has a finer structure than in previous years. The wine is reassuringly dry and fine boned a touch of dried orange peel backing up the small dark berries. The limestone tang has fine resounding echo to it. Slightly fuller bodied and excellent tannins. This looks to be the best V.V. to date – a step up. Very good length and worth some proper ageing.

### **Vosne Romanée 1er Cru Le Petit Monts**

#### **GBP 410 per case under bond (6x75cl) – on allocation**

Wonderful allure on the nose - super lift with dried flowers, violets – parma violets - and wild strawberry and cherry, mingling with smoke, anise. Impressive and super sensuous. aspect. Incredibly complex and quite thrilling nose. The 'Petit Monts' is quite flamboyant, very expressive - and it goes well beyond merely pretty. Sleek and the same beauty on the palate. Excellent depth but a lively juiciness too again the parma violets red fruit and blue notes, purple even. But very pure and it has a proper structure to match the vibrant energy. A seam of limestone running through it - feels very calcaire - great salinity and mouth-watering stuff all round. Superb... even better in a decade.

## Domaine Michel Noëllat, Vosne Romanee



Sophie Noëllat-Sirugue was in wonderfully cheerful form when we saw her chirruping away like the proverbial nightingale and with 2018 she has more than a few reasons to be cheerful. With more reserved, thoughtful cousin Sebastien Noëllat (recent winner of Bourgogne Jeunes Talent trophy) they now form the 6th generation at Domaine Michel Noëllat and in this superb vintage they will surely further carve out their growing reputation. The wines are already ‘hot’ in Asia and the domaine is now labelling with special ‘chips’ to maintain authenticity and traceability. Among the specialist Burgundy critics Bill Nanson is fulsome of praise – already commenting excitedly on the 2018’s and Neal Martin has also written favourably. Having tasted the various Noëllat domaines over many years we feel that this is the one to follow. Prices remain fair even though demand from the Far East is growing. With this splendid vintage that is only likely to accelerate.

Quality has been on the rise since the young cousins began working together. Sophie, trained in law, recently finalised the transfer of the estate to the new generation and is evidently excited about the future. Old vines averaging 60-70 years, a subtle approach to cooperage and less reliance on new oak, more precision and gradual investment in the winery. They destem all grapes and in 2018 the wines are deep and generous but more subtle and sculpted than last year. The tannins are extremely soft and giving but the fine terroirs the vines inhabit show through in the finished wines. The 1er and Grand Crus represent excellent opportunities - Beaumonts is long celebrated here and excels again in 2018 but don’t miss the Suchots nor the very exciting Boudots. The Clos Vougeot deserves its status as the domaine’s top wine but do not overlook the Echezeaux. This gem comes from a superior plot ‘du Dessous’, close to Grands Echezeaux and trounces many a lesser version of this Grand Cru. Sophie and Sebastien prefer to sell the lesser holdings they own in the appellation to negoce, keeping only this premium portion for the bottling with the family name.

### **Fixin**

#### **GBP 159 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Ripe, intense nose on a wine of light to medium colour. Splash of ink and deep black fruit notes. Excellent concentration and generous fruit – sweet black fruit with a touch of florality. Nice length with a dusting of minerals. A touch of the power of the vintage on the end but a perfect ‘cellar protector’ in the vintage, at around half the price of village Gevrey.

### **Chambolle Musigny**

#### **GBP 235 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Deeper colour – quite deep – a new wine for us as it shone on the tasting. Powerful dark fruit on nose and lots of depth to it. Black fruits and powdery, dust aspects. Similar powdery fruit on the palate we will need to ask the location of the parcel next time – it is from 70 to 80 year vines and the intensity of the fruit is evident. It has the feel of something close to Bonnes Mares with a moreish sprinkling of dust on the black fruit. Not a shimmering over-aromatic Chambolle but we love the depth and concentration especially for a village level wine. Power and building minerality on the finish too.

### **Nuits St Georges**

#### **GBP 195 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite deep colour and viscous looking. More interesting and excellent lifted nose with violets and gobs of black and blue fruit. Stone and a touch of earthy complexity. It is a copybook Nuits St Georges with greater depth than most village level wines. Open and pronounced with full depth on the palate and great acidity to balance the strong core of fruit. Splashes of ink and pressed flowers on the fragrant palate. Clearly lots of fleshy 'matiere' supported by fine tannins for NSG but it is the violets which begin and end the experience – this really should not be overlooked. Very good.

### **Vosne Romanee 1er Cru, Les Beaumonts**

#### **GBP 409 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Lovely colour with an intense robe, concentrated and limpid. Quite beautiful nose with roses and violets to the fore – this is lovely, haunting and the essence of Vosne Romanee. High toned dark fruit moments, nice ripeness and sweet red berry notes mingle with a dollop or two of cream at this young stage. The early oak is seductive and will ameliorate further with time. The feel is one of flamboyance with some restraint. Sapid fruit but terrific limestone mineral streak. Excellent acidity and the limey tangy salinity brings further refreshment value. Intense, great shape and arrow like focus - it resonates impressively. Serious and seriously pleasurable - a brilliant Beaumonts.

### **Vosne Romanee 1er Cru, Les Suchots**

#### **GBP 409 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Les Suchots is initially slightly reticent but on aeration an interesting nose emerges with surprisingly dark fruit for Vosne then more familiar blue fruit and some delectable wild strawberry. The palate is more interesting still and a step up. Vivid blue fruits – lovely, lively - with a smattering of violets make for an exciting mouthful. Sweet, luscious red fruit with nice oak it resembles the charms on the nose with perhaps an added touch of dark earth terroir. Tannins are fine and the alcohol level is exceptionally well judged. Suchots with real presence saturating the palate in resonant red fruit without ever feeling overpowering. Excellent.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Boudots**

#### **GBP 409 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Boudots can often be overlooked - a mystery when one considers its position so close to La Tache but people are cottoning on to the fact that it can be a bit of a 'wow' wine here. It has a striking bouquet of fresh raspberry, flowers, musk and darker fruit. Wonderful lift with some blue notes - a particularly lovely nose. Superb precision on the palate and great tannins – more prominent than the Vosne Romanee wines but they are for the connoisseur. As is the chalky mineral seam that underlies the wine. Lovely control - generous, serious, chunky fruit and great perfume – boy this is good. Proper wine. Don't miss Boudots in 2018.

### **Echezeaux du Dessous, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 650 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Hugely popular in the last few years, Sophie and Sebastien's Echezeaux can rival Grand Echezeaux from other growers. This well-sited parcel renders it a great buy for a Grand Cru at a domaine on the rise. Deep colour and lovely texture and robe in glass. Fantastic nose with spice dusted, dark and sumptuous blue fruits. Exceptionally pretty with a touch of blood orange and pot pourri - lots going on. Quite full on entry the palate is quite expressive if nascent and its freshness makes for a lovely balance. Powerful with fleshy depth – the generosity of the vintage and the superior climat are on show. For now, the tannins are more prominent than last year and this will require patience. Great unerring limestone presence and the beginnings of Echezeaux's sous bois character under the concentrated fruit. Supremely confident, long and resonant.

### **Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 660 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A more powerful Grand Cru in a more powerful vintage. Quite deep with very notable glycerol and textured look in the glass. Darker fruit. Dried flowers and some intrigue. It is the interaction between grower and grapes that make wine great or otherwise and the oft maligned Clos Vougeot certainly jostles for its role as the best wine

produced here, concluding a super range of 2018's. Slightly backward in youth and but there is nice lift and drive along with terrific weight of soft fruit on the palate. The barest hint of a 'sauvage' character is detectable - almost musk - it supports deep black and blue tinged fruit. Powerful and layered full bodied and Grand Cru weight - almost Grand Cru weight. Finer tannins and a silky feel that will develop. Very promising indeed.

## Domaine Robert Chevillon, Nuits St Georges



*'I just loved these wines. In my opinion, Chevillon has become the leading grower in Nuits-Saint-Georges with a raft of superlative wines that would get more attention if cognoscenti were not so obsessed about other appellations blessed with grand crus...these wines come highly recommended.'* [Neal Martin](#)

We are delighted to be back with a virtually full offering from this this tremendous domaine including the hard to get, would you believe, Bourgogne Rouge! We second Neal Martin's emotion as to the standing of the Chevillon wines. Absolutely top drawer. They hold their own with anybody in Burgundy and even their great Vaucrains is still an affordable luxury. Denis, the lesser seen but enthusiastic brother, works diligently in vineyards producing exquisite fruit from low yields while the wry and dry Bertrand conducts business in the cellar and office.

Bertrand was quieter than usual on the day we visited, opening up towards the end and opening some Chaignots too from 2016 to compare with 2018. Not surprisingly both vintages showed the domaine to be at the very forefront of the appellation. 2018 yields were kept under control rather forcibly in the southern part by the unseasonal hailstorm on World Cup Final day which must have muted celebrations in this particular corner of France... dommage. Alongside the hard to obtain Bourgogne Rouge, the village Nuits was exceptional and a special shout out for Boussetots from the Vosne side – an absolute delight in 2018. Beyond that you have the usual unparalleled, outstanding tour of the commune and people will doubtless chase their favourite 'must haves' from the likes of Pruliers, Cailles, Les St Georges and Vaucrains!

### **Bourgogne Rouge**

#### **GBP 229 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Begin with a bang...and it's only the 'humble' Bourgogne. Offering a brilliant and bright cherry laden nose with soft strawberry and damson fruit, brightness defines the palate on this. Only 2 year and beyond barrels are used for this cuvee. Juicy red berries, some black fruit and macerated cherries feature. Surprisingly powerful at this level its choc-full of presence and gobs of fruit. One to snap up in a hurry.

### **Nuits St Georges Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 389 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Very pretty nose with a touch of oak at this nascent stage but only around 15% new oak. Floral perfume with masses of attractive blue and black fruit in the ascendancy – a gorgeous creamy effect. Touch of oak spice on entry and the plush creamy blue toned fruit envelops the palate. Pristine quality fruit and soft tannins soft this shows great charm. A terrific line of salinity highlights the wine neatly. A truly lovely NSG – definitely not to be underestimated - older vintages of this turn out to be among the best Burgundy buys you will find.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Chaignots**

#### **GBP 559 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Another charmer deep cherry red in colour and some cherry in the perfume along with Vosne Romanee-esque type traits. Along with sweet red cherry, wild strawberry and raspberry. A touch of spice almost certainly from the terroir than the 2 year-old barriques that are used here. Very lovely – a cutie - with texture and feel and excellent freshness to the rounded fruit. Superb control – neat, lifted – pure and exceptionally charming.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Bouscelots**

#### **GBP 559 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Very engaging – damn close to beguiling. Great lift and blue and purple fruits, brambles infused with a great chalky blast. Complex notes of blood, flowers and orange zest all in the mix. The palate is more fragrant too and has a delightful chalky cut to it. Extremely fresh and pure. Lovely definition and driven by a super saline streak. Silky red fruits and blood orange notes come through on the inner mouth. Saturates the palate but it's all beautifully unforced. Brilliant Bouscelots here in 2018.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Roncieres**

#### **GBP 559 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

A marked change of scene and with it style as to be expected on Roncieres which sits bang in the middle of the Nuits side of the 1er Cru belt. Less fruit forward stone, dark chocolate, bright red fruit with a characteristic feline/sauvage/animal element – a giveaway for Roncieres. Big, but bright fruit and more weight and more stoney terroir coming through. More structure and power than last year. Long term Roneires even if the terroir is transparent at this stage.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Perrieres**

#### **GBP 559 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Perrieres is a sneaky favourite where crushed rock meets a super bright cherry profile with all sorts of detours thrown in. The 2018 shows dried flower and blooming rose petals along with the more normal violets. The rock and pebbly notes signified by its name most certainly enter the frame. Darker fruit with black cherries, inner florality and the distinctly mineral nature of Perrieres imprinted on the palate too. Feels riper and darker in 2018 and more power and presence for the long term. High impact stuff matched by more tannic presence. Deeper longer lived than 2017 version. Very different to the others but no less intriguing.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Pruliers**

#### **GBP 559 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

More lift on the nose – this is exceptionally pretty. Handfuls of flowers - fresh and pressed - allied to shining bright fruit. Griotte cherries and summer fruits along with glorious rose like scents this is a great and often overlooked 1er Cru in the range. The nose is somewhat replicated on the palate with fragrant inner mouth detail allied to the power of the 2018 vintage. Fuller bodied with a stone-like cool penetrating minerality not unlike Vaucrains. Quite adult. Bigger wine in 2018 and a long life ahead – a long finish too.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Cailles**

#### **GBP 795 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

It's proper Nuits St Georges is Les Cailles – perhaps its very emblem. With power to burn we also find interesting forest floor notes with cool chalk and stone elements. Traces of the animalesque – it's a sauvage Les Cailles as always. And ...all the more interesting and haunting for it! Textured dark berry and purple fruits with a portion of macerated fruits in the pot. Round, lush, altogether bigger in 2018 – full bodied and powerful but a wine that is certainly in thrall to its terroir and 80 year vines. A vivid mineral presence pervades the intense liqueury fruit. Buried almost unnoticed tannins there, too. A wine of some heft but there is a classic Cailles built for the ages in here.

**Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les St Georges****GBP 990 per case under bond (12x75cl)****\*on allocation\***

Not surprisingly Les St Georges is an unashamed showstopper. Some new oak on the sample prefaces a heady blast of macerated cherry, rock dust, sensuous and blinding rose petal florality. An overt ode to both Pinot Noir and superior terroir. The St Georges is the commune's 'Grand Cru elect' and one can see why. Black fruit, blue berries and some black cherry but ultimately this is the true seductress of Nuits St Georges with its multifarious fragrances. Potentially a great wine it is still nascent today with some oak is to the fore (and the brothers never over-oak) but there remains tension and focus and a superb tangy moreishness flows through it from start to finish. Somewhat promising shall we say...!

**Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Vaucrains****GBP 835 per case under bond (12x75cl)****\* on allocation\***

For all the stardust of Les St Georges we would aver that Vaucrains is the daddy at this domaine. Pure rock dust brims from the glass on nosing the wine which is always the last to be tasted. Less floral than Cailles and St Georges but, if anything, much more complete. Red and black fruit, pure and extremely well delineated. The oak is nicely integrated and the definition on the palate notable. No frills, yet chiselled brilliance to the fruit and mineral display - an ultra-pure expression of black and tight red berries but succulence too. Superb Vaucrains – undeniable charm, freshness, a serious component from the cold stone terroir. The most complete wine in the range is the last tasted and the brothers get it right. Quell surprise!

## Domaine Arnaud Chopin, Comblanchien

Who would have believed a tiny estate making Nuits St Georges would be one of the finds of last couple of years? The sign for the domaine simply reads: 'A. Chopin Viticulteur'. Perhaps this should have been an obvious signifier for what turned out to be an unexpected revelation. We didn't actually ask young Arnaud too much about his methods of viticulture beyond 'vendange entier' although he certainly has the pitch-black, gnarled hands of the toiling viticulteur! But Arnaud is producing sculpted, fragrant wines compared to many in the appellation that can produce wines which never graduate beyond the surly teenager phase. The wine world is beginning to take notice. The French publication 'Bourgogne Aujourd'hui' a couple of years ago singled out Arnaud as a new leading light of Nuits St Georges with his 1er Crus receiving great praise and filling 2 of the top 5 spots in a comprehensive appellation review. The same publication awarded his Cotes de Nuits V.V. a rating of 19/20 – quite incredible score – until you taste it.

Arnaud is in the vanguard of the younger generation, now in the ascendancy in Burgundy. Fresh and pure, filled with personality and verve like the wine maker himself. The wines won't take a generation of patience to find out you have purchased a bottle of disappointment. Not, that these will in any way prove disappointing! The 2018's show 'Arnaud the viticulteur' use of whole bunches which contribute an uncanny brightness and moderate alcohol levels. His use of new oak is nicely restrained with large 500 litre barriques in use and like the very best of growers he is unafraid to drop fruit in early July to maintain modest yields. No fining or filtration. With some excellent vineyards on the Vosne Romanee border - Bas de Combe, Murgers and Damodes - Arnaud's excellent range is another hit from the 'new wave' of Burgundy producers. We have a new, excellent Nuits St Georges V.V. cuvee – showing all the joyous, 'festif' blue fruit of the vintage.

### **Cotes de Nuits Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 99 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

The confidence Arnaud has in his vineyard work is not misplaced and this opening gambit has 100% whole bunches resulting in a composed but over-performing wine. Spice notes from the Premeaux centred vineyards mingle with lifted black fruit some blood orange and a splash of ink. Impressive lift with violets, pressed flowers blood orange on the palate. Full and concentrated succulent black cherry and some dark berry fruit. Not overdone or trying to overpower but rich, fresh and lovely fine tannins. and not trying to overpower with the fruit bright and 'croquante'. Great little number- likely to be just about the best value purchase in 2018.

### **Nuits St Georges Bas de Combe**

#### **GBP 170 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Cunningly situated villages vineyard just below Damodes bordering Vosne Romanee this continues to be an 'insider tip'. The wine just racked so less transparent but there is some charm. A touch of wood on a pretty nose - earth, raspberry, blueberry, blood orange and some stone. Fresh berries and a characteristic sweet and sour cherry display. Some inner mouth perfume and fruit expression comes through with a handful of earth and serious tannins and higher acid than many in the vintage. Needs to be re-tasted obviously but looks promising despite the timing. A pick of the vintage last year and we will re-taste to check this time round.

### **Nuits St Georges Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 180 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

100% whole bunch for this cuvee - a 'new entry' for us in 2018. There are 7 barrels (1 of them new) featuring old vine plantings of Poisets, Longecourts, Plantes au Baron near Les St Georges and there is more excitement on the nose in the V.V. Pretty but pretty substantial with it – on the nose and palate there is a step up in concentration and it has gorgeous open creamy blue and red fruit on the nose and palate. A juicy quality and bounce to the fruit – 'festif' and just more palate coverage. Excellent tannins round, soft and serious wine here. A step up.

**Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Damodes****GBP 285 (tbc- estimated) per case under bond (6x75cl)**

2 barrels only alas in 2018. Slightly less deep colour but a superb floral nose – expressive and seriously seductive. Delightful with some Vosne Romanee spice, smoke characters as the glass swirls. Arnaud uses only a very gentle maceration with few pump overs following its 100% whole bunch fermentation. Beguiling nose with red fruits, rose petals, violets and a blob of ink. Succulent blackberries and cream are added to these notes on the palate. Soft, layered and lovely mineral seriousness with a touch of oak for now. A further hint of rose permeates the end. Excellent length to finish things off.

**Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Les Murgers****GBP 245 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Slightly deeper colour and again a 100% 'entier' cuvee. Very youthful still with good sweet fruit emerging along with Ink, harmonious blue and black fruit plus chalk and a trace of the 'sauvage'. More structure and slightly compressed for the moment there are nevertheless violets and spring blossom on the inner mouth. Fuller-bodied and dry this is serious with more palate weight and tannic underlay. Very nice freshness and the fragrant inner mouth continues to develop. Excellent acidity and alcohol balance with a growing stony minerality emerging. Youthful and the tannins have a nice grain for a long life. Good cut and good energy. Longer-lived than the Damodes.

## Domaine du Clos Frantin/Albert Bichot, Nuits St Georges & Beaune



*'The Domaine du Clos Frantin is one of the jewels of the Cote de Nuits....with the appointment of Alain Serveau in 1995 ... Bichot began to take its place among the first division in Burgundy.'* [Clive Coates MW](#)

The wines of **Domaine du Clos Frantin/Albert Bichot** have risen inexorably in recent vintages and with 2018 described as 'an ideal vintage' by this venerable house the party shows no sign of ending anytime soon! They are now a fixture on the 'favoured few' list of Burgundy commentators such as Meadows and Martin and this year add Jasper Morris. Wine after wine from this range regularly outsmarts the more established elite in Burgundy. Iconic growers have frequently been left playing second fiddle when their wines are tasted side by side with his range. Tellingly, this has occurred in blind tastings, without the comfort of a label for critics to cling to. This situation – *repeated for the umpteenth time* not so long ago, in the European 'Burgfest' tastings, where wines like Vosne Malconsorts rose to the very top - presents a great opportunity for clients to experience and embrace Burgundy's finest wines.

Alberic Bichot and head winemaker Alain Serveau, long ago, made the difficult decisions required for this luxury liner of an estate to turn around nimbly and sail smoothly into a sun-dappled future. ALL the great terroirs under their care now properly flourish. Today the wines from Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon and Domaine Clos Frantin sit comfortably in the company of the better-known icons. Tastings such a wide range provides great insight into a vintage given the sheer scope of the range. I have particular favourites but there is nice homogeneity across the reds in both Cotes Beaune and Nuits. A pretty little thing like Savigny Les Beaune Picotins overperformed as did the perennially untrendy monopole Aloxe Corton Marechaudes. Fixin Clos de la Perriere excelled again and Clos Frantin's Vosne Romanee was quite special at its level showing the benefit of a warm vintage on the normally less favoured cuvees similarly the Nuits St Georges Chteau-Gris. Among the big boys Clos de la Roche performed brilliantly and Latricieres was preferred to Charmes. Clos Vougeot might have just outpointed Echezeaux although the magnificent Chambertin left the pair of those in its wake. Don't hesitate to ask for personal recommendations – there are many worthy of serious consideration nesting on different branches of the portfolio. Assistant winemaker Cyrille Jacquelin modest and honest had fewer bon mots than usual in 2018 – he was simply deeply satisfied with the range – understandably!

### **Savigny Les Beaune Les Picotins, Domaine du Pavillon**

#### **GBP 123 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Savigny did particularly well in 2018 if Chandon de Briailles and this little number are anything to go by. Ripe red fruit dotted with black berries this is soft, delicate, poised with a touch of earth. Lovely and a wine that does not deserve to be overlooked. Excellent stony terroir below with a natural freshness – perfect little entrée -a starter with beautiful balance and real promise.

### **Fixin 1er Cru, Clos de la Perriere (monopole)**

#### **GBP 215 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Another insider's secret of a wine - a terroir which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was compared with mighty Chambertin would you believe. Black fruit and some soft fondant richness but at heart lifted with a subtle perfume of dried flowers and violets. Soft entry with lush rich fruit – there is some wonderful inner mouth perfume too along with a more powerful display of sapid red and black fruit. Greater palate weight than last year bit retains a tension which along with a cool mineral streak on the end lifts the wine to the over-performers shortlist for 2018.

### **Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, Chateau - Gris**

#### **GBP 275 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Not deep colour – medium only – but notably limpid. Superb nose – blue and creamy like the best of the vintage – lift again - attractive for sure and serious to boot. Great depth on the palate for 1er Cru – a great texture to the wine which has some damp earth to match the blue and black fruits, some gentle dustiness. The texture is killer on this 2018 and old bottles of this wine were (mis)-labelled as 'Grand Cru' but you can see the cheek may have been justified! Balanced and harmonious with a super crunch and pippy element to the fruit coming through. A great wine in 2018. One to try if you have not already done so - an extremely successful vintage for old Chateau Gris.

### **Aloxe Corton 1er Cru, Clos des Marechaudes (monopole), Domaine de Pavillon**

#### **GBP 220 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Medium deep – more interest than ever before on the nose with this cuvee benefitting from the solaire vintage – more so than the contiguous Grand Cru, in fact. Charming with some citrus skin notes blending nicely with dark berry and plum and some blue notes earth. Excellent harmony and very silky feel on the palate but also a fine fruit profile not overly exuberant. Works better than the Grand Cru at this stage which I blocked by a little oak. Not so here – a fresh expansive wine with nice tension and iron and limestone mineral deposits joining the fruit on the end. Lovely supple tannins complete the picture nicely in 2018.

### **Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru, Les Chabiots**

#### **GBP 375 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Side on to Amoureuses but without the price tag Chabiots often represents the smart money buy and in 2018 its worthy of consideration again sharing some of its proto-Grand Cru brother's perfumed features. Red, blue and black berries – nice lift – excellent depth and nicely judged oak. Good balance – not signs of late picking or over-powering – this is the velvet glove without the iron fist. Neat, balanced and a nice expression of the beauty of Chambolle Musigny without the price tag of...

### **Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru, Les Amoureuses**

#### **GBP 1250 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

While it is more expensive, we can say the great Amoureuses is reassuringly delightful and shows, of course, greater depth. It is more complete - a Grand Cru in waiting. Limpid, serious appearance. Classy nose - gorgeous floral perfume, creamy black berries, ink and other notes verging on the indefinable ethereal. The palate has some toast on the smooth entry and begins to unfurl with the excitement of the nose amplified almost contained in a juicy, bright performance. Tiny red, blue and black berries mingle with rose and extremely nice definition. Pippy and bright one can almost sense individual berries in the glass. Terrific length and the Amoureuses limestone bedrock gradually issues its superior terroir signature. A buy, surely, for the true Burgundy connoisseur?

### **Vosne Romanee, Domaine du Clos Frantin**

#### **GBP 270 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Another wine in 2018 that works at the lesser level although given that it comes from arguably the greatest village on the planet for Pinot Noir that may be a little unfair! However, the VR Clos Frantin is pretty much a must-have in 2018 with a beguiling, perfumed nose of red cherry, rose and mineral lifted to the skies. Superb on the palate to this wine should not be missed – wonderful definition, chalky, juicy fruit with excellent depth and a palate mirroring the red fruit display of the nose. There's a sense of joy here and perfect balance. One of the best Vosne Romanee wines tasted in the entire vintage.

### **Vosne Romanee 1er Cru, Les Malconsorts, Domaine du Clos Frantin**

#### **GBP 695 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A 1er Cru often capable of outpointing a Grand Cru or three...the Malconsorts is a serious player in 2018 once again. Limpid look in the glass but light as air on the nose with a lovely, complex perfume of many discrete elements coming together in a lifted, bright display. Spice, cherry, raspberry, pure chalk and dried flowers lead the way. Layered fruit on the palate with the 'vif' and juiciness of the domaine, some smoky beautifully defined red fruit albeit in a nascent phase. Not flamboyant like, say, Amourees this will turn out to be a classical beauty edged by a pure limestone salinity. Poise, purity and length over body Malconsorts calcaire origins, discreet tannin and delicacy of fruit combine memorably.

### **Clos de la Roche Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 975 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Not too deep. But limpid and substantial looking. Gorgeous blue fruit on a pronounced nose – full of seductive perfume – a step up on Echezeaux with the familiar stone and limey terroir poking through and mingling with pressed flowers. Quite brilliant nose. Some red and black fruit but primarily blue fruit impact upon the palate. Lovely fresh berries, good pippy crunchy fruit too, with lovely acids and the mineral aspects - freshly hewn rock and limestone bringing a greater tangy juiciness to proceedings. Svelte but lively the Roche is fuller bodied but has so much bounce and harmony. Seamless, balanced and beautifully shaped from entry to resonant ending. Prospective top end purchase – very highly recommended.

### **Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 795 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Medium to quite deep in colour the darker hue accompanied by a darker range of fruit to match. Plump raspberry along with blackberries – nice perfume but also nice restraint – poise. The palate has a surfeit of black fruit with a dash of crème de mur. Plenty there - plump and generous but neat and balanced too. Composed with a dash of cool limestone to balancing the youthful sweetness of fruit. Lovely will last a decade or two with company from its fine, almost imperceptible tannins. Probably underestimating this as the Latriceres has a little more pzazz.

### **Latricieres Chambertin Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 895 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Very limpid and textured. Creamier and deeper black fruit tinged with humus soil aspects notes and a touch of spice. Excellent nose if youthful but so much promise. Palate has a lovely fleshy entry as promised by the viscous appearance, stamping it as 'Grand Cru'. Enveloping quality and coats the palate – velvety feel and the glorious fruit is highlighted by a wonderful violet, ink, roses on the perfumed inner mouth. A step up. Transparent limestone and gravel terroir comes to the fore as it finishes. Long, silky – a great Chambertin GC in 2018.

### **Clos Vougeot Grand Cru, Domaine du Cos Frantin**

#### **GBP 795 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Less depth of colour than the Latricieres but nice limpid texture again. Open, attractive black fruit freshly picked with the crunch intact and a familiar seductive florality. Lively on the palate entry this is impressive and not overly big shouldered - extremely promising. Good depth of fruit on the palate this is an uncommonly fine Clos Vougeot. Neat, excellent balance. Some years the 'puissance' can overpower and it could easily do so in a year like 2018 – but it does not! Great poise. Tension. This is exemplary. A big surprise in the big surprise vintage – it is all class and refinement. Top-notch Clos Vougeot overlook it at your peril!

**Echezeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin****GBP 795 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite deep and glossy look. Beautiful lift on the nose with blue flowers – roses even - plus red and black fruit chalk dust and an early touch oak of toast. Warmer tones to the fruit on this. Deeper fruit on entry than most years and more power less linear than usual. Good rich fruit and tannins are deceptive underlying the palate with nice feel and long-term structure. Some iron and red soil complexity. Less lithe and lively than 2017 and bigger boned – this will need time and a revisit in a year or 2 – it's a beauty normally but less easy to divine in its nascent phase.

**Grands Echezeaux, Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin****GBP 1250 per case under bond (3x75cl) \***

Not tasted

**Chambertin Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin****GBP 1695 per case under bond (6x75cl) \***

This great vineyard was frosted in 2016 but 2018 sees it back to its noble best. Has a superb brightness to the nose but works on a mineral level more than mere fruit, quite incredible for a young wine to exude such on the nose. That said it has a beautifully precise and pinpoint fresh array of fruit, raspberry, cherry, blackberry. Superb poise and the unbelievable salinity mentioned. A great, adult wine for serious Burgo-philes but has the necessary perfectly honed fruit for pleasure and not mere academia! The red black fruit begins to take a haunting floral component on inner mouth and gentle spice. Very, very complete and expressive yet unadorned wine. Worth going the extra mile for.

**Richebourg Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin****GBP 1584 per case under bond (3x75cl) \* on allocation \***

Not tasted.

## Domaine Chandon de Briailles, Savigny Les Beaune



*'If these vines were growing in Vosne-Romanée and Chambolle-Musigny instead of Savigny-lès-Beaune, Pernand-Vergelesses and Alox-Corton, the wines they produce would already be prohibitively expensive, so shrewd consumers should take note.'* [William Kelley, The Wine Advocate](#)

Claude de Nicolay is signalling 2018 as the finest vintage at this domaine since 1999 – better, in fact. Upon tasting the wines we can only agree. They are stunning. Certainly, the most exciting since we started tasting here in the 2000's. We have written previously that in a just universe the wines produced here would be as feted as the great regional icons – the DRC's, Rousseau's and the like. They have the astonishing clarity, focus and perfumed beauty that only the very greatest Burgundies possess. Various trials and tribulations with the fates - repeated frosts, hail, Suzuki flies and mildew - deprived them of the chance for a number of years. But the Biodynamic siblings came back with a bang in 2017 and in 2018 they have produced their finest wines for a generation.

Based in Savigny Les Beaune, with excellent holdings in the northern part of the Cote de Beaune, the 2018 wines are unquestionably ravishing beauties. Nuanced and fragrant they are born beautiful and they will stay that way into a long-lasting future combining the splendour of Burgundy with an uncanny elegance. Happily, Claude and her brother François who own this grand property, had a long overdue roll of the dice with the last two vintages producing good quantities to match their sublime quality.

Biodynamic pioneers - organic since the 1980's - the siblings' wines are now gaining the deserved attention that other celebrated domaines already enjoy. Stephen Tanzer, Neal Martin and William Kelley have in the last 2 years praised them mightily with scores and notes that take account of the wines' sleek beauty. A light touch defines them – with basket press and foot treading helping in this regard. Harmonious and round in 2018 yet beautifully balanced the overall effect is one of delicacy and effortlessness. Our tastings of the 2018 vintage put these wines at the very top. Clients should take advantage and buy them before the cat is properly out of the bag and they become the next Burgundy trading chips...There may still be time, people...

### **Savigny Les Beaune Aux Fournaux**

#### **GBP 279 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Claude's holding is in the upper part of the vineyard on limestone soil that encompasses villages and 1er Cru fruit and she is bottling the wine as a 'climat' in 2018. Limpid and concentrated and a nose that shows undergrowth along with redcurrant and other red berries. The palate is much more expressive - ultra-pure red fruits again, vibrant and tingling. Gorgeous blue fruit along with bright cherry and a sorbet like character. The fruit quality and definition is exceptional tiny berries with a great chalky line running through it. Elegance, finesse way above its level – it is genuinely irresistible – a brilliant starting point for the domaine in 2018.

### **Savigny Les Beaune 1er Cru Les Lavieres**

#### **GBP 379 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Lightish colour and 100% whole bunch from a plot with a high proportion of old vines - only 10% new oak. A truly beguiling nose that transcends the expectations of Savigny Les Beaune. Red fruits, soft strawberries, wild strawberries violets and rose petals circle as the glass is swirled – like last year a wow wine – yes for Savigny. Beautiful nose and the succulent impact on the palate is reminiscent of red berry sorbet such is the dynamism and tension. C'est tres jolie but so classy. Succulent cherries, ripe strawberries with a smattering of violets on the inner mouth. Lively and rich too with the requisite depth. Another brilliant showing – Lavieres is a total delight of a wine in 2018. Divine.

### **Pernand Vergelesses 1er Cru, Ile de Vergelesses**

#### **GBP 465 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Deeper in colour and 20% new oak. Claude and Francois's Ile de Vergelesses is a different wine altogether from the Lavieres, but just as affecting. An initially reticent nose gives way to compelling scents of hedgerow berries, wild strawberry, dark plum skins, sous bois and trace of licorice. Complex and strikingly pure. On the palate it's like watching a cracked egg slowly run – the perfect structure gradually giving way to a charming layered wine that gently flows out, incorporating all those interesting aspects of the nose. Impressive and harmonious with a serious edge – cool stony finish. Great length and a serious 20 year wine in the making.

### **Aloxe Corton 1er Cru, Les Valozieres**

#### **GBP 555 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

If ever there was vintage to try Aloxe Corton then its 2018. The warmer conditions accentuating an unexpectedly wonderful perfume on the Valozieres. This is full of sensual notes - the musk common in Grand Cru Corton – tantalizing roses, deep raspberry fruit, sous bois. Complex and really haunting for Aloxe Corton – nothing quite like it. Its success comes as less of a surprise when one considers the parcel of vines sits just under the plot for their thrilling Grand Cru Bressandes. The palate doesn't disappoint and is similarly expressive and compelling. This is one wine Claude and Francois destem to tame the tannins that can mark Aloxe Corton but in 2018 the structure and ripe silky fruit are in complete harmony. A rare cuvee and an insider's special in 2018.

### **Corton Marechaudes Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 495 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Limpid looking texture but still light and classical Pinot looking in the glass. The first of the Corton Grand Crus is unbelievably cute on the nose! Super bright and detailed and in its way just a little breath-taking. Classic Burgundy this could almost come from one of the great Vosne Romanee vineyards with its blend of haunting, expressive fragrances. Some chalk dust and clay perhaps a hint of iron or a trace of the sauvage that could bring Malconsorts to mind. Bursting cherries and berries like biting into the fresh berry with a ripe orange rind note. Silky impact, a step up in texture at Grand Cru level, with deep red raspberry fruit. So much poise and precision. A great Marechaudes in 2018 – the tannins completely integrated. Pure and extremely exciting.

### **Corton Bressandes Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 575 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Completely diverting nose! Spectacular and super-lovely with roses and creamy blue fruit that stops you in your tracks. No oak, just the most alluring nose imaginable – pronounced, generous the dancing fruit unfolding its charms. A blood orange note but primarily we are in the realm of the ethereal with the Bressandes in 2018. The rose petals of the nose are repeated on a wonderfully perfumed palate. Lively and tense providing palpable excitement – vivid, vibrant, sensual wine but refined too. The lovely, dancing fruit is there again but this is ultimately adult and complex with a fine mineral edge, super-fine tannins and an ongoing tension. Bressandes brims with a kind of joy in 2018 – hugely impressive, a great wine.

### **Corton Clos du Roi Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 695 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From a steep slope on white soil Claude calls this the 'Red Charlemagne'. Clos du Roi completes the brilliant line-up of reds. The hard, rocky subsoil pokes through into the wine with a chalky layer but there is an even more refined perfume here. Fine, 'aerien' nose of delicate rose petals, Indian ink more flowers and raspberry. This cuvee sees a little foot treading to get the ferment underway and this gentle lightness of touch informs the wine all the way. Bright, aromatic, and tantalising on the palate the red fruit has blinding tension. Claude remarks on the 'sweetness and tension' in fact. Great definition and structure but the lightness and floating quality with violets and roses on the inner mouth perfume set this apart. Great mineral core, this completes one of the great line-ups of the week. A captivating Clos du Roi.

### **Pernand Vergeless 1er Cru, Ile de Vergelesses Blanc**

#### **GBP 499 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

From a long-ish top to bottom slope with limestone and more clay as it descends. The first of a trio of brilliant whites. Ile de Vergelesses uses both a large Stockinger vessel and 4 year-old 600 litre demi-muids. Stony nose and excellent freshness this first white shos the 'belle surprise' quality of the vintage. Brilliant vibrancy. A touch of hay and oyster like a Chablis and chiselled citrus jostles with roast nut and cold stone on the nose and onto the palate. Very classy – seriously pulsating, dynamic white this seems even better than the 2017. It resonates with a mineral signature and terroir true to the domaine. Long, pulsating, memorable.

### **Corton Blanc Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 575 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

One third of the cuvee in Stockinger and no new oak, older 600 litre barrels again. The crème anglaise on the nose suggests old school white Burgundy – but there is superb control and refinement as we end the tasting with a flourish. Depth and power with some dried pineapple, pear and Italian lemon. Relatively low on the slope, some of the fruit from Bressandes producing a generous wine, and full depth. But the combination of crème patisserie notes is counterpointed by freshly chiselled stone and chalk dust minerality. Lemon and yellow plums on the palate. Tensile and pulsating – there is real zing to it. The only credible response in the circumstances for any white burgundy lover is a submissive Pavlovian slaving. Absorbing, saline and proper Grand Cru concentration. More than tres bon.

### **Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 695 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

Not tasted – undergoing racking at the time of our visit.

*'The 2017 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru is excellent, unfurling in the glass with notes of lime and lemon oil, crushed chalky, blanched almonds, dried white flowers and wet stones. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, deep and concentrated and a long, chalky finish.'* **93-95, William Kelley**

## Domaine Joseph Voillot, Volnay



Etienne Chaix in cool, calm, confident mode just like the wines

One of the highlights of our Burgundy trip was a great tasting with Jean-Pierre Charlot's nephew and chosen successor Etienne Chaix at the great Domaine Joseph Voillot. The wines were in their final stage just awaiting bottling and the 2018's are clearly stupendously good! Etienne is proving he can fill JP's rather large shoes quite seamlessly and was another grower who noted the need for quick decisions and action when it came to picking dates in 2018. JP has been referred to as *'the proverbial winemaker's winemaker'*, by Neal Martin and has shaped the domaine for over 20 years. The pair continue the pursuit of finesse and purity of fruit while seeking a clear terroir expressions. 2018 continues a superb run of vintages at this domaine with the Volnays among the very best you will find anywhere and some of the most exciting young Pommards we have ever tasted. The latter appellation has been praised enormously in 2018 by Jasper Morris. Voillot's wines, in particular, were lionised with the following quote from Neal Martin a year or two ago - they seem particularly apt considering the tremendous 2018 vintage here:

*'All hail Pommard! ... it was such a pleasure to be reminded of the greatness of Pommard.. These are wines... that represent proper Burgundy...in terms of terroir expression, charm, personality and ability to age over many years, this is a domaine despite everything that continues to produce outstanding and soulful wines'*

2018 was a welcome relief with normal yields after years characterised by unfortunate frosts and hail. The 2018 wines themselves are confident and stylish throughout the range. Each vineyard site does the talking but there is added generosity to the fruit and texture and a succulence and acidity at the core. In the winery there is little intervention and only 10% -20% new oak is utilised except for Caillerets (30%). No fining and only the lightest of filtrations lift the wines to sublime highs. Each cuvee feels like a masterclass – even the Bourgogne Rouge is worth fussing over. Caillerets and Champans in Volnay excel and mighty Pezerolles, Epenots and Rugiens in Pommard are practically Grand Cru quality at this address. Not forgetting the super Beaune Coucheries - a brand new cuvee for us, situated close to Greves and one you'll love dearly - a total delight! Rangy, expansive they retain a floating 'aerien' quality. Each wine saturates the palate with intense, focussed fruit yet the experience feels like a cool, gentle breeze. All hail JP and Etienne we say too - a brilliant range of wines in 2018.

### **Bourgogne Rouge**

#### **GBP 86 per case under bond (6 x75cl)**

Glossy looking medium colour. A touch of spice and pretty red coulis fruit a melange of berries with a hint of ink. The palate is has a nice entry of fresh, perfumed fruit - violet, strawberry, raspberry redcurrant the wine marries nice ripeness great crunchy fruit. Fresher and finer than a year like 2015 the 2018 continues this vintage's surprise for good freshness allied to a good body. A gentle tannic underlay promises good lifespan ahead. Great little Bourgogne - harmony, brightness and freshness.

### **Volnay Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 153 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Medium plus colour in 2018, the Volnay has a notable texture in the glass. A great nose – such lovely perfume roses and violets, a touch of wet clay. Brilliant nose. And a big step in texture on the palate - luxury feel and its only village Volnay! Red berries and blue toned fruits caress the palate. Elegant and open nice freshness there is gleaming fruit quality on the palate - bright cherry, raspberry – but the effect is like sun diamonds on a water surface – tremendous at this level. Perfumed, seductive and excellent balance an exemplary, seductive Volnay. Effortless and irresistible. Shortlist material.

### **Pommard Vieilles Vignes**

#### **GBP 169 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Medium colour like the Volnay and initially darker fruits and a touch of smoke – upon swirling a seductive nose of blue and purple fruit unfurls and some ripe strawberry. Excellent nose and a lovely soft entry on the palate. Supple, soft deep dark fruits and again luxury feel- it's hard to believe its only village Pommard. Equally impressive as the Volnay with some dried flower inner mouth perfume coming through and damp clay notes. Saturates the palate and quite thrilling at this level. Lingering finish of violet and stone – very satisfying, such finesse.

### **Beaune 1er Cru, Aux Coucheries**

#### **GBP 229 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

A new wine for us in 2018 Coucheries is situated in the middle of the appellation, high on the slope close Greves, facing south. A touch of strawberry again and some lovely pressed flower this seems opulent and expressive and indeed on the palate lovely soft coulis of fruit. Ultra-pretty, effortless and unforced – this is a terrific Beaune with red fruit dotted with some darker berries. Very nicely done – the gentle feel on these Voilot wines is commendable. Fullish body and round – but a penetrating length. Nice new cuvee to get excited about!

### **Volnay 1er Cru, Les Fremiets**

#### **GBP 257 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Deeper colour the Fremiets is wonderfully lifted in 2018 featuring wild strawberries along with riper fruits. Not quite ethereal but the style is prettier and some purple flowers make an appearance. Ripe on palate with blue fruits joining the coulis of raspberries. Lovely entry on the palate too, softer and riper in 2018. Generous with a light seam of adult tannin – brilliant tannins here small round ball bearings driving the wine. A more substantial Fremiets than usual but deftly handled. A smattering of petals and seductive bright red fruits resonate on the inner mouth. Excellent – very giving – this should be very popular with an assured chalk note on the end bring refreshment.

### **Volnay 1er Cru, Les Caillerets**

#### **GBP 265 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite deep less so than Champans. Nice texture in the glass. A different nose – cool, cool breeze to the fruit – red and blue tinged fruit, but purity is the key on Caillerets. A touch of white flower and cherry along with raspberry and a pronounced cool stone and chalky calcaire dimension. Supremely classy, the palate has a rapier like cut to it. Superior, mouth-watering stuff. Succulence again on tasting - red fruits cherry and wild strawberry but it's the chalky terroir and salinity that mesmerises. Medium weight but perfectly defined and superior length and an impeccable structure – tannins are not, by themselves, generally exciting but taste this and you'll agree! Top-notch wine.

### **Volnay 1er Cru, Les Champans**

#### **GBP 260 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From extremely old vines just below the domaine – this is accordingly and notably deeper in colour. Intense looking. Cooler, more vibrant and yet stonier nose with, if anything more excitement and interest. Touch of blood orange, soft red fruit with raspberry and some darker fruit. Excellent purity and an exciting mineral quality. Equally exciting on tasting, the chalky streak bringing a tension and succulent tactile quality – its focussed, tangy and tense – with the glorious tangy streak balanced by a velvet feeling texture. Aromatically striking on the inner mouth and the succulence and freshness makes for a memorable wine. A calcaire resonance on the long finish. A great Champans in 2018.

### **Pommard 1er Cru, Clos Micault**

#### **GBP 345 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From a more clay terroir there is a different quality wet Pomerol-y type soil and a touch of iron and stone. Intriguing and the transparency of terroir shows even at a young stage. Some wild strawberry and red fruits – almost Barolo like crushed red fruit quality. On the palate this bright red fruit concentrate is backed with a more solid tannin backbone and there is a grand, steelier note. Masses of fruit coverage though this looks very, very good and for a long life. Love the grain on the tannins - reassuring dimension as is the excellent freshness which balances the generosity of the fruit. Long and complex – a truly excellent Clos Micault.

### **Pommard 1er Cru, Les Epenots**

#### **GBP 357 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Slightly lighter in colour than the Volnay 1ers with youthful rim - textured. Nose slightly backward but gradually a twist of blue fruit and cream on the nose with some ripe red fruit. The nose does not quite prepare you for the sheer expansiveness of the palate – same as last year. Palate ripe and red fruit melange again with gorgeous blue fruits and florality. Terrific scale and fleshy heft but retains its shape and balance brilliantly. Morello cherry and smoky red fruit feature in a wine of great depth – ‘puissance’ the French might call this but the control is admirable with fine acidity and layered tannins suggesting an excellent future. Big but beautiful - possibly even special in a few years.

### **Pommard 1er Cru, Les Pezerolles**

#### **GBP 357 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From the Beaune side of the appellation the Pezerolles is a deeper, darker colour. A truly memorable nose with violets but even more beautiful rose petals, this is a divine Pommard. A haunting, memorable perfume. The palate like the nose is perfumed and has a chance to become a truly great bottle of Burgundy. Deep, confident with a splash of ink, blue flowers and high toned red and darker fruit. Assured and high perfect structure and the excitement factor allied to great tension and balance, as the glass is swirled. Toward the ethereal yet has vigour to match the purity it's a very complete wine. Masses of character, a brilliant Pezerolles that sneaks in some superb saline minerality on the finish. 2018 has given us a great Pezerolles. Simple as that.

### **Pommard 1er Cru, Les Rugiens**

#### **GBP 360 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Rugiens is limpid and concentrated but lighter in colour. The appearance is no match for the attractions of the nose, one of soaring lift. Pressed flowers, pot pourri, fresh flowers, high toned smoky black cherry fruit wrapped in a gentle creaminess. Deep, powerful and promising. A twist of orange peel and dark and red berries mingle on the palate. Phenomenal coverage on the palate – depth but a juicy admirable fresh quality to it. Has a great, buried structure for a couple of decades ageing and there is so much there. Brilliant sapidity and resonance but like all of Etienne's wines today the feel is so unforced. Noble, nothing in excess with a long glorious streak of salinity that frames it perfectly. Superior, soulful a great Rugiens approaching Grand Cru level.

## Domaine / Maison Henri Boillot, Meursault



*'Henri Boillot has a very special affection for this vineyard – he used to eat cherries there when visiting his Sauzet grandparents as a child. After 40 years of vinifying the Clos de la Mouchère he feels he is still learning each year. He vinifies the four blocks apart as they each have something different to offer, and then blends them. Gleaming mid yellow with a faint green reflection. The nose suggests immense concentration, as yet without detail. Some ripe spicy notes and as expected there is huge intensity on the palate. Tasted: November 2019' **93-97 points, 5 star rating** - Jasper Morris on **2018 Clos de la Mouchere***

The still sprightly Henri Boillot, hard though it is to believe, is in the process of handing the reins to his son Guillaume who will assume command of the range from the 2019 vintage. He already makes the reds but these tremendous 2018 whites will be Henri's last. Guillaume has a tall order in following the maestro but he has been serving a long apprenticeship so we shall see...

If indeed it is to be a valedictory vintage it's a stunning way for Henri to say goodbye. This should not be a surprise given his incredible track record. Arguably, Henri has been responsible for the greatest range of white wines in the entire Burgundy region in the last few years. 6 of the top 11 in 2015 and a staggering 4 out of the top 5 wines in 2016 - of the entire vintage - as reviewed by Allen Meadows, were made by Henri. This is some going. For good measure these reviews included Coche-Dury, Leflaive, Roulot, Ente etc. Last year his great monopole **Puligny Montrachet Clos de la Mouchere**, was described by **Jasper Morris** in glowing terms, in the full quote above as a perfect, complete wine. So, he continues with 2018... this undoubtedly will gain similar plaudits. A wine positively shimmering with minerals and displays the customary magnificence, allied to a virtually perfect balance. It is simply a must buy in the vintage.

The remainder of Henri's comprehensive range are certainly amongst the memorable we tasted in the vintage. Simply pure class across the portfolio. He has harnessed the vintage to sensational effect. Picking from 26<sup>th</sup> August and now using a Champagne press - which he believes to impart around 0.5% more acidity in the final wine - we found excitement at all levels. Guillaume too, was on form with the reds. Perfecting his integral fermentations in barrel there is a touch more of a warm embrace, less clinical, feel to the wines. Another delightful, wild strawberry infused Volnay Les Chevrete this year to match the ever-wonderful Caillerets.

With the whites, it begins as it ends – brilliantly. A crystalline Bourgogne Blanc, through an exhilarating range of Meursault and Puligny 1er Crus before the mighty Grand Crus. The mighty Montrachet is joined by an outstanding Corton Charlemagne and an 'ultra-poised' Batard Montrachet of uncanny presence. It is a stunning line up of great white burgundy with so many highlights. Delicious, silky Genevrières and also from Meursault Les Perrières, a brilliant, incisive wine plus the supremely precise Puligny Pucelles. Henri's use of larger oak, his practice of retaining carbonic gas 'en cuve' and those years of experience have produced a magnificent swansong. The 2018's have more mid palate silkiness and depth than 2017 yet show the same dazzling presence throughout.

### **Bourgogne Blanc**

#### **GBP 190 per case under bond (12 x75cl)**

Beautifully expressive Bourgogne blanc and not a trace of new oak. It should be good as the fruit could be classed as village level and is a delightful blend of St Aubin, Puligny, Auxey Duresses and Meursault. Italian lemons and zest on the nose with orange and orange oil notes and toasted nut. Super clean, the expressive, ripe citrus flows directly onto the palate. An excellent fleshy core – great body on this wine - and this transcends Bourgogne Blanc level. So much presence with the familiar crystalline mineral aspect from Boillot. Superb – it's a Bourgogne to absolutely fall in love with.

### **Meursault 1er Cru, Les Poruzots**

#### **GBP 749 per case under bond (12 x75cl)**

Medium plus yellow with youthful green glints followed by the most classical but pure Meursault nose one could wish for! A touch of cream with toasted nut and lovely green but notes then the key high toned Boillot style kicks into overdrive with incisive grapefruit, lemon citrus and a touch of orange oil. These same citrus characters on the palate. With a dash of cream this is really lovely – showing great poise. This is fine and delicate with a mineral flourish – an absolute marker for Boillot in the vintage. Cracking Poruzots.

### **Meursault 1er Cru, Les Genevrières**

#### **GBP 1049 per case under bond (12 x75cl)**

Medium plus lemon yellow with nice texture to it, glass coating. Chalky burst on the nose with pure lemon and touch of white flower and nut kernel. Super fleshy texture on palate and a touch of runny honey with lots of bright orange and lemon citrus. Great impact and the texture and feel is excellent – could be Grand Cru level – such depth. Lovely clean zing on the end with the riper citrus aspects matched by zest and great mineral zip on the end. Totally absorbing Genevrières – and deceptive length.

### **Meursault 1er Cru, Les Perrières**

#### **GBP 1195 per case under bond (12 x75cl)**

Quite deep colour more so than Genevrières, again quite limpid in glass. Straightaway stony on the nose, palpably so – classic Boillot Perrières. Bright fruit – gleaming almost – with lovely lemon and fine grapefruit notes plus orange and tangerine in the mix and orange oils. Deft use of oak and a blast of mineral. Racy, lovely crystalline minerality on the vibrant palate – a lovely and very long, unforced feel – superb balanced acid and oak. Great texture again with a weightless feel and lingering salinity that builds the energy. Great length and very complete wine. Memorable.

### **Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru, Clos de la Mouchère**

#### **GBP 495 per case under bond (6 x75cl)**

Even more of a Grand Cru in 1er Cru clothing. Tasted after Pucelles showing a similar colour with youthful green glints it has a beautiful bright and super-fresh lemon nose. Fuller, more expressive with a touch of spice, grilled nut and white flowers. Powerful yet harmonious impact on the palate with lemon and light orange saturating the tastebuds this is a totally convincing wine. Mouchère has just a perfect weight and is balanced on a tightrope – superb – perfect balance and great tension, with a toasted nut element. Very long and mineral crystals come through the more it aerates. Great looking Mouchère. A complete wine of huge promise - Grand Vin!

### **Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru, Les Pucelles**

#### **GBP 1049 per case under bond (12 x75cl)**

Slightly lighter lemon, yellow colour with green glints. A touch of flint followed by green citrus. Classic Pucelles, stricter but delightful too with a dusting of green nut. Full array of citrus with lovely lemon and grapefruit touch of lemon sorbet. Direct and taut on the palate this is classic with a laser etched shape and brilliant precise fruit – sorbet, sherbet lemon and zest has supreme tension but shows considerable refinement. Excellent – feels just about perfect and suits the vintage remaining true to itself. A chalky, saline end with a reprise of green nut. A super palate staining Pucelles – brilliant in 2018.

### Corton Charlemagne, Grand Cru

#### GBP 795 per case under bond (6 x75cl)

Bright medium lemon - perhaps lighter more youthful colour than the 1er Crus. Green citrus and rind with some gunflint and cream to go with citrus notes - a touch of smoke. Beautiful weight again – or weightlessness rather - with a trace of phenolic presence in its exceptional youthful palate. The restraint and refinement is exceptional. Some chalk and broken stones and the wine itself epitomises a perfectly chiselled sculpture. The precision is notable and under the citrus melody there is an incipient core growing mid-palate with perhaps a white fruit aspect. So pure and focussed with again a building crescendo of minerals. Just a great Corton Charlemagne.

### Batard Montrachet, Grand Cru

#### GBP 2275 per case under bond (6 x75cl)

Bright lemon colour. Hint of smoke and trace of runny honey or butter a lovely lime flower note and a touch of creamed nut. Poise. Fairly sensational even for Boillot. For Batard he always exerts supreme control. No surprise this extends to the palate, it is a thoroughbred of a wine that lesser winemaking mortals can't quite match. Like its beautiful nose the palate shows a wine of extreme purity and excitement. Like a bronze statue in different light it ripples subtly but the poise and beauty are what you remember. More flesh at its core and this will expand in time but a brilliantly judged Batard. Long. Grand Vin!

### Montrachet, Grand Cru

#### GBP 695 per bottle under bond (1 x75cl)

Not tasted.

*'Wonderfully delicate and discreet on the nose, hinting at lemon drop and minerals; Boillot says he's normally the first to harvest in Montrachet and this wine certainly conveys an early-picked aspect. Pure and silky on the palate and thicker than the Chevalier-Montrachet, but with terrific inner-mouth cut. Displays impeccable balance on the very suave, slowly rising finish. Can a wine be both understated and explosive?...'* **95-98, Stephen Tanzer**

### Volnay 1er Cru, Les Chevrets

#### GBP 750 per case under bond (12 x75cl)

The vines here are quite old at between 40 to 60 years. More lift than the Volnay villages in 2018 with sweet strawberry and notes of wild strawberry – rich, positive and expressive nose. The palate too has a bright expressive fruit some wild strawberry and red fruits of the nose with a great chalky aspect. The acidity is super on this and balances the rich fruit and the wine's textured mouthfeel. Bright, round and very impressive, a perfect place to start with Volnay in the vintage and sample Guillaume's recent moves to integral fermentation in barrel. It shows fine tannins without remontage or pigeage. Excellent Chevrets.

### Volnay 1er Cru, Les Caillerets

#### GBP 410 per case under bond (6 x75cl)

Guillaume second vintage of Caillerets that goes straight into a 35 month dried new barrique. This is the top Volnay site for the Boillots so how is it? Warm, inviting, ripe with a gentle spice note but no apparent oaky notes. Rich and dark raspberry fruit on this with a touch of chalk and stone. The palate too has an enveloping quality and the dark red fruit component softly coats the mouth – round and generous feel – it is sumptuous stuff and has more weight and soul with this new technique. While young it is already harmonious with a light minerality that gradually builds. This crescendo of salinity adds even more interest to the raspberry and sweet/sour cherry fruit that give Caillerets its delicious character. And very long finish. Chapeau!

### Clos Vougeot

#### GBP 795 per case under bond (6 x75cl)

Quite deep colour this appears very youthful and last year's open flamboyance is replaced in 2018 with a classic age-worthy Clos Vougeot in its dense, tighter nose. It's not a brooding monster but is denser and inkier this year with some powerful blue and black fruit, the classic notes of the appellation. Just below lie more tantalising hints of the exotic. On the palate this wine is clearly going to be a long-distance runner. Not too showy for now the wine shows considerable power but also has charm and 'rondeur' to it. Impressive – while it will be a wine that

will require time for its structure and oak to meld further it certainly has great fruit to match its journey. A nice mineral dimension accompanies the blue and blackberry and damson fruit. It is one for the cellar and we'd advise checking its progress in 8 years or so to see where the incipient complexity takes you.

## Domaine Michelot, Meursault



*"I really don't understand why Domaine Michelot are not as well-known as us [Coche-Dury] All their wines are extremely good and should really be better known."* [Raphaël Coche](#)

The quote above from Raphaël Coche of the legendary Domaine Coche Dury is high praise indeed - and it may be out of date, as things are changing very quickly here. The acclaim is now suddenly coming in from other quarters. Demand from the far east has gone through the roof for this this excellent domaine, perhaps as a consequence. The hard to impress Stephen Tanzer visited recently and loved the 2017's. Allen Meadows who last visited in 2011 described the top wines as *'Outstanding'* but he really should return to see the impressive progress made since then. The wines have tension, feel and a superb minerality. Jean-Francois Mestre with ever more input from son Nicolas Mestre produce an uncommonly good range.

Nicolas was in great form when we visited very pleased with the 2018 vintage which like 2017 produced impeccable quality fruit and had a similar early start to picking on 26<sup>th</sup> August. The wines are extremely fine, pure and mineral-driven in style in 2018 and the new oak continues to be dialled down. But they retain excellent matiere and pleasure found in the very best wines of the village.

They show similar traits to the Coche style with the whiff of struck flint in the wines. That's to be expected given the minimal racking and a reductive approach to handling. A 'fresh is best' ethos holds true in these gorgeous un-fined and un-filtered wines. There is also something comforting about seeing 500 litre barrels in the cellar and a precise, delicate touch is evident in handling this great, mutable white grape. Recent tweaks such as the use of 'eggs' and now also a portion from demi-jeanne have helped propel this 6<sup>th</sup> generation winery to the very front rank. Superb balance and delightfully tense, vivacious wines. We add an excellent Santenay Gravieres this year. Dive in with Domaine Michelot - it is worthy of all the recent acclaim.

### **Bourgogne Blanc**

#### **GBP 75 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Light lemon colour and a very pretty nose with white flowers and bright lemon and orange – very pretty. For white Burgundy at this level it has some elan. The palate is fresh, nicely edged but actually quite full and round with a touch of spice. Just a trace of mineral running through it and the orange and lemon fruit resonate nicely. Really good Bourgogne - a splendid opening gambit and a bit of a steal.

### **Meursault**

#### **GBP 157 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

The Michelot Meursault is a modern styled classic expression of this great village an includes the excellent lieu dits Limozin and Casses Tetes. Mid lemon colour. Touch of chalk and bright citrus with citrus rind too – real zestiness on the nose and great focus. Lovely entry on palate – quite generous and round feel but with a superb line to it. Orange, lemon and grapefruit make for a nice array of fruit. Touch of nutty oak or pistachio in these early days but has brilliant, zesty star-bright quality. Excellent length and terrific energy. Fine Meursault.

### Meursault Les Grands Charrons

#### GBP 180 per case under bond (6x75cl)

Grands Charrons is a great lieu dit Meursault for Michelot. A divine nose of lime, citrus, cream and a twist of runny butter there is something quintessentially Meursault about the nose – but with higher, refined presence. Very classy on entry smooth but purposeful and fine linear aspect – an oh so engaging vanilla bean element is present but it is subtle and deeply attractive not intrusive. Not an ounce of fat on it but plenty of core with a palpable saline element – a twist of sea salt adds an extra tangy dimension. Has the long lingering presence of a superior climat .

### Meursault Narvaux

#### GBP 189 per case under bond (6x75cl)

300 metres above the 1er Cru belt Narvaux is a dynamic wine and is a favourite climat of winemakers. Can see why – a glorious nose here, lemon and lemon zest, orange, grapefruit, and a lick of cream but so lightly done. Great palate weight on entry with a touch of nut and brilliantly incisive and intense. Goes beyond the harmonious citrus array and takes on a cool crystalline mineral aspect to match the bright lemon fruit and orange oil. Great verve. Intensely resonant. Nice balance and this is a very good Narvaux for the shortlist. Finishes with a compelling mineral resonance and length.

### Santenay 1er Cru Gravieres

#### GBP 160 per case under bond (6x75cl)

The Santenay Gravieres really works in 2018 and it is new to our offering. A totally different fruit profile with some white flowers, apple and some orchard and white fruit with excellent citrus backing. There is also a moreish note of clear honey but fundamentally a great zestiness characterises the nose. A superb line on the palate with the light honey backing notions of baked apple and pie crust. Excellent freshness holding it together and this is really worth getting behind in 2018. This different appellation makes for an interesting counterpoint to the other Michelot wines but retains the vibrancy and zesty domaine signature. Brilliant stuff.

### Meursault 1er Cru, Les Charmes

#### GBP 280 per case under bond (6x75cl)

The parcel is near the limit of Puligny and quite close to Perrieres. Cool crystalline tautness accordingly. Expressive mineral components with chalk along ripe grapefruit, Italian lemon and orange. Chalk dust minerality informs a seamless textured palate on entry on the nose - great impact. Still backward but lots of promise – brilliant buzzing salty minerality has to be tasted to be believed but the overall word is ‘succulence’. This applies to the focussed fruit and the tension of the wine grows along with the chalk and crystal aspects. Dynamism in a glass and fine length too – this is a great and very complete Charmes. Highly recommended.

### Meursault 1er Cru, Les Genevrieries

#### GBP 296 per case under bond (6x75cl)

Bright appearance and slightly deeper colour. A touch of beeswax and a rounder more classic Meursault with creamed nut and a touch of orange and some melted butter. Great impact on palate – fuller and full of bright lemon fruit. More palate weight – there is Grand Cru power to this and a lovely complexity with some white flower inner mouth perfume to complement the ripe citrus. Not as streamlined as Charmes the palate nevertheless has a decidedly limestone kick and complexity. The nut and cream bring a greater richness on the palate but there is an excellent throbbing salinity running in tandem. Really quite long – the tension builds inexorably. Quintessential, top-class, Meursault.

### Meursault 1er Cru, Les Perrieres

#### GBP 329 per case under bond (6x75cl)

Limpid and youthful mid lemon colour. More pronounced and very complete nose – expressive, almost explosive. There is a touch of toffee or toffee apple almost similar to a Batard Montrachet – then a blast of chalk. Grapefruit and lemon lead a spectrum of citrus. One can sense a tactile quality that hits on the first sip with a slightly youthful phenolic tension. Fuller than Genevrieries with cream, toffee apple and crystalline highlights yet its tensile elements match the wine’s generosity. The palate is not exotic but transcends citrus fruit with

some orange blossom inner mouth. Completely mouth-watering and still nascent this needs time but the way the chalk and mineral crystals leach out of the solution magically suggest this will be a great wine in 6 or 7 years. Perrieres from Michelot would be a worthy Grand Cru.

## Domaine Jean Chartron, Puligny Montrachet



*I'm a big fan of the work that Jean-Michel Chartron is doing ...I find his wines to be complex, terroir/vintage expressive... riveting white Burgundy...good as you will find anywhere... up there with the greats like Comtes-Lafon, Leflaive and so on.' Neal Martin*

This domaine has seen the most incredible rise in quality in recent times, rediscovering its status as genuine Puligny royalty, producing some of the finest white wines in Burgundy. The hierarchy of growers in the Cote de Beaune has been overturned somewhat by the work now undertaken by Jean-Michel Chartron and his sister Anne-Laure at this historic estate. The wines are absolutely riveting these days, so much so that Neal Martin was moved to write that the Clos des Chevaliers was **'so good that it almost leaves you weeping with joy'** a couple of years back. Steen Ohman too in his guise as Winehog has showered tremendous praise and Jasper Morris has newly visited. We await his thoughts keenly... The range is exhilarating with a dynamic range of very affordable whites topping out with some truly brilliant climats at the higher end. After the ruthless 'black frost' of 2016 took out 60% of their total production 2017 and 2018 has seen a return to healthier quantities and even greater wines.

The grand renaissance here was already in evidence before we started visiting to taste 2014 but the last two vintages 2017 and 2018 surely represents 'twin peaks' of the new era to date. The producer is king (and queen) in Burgundy and the hard work that has produced dazzling results. This work is properly amplified by the family's ownership of some truly fantastic plots and ancient 'clos'. They are particularly blessed within Puligny Montrachet, however, the other wines are quite beautiful too and there are some great examples from Pernand, Santenay Chassagne and Corton Charlemagne

Picking in late August, Jean-Michel continues to notch down the oak to a subtle background effect only utilising 500 litre barriques these days. His 2018's are an exemplary range that put a huge smile on our faces as the first set of white Burgundies we tried in the vintage. It was our first example of the 'Belle Surprise' among whites in 2018. Jean-Michel already had a smile on his face - we know why now! They combine thrilling saline signatures with generous, silky textures, tension and resonance. The only downer the removal of lieu-dit label names, forced upon the domaine and others by the INAO, on some of the lesser village wines. Dommage. Other than more prosaic nomenclature, however, there is no stopping this thriving domaine.

### Santenay

#### **GBP 119 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Quite deep colour – mid lemon – and quite obviously textured as the glass is swirled. Nice open nose with some pear and Mirabelle plum making an attractive appearance and a stony undertow centring things. The palate features all these elements in harmony with the brilliant, fleshy texture suggested by the appearance and a nice

citrus aspect to brighten the yellow and orchard fruits further. Excellent and truly excellent length. The Santenays certainly on evidence and also at Michelot appear to have excelled in 2018. Excellent.

### **Pernand Vergelesses**

#### **GBP 128 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Pale straw in colour with green glints – also good texture. Also, nicely expressive with an immediate mineral note – a distinctive cold stone impression from the Belles Filles climat. Lovely tangerine fruit with lemons. Elegant on the palate, drier and less fleshy but still lovely mouthfeel. The attractive fresh citrus – trace of lemon but more giving orange and that superb stony terroir from Pernand to the fore. Poise, minerality and genuine interest. Exemplary Pernand that punches above its weight ending with nice long zing.

### **Puligny Montrachet**

#### **GBP 183 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From a single lieu dit, Les Levrans, this superior village Puligny sees around 20% new oak and it is a terrific wine. Textbook Puligny chiselled, cool, poised. Extremely fine and sculpted with mouth-watering lemon on entry and light touch of orange and ripe grapefruit. These feature on nose and palate and there is restraint and elegance that go hand in hand with a dynamic, fresh fruit profile. Succulent and underlying salinity. Pure, streamlined Puligny with eye opening salty minerals - this is the sort of wine that could only be made in Burgundy... whatever the pretenders might think. Shortlist.

### **Chassagne Montrachet**

#### **GBP 185 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

From the completely underrated site Les Benoites this is always one of the Chartron hidden gems and another triumph in 2018. Really characterful wine with a pronounced nose of green fruits lemon and grapefruit and a moreish pistachio nut quality. Quite complex for villages and this is fuller than the Puligny but with excellent mineral cut and freshness to go along with superior depth. Terrific ripe lemon fruit propels the palate and hints of future expansiveness with time. Excellent minerality, open attractive long and vibrant this is seriously recommended. Clearly an exceptional Chassagne.

### **Puligny Montrachet, 1er Cru Clos de la Pucelle**

#### **GBP 315 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Green edged colour and very limpid look at this nascent stage. Tight and coiled on the nose with cool hints of pebble and chalk allied to citrus zest, green fruit then some lemon orange notes. If nose is currently tense the palate is more impressive and with promise of more to come. Vibrant entry but generous middle with lemon, grapefruit and orange allied to a rippling texture. There is currently a phenolic quality and this has will uncoil further with time. The oak is already integrated and we have a potential wow wine marked by tremendous focus and elegance. Energetic with remarkable crystalline minerality. Gourmand but refined this monopole 'Clos' is outstanding in 2018.

### **Puligny Montrachet, 1er Cru Clos du Cailleret**

#### **GBP 325 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

The other great 1er Cru Clos has, as always, a slightly broader nose than the Pucelle but also shows a great stony element. Trace of generosity with hypnotic white flowers ripe grapefruit, lemon and gentle scent of orange blossom. Beautiful poise and harmony. Fantastic entry on the palate with limeflower, brilliant Italian lemon all framed by a distinct saline outline. This expands in the mouth and is hugely impressive but not an ounce of fat. Hugely impressive with superb tension and a greater core with a touch of the phenolic evident like the Pucelles. Texture and tension to burn. Special – makes the hairs stand up – excitement and wow factor. Will be glorious.

### **Corton Charlemagne, Grand Cru**

#### **GBP 659 per case under bond (6x75cl)**

Concentrated and limpid. Closed on the nose and Jean-Michel says we are in a colder part of the cellar. A whiff of smoke or flint and some cream, caramel and white flowers emerge with aeration. As with last year, the palate surpasses the nose with some tare au citron joined by white fruit and a bright array of citrus. The wine though

has a marvellous lively energy and real cut. A rippling mineral display with crystals glistening – truly exciting. Superb acidity and verve matched by Grand Cru depth and fruit weight. Uncanny vivacity a brilliant Corton Charlemagne layered and exquisite tension. Top notch, no question.

### **Batard Montrachet, Grand Cru**

**GBP 1129 per case under bond (6x75cl) \*on allocation\***

Jean-Michel's smile widened at this point in the tasting and he uttered a humorous remark about it being a proper 'Batard' – by which he meant not a fat one! Brilliant wine in 2018 with exceptionally chiselled and fresh fruit. For now, it is more like Chevalier in its control and focus on the nose although has a wonderful expressive element taking in bright lemon and grapefruit with a touch of toasted almond. On the palate the power and punch comes with considerable force but the same impeccable control - one can see why JM is proud of this. Brilliant concentration and verve the dazzling lemon fruit is resounding. It is lively but giving. Giving and exceptionally youthful this has Grand Vin written all over it.

### **Chevalier Montrachet Clos des Chevaliers, Grand Cru**

**GBP 765 per case under bond (3x75cl) \*on allocation \***

From a partially walled site within Chevalier Montrachet the Clos des Chevaliers now routinely produces magnificent and collectible wine. Slightly cloudy backward sample – extremely limpid and concentrated. Restrained and classy it gradually reveals wafting quartz dust and crystallised minerals with fine green and lemon fruit perhaps some citrus zest. Still closed and un-expressive in raw youth, the palate shows ultra-controlled, chiselled focus with latent excitement. There is an uncoiled lively wine waiting to emerge. Honed, precise with an undeniably silky texture that promises an expansive future. Very, very long with mineral crystals forming on the tongue. Luxury in the making - pure and way beyond the realm of its fine lemon fruit. Magnificent saline resonance. Extra special.

### **Montrachet, Grand Cru**

**GBP 525 per bottle under bond (1x75cl) \*on allocation \***

Not tasted.

## Domaine Marc Morey, Chassagne Montrachet



Sabine Mollard of Domaine Marc Morey was in the same sort of happily insouciant form as last year when we caught up with her. And the 2018 wines similarly resemble her glittering collection from 2017. If last year represented a breakthrough then 2018 consolidates things... and more. Her range of 2018 wines is hugely promising and the confidence she shows is transmitted to her wines – or perhaps it is vice versa. Increasingly good wines though! We had been told as much by none other than Anne-France Ramonet who considers Sabines' wines to be on an equal footing with her own family's iconic range. 2018 also continued to make up the shortfall suffered in quantity during the 2010's where entire vineyards like Vergers and Chenevottes were lost due to frost and other accursed climactic hazards with Batard grubbed up completely for replanting.

Sabine is a winner of the regional prize "Trophie Jeunes Talents" in Burgundy. That talent is clearly evident when the likes of the Ramonets treat her as an equal. She shares a similar outlook to other young stars yet also has a foot in the camp of old heads such as Henri Boillot. There is no overarching dogmatism to Sabine's year by year philosophy - a 'lutte raisonnee' approach largely prevails. She picks early but not too early, sharing a similar philosophy to Jean-Marc Roulot in that respect. It clearly works. We loved her range of Chassagne Montrachets in 2018 - the wines are fragrant and stylish, showing a subtle mineral-salt edged elan. Vital and resonant across the range, we are delighted to offer her best 1er Crus: Vergers, Caillerets and Virondot and for the first time to lay our hands on the brilliant Puligny Pucelles.

### Bourgogne Blanc

#### **GBP 170 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

From Chassagne and a portion of Hautes Cotes de Beaune initially riper than Boillot in style. Bright orange and white fruit underpinned by fresh citrus touch of grassiness or green herb. The palate too has some orchard fruit but then an amazing vibrancy and zest kicks in with lemon and fresh citrus coming to dominate. Gives the sense of having been picked at different times with a live wire zip running through it. Lively, continuing to a nice tapered end. Touch of Chassagne nut and chalk on the end perhaps. Terrific value.

### Chassagne Montrachet

#### **GBP 375 per case under bond (12x75cl)**

From Les Lombardes, Pierres and Banchots Dessous (next to Criots.) Light lemon colour and limpid looking. A touch of spontaneous fermentation to it before a lick of cream and composed fruit. Some yellow flowers perhaps and a little orchard fruit with ripe citrus. The palate is fresh and zesty a touch of stone fruit in addition to orange and lemon with some 'gras'. A crystalline aspect on the palate and the chalky terroir of the village begins to come through. Chiselled, high quality, Chassagne.

### St Aubin 1er Cru, Charmois

#### GBP 300 per case under bond (12x75cl)

Quite light colour – youthful green edges. Green meadow notes too before a cool mineral and stone. Quite refined with green fruits. More reserved and more mineral than the Chassagne then on the palate a surprising generosity. Soft entry and there is some phenolic depth and tension to it. Attractive lemon and grapefruit on the palate with a lovely generosity in the mid palate. The salinity that is a hallmark of the estate gets an airing on this wine showing nice reverberance on the end. Another very good value.

### Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru, Les Vergers

#### GBP 499 per case under bond (12x75cl)

A similar fummy reductive aspect hiding proceedings but more interest below and more minerality as always on Vergers. Reticent but the familiar chalk dust to accompany a delightful fresh lemon centred fruit. Exceptionally bright, poised coherent entry this is a big step up with lemon and orange zest laying the foundations on the palate. Fleshy, deep and beautifully controlled this looks supremely promising. Vibrant, tantalising even, but very complete and great balance - a certain joy to this - excellent length. Vergers works brilliantly in 2018.

### Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru, En Virondot

#### GBP 525 per case under bond (12x75cl)

A favourite 1er Cru of the domaine and ours too, from an elevated site above Caillerets. Limpid, bright appearance. An absolutely lovely nose bursting with lemon and ripe green tinged fruits. Pure with a touch on vanilla bean from elevage but this is seductive and perfectly focussed. Cool palate entry - dynamism allied to poise. Gorgeous citrus brightness re-appears but on an elegant, harmonious palate. Grapefruit, lemon, lemon rind that pulses. One is left positively salivating – a joyous but controlled salinity and zesty end. Very long. Tactile and lovely structure. More dramatic and arguably the finest wine produced at this address.

### Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru, En Cailleret

#### GBP 530 per case under bond (12x75cl)

Limpid looking pale lemon colour. A touch of cream although this is quickly usurped by the freshly hewn blocks of chalky terroir that propel the nose. Even a trace of Coche-like chipped flint! Lovely depth and weight on the palate and of course Cailleret is a terrific 1er Cru with a brilliant precision. Fleshy yet vibrant with sleek lines. The super-clean orange and lemon fruit sings and class of both the winemaking and the terroir is evident. Tactile and then a building saline, mineral dimension that gradually, inexorably mounts. Super and will clearly fill its frame further with time. Another superior wine from Sabine.

### Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru, Pucelles

#### GBP 725 per case under bond (12x75cl)

Limpid, textured looking and again a pale lemon colour. Looks promising. A little reductive for now and hiding its charms but a touch of lime and lime flower with some vanilla bean from the barrique sample emerges. A much more impressive wine on the palate which displays real power and a phenolic youth that will become something special in time. Great tensile wine if less transparent today than the Chassagne 1er Crus but a special wine resides in here and it has a rather phenomenal mineral component that builds and builds. The pronounced and transparent mineral crescendo on this delivers the excitement – hugely promising.

## Contact

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Or call us at the office on + 44 (0) 1273 666 375.

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On arrival your wines can either be delivered directly to you or stored under bond at our warehouse Vine International, at a cost of GBP 10.50 exc. VAT per 12 bottle case and GBP 7.20 per 6 bottle case per annum.

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