



en primeur &
pre-release

L'AVENTURE**L'AVENTURE**

California

Stephan Asseo, owner and winemaker at L'Aventure Winery, began making wine in 1982, following his education at L'Ecole Oenologique de Macon, Burgundy, France. In that same year, Stephan established Domaine de Courteillac in Bordeaux. He and his family later purchased Chateau Fleur Cardinal and Chateau Robin in the Cotes de Castillon, Bordeaux. Over the next 15 years, Stephan developed into an artisan winemaker of fastidious craftsmanship and gained a reputation as a maverick vigneron. However, his true desire was to be more innovative than AOC law would allow. In 1996, this led him on a quest for a great terroir, where he could pursue his ideal as a winemaker. After searching for over a year among the world's great wine fields, ranging from South Africa to Lebanon, Argentina to Napa, Stephan found Paso Robles. Stephan immediately "fell in love" with the unique terroir of west side Paso Robles. The rolling topography of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, the deep calcareous soils, and the maritime influences of the renowned Templeton Gap all combine to produce a world class wine country, with the potential to craft some of the world's greatest blends. It is here, in Paso Robles, that Stephan began his adventure, "L'Aventure".

The spirit of L'Aventure is most evident in Stephan's "Paso Blends", such as Optimus and Estate Cuvée. Both wines are Syrah/ Cabernet Sauvignon/ Petit Verdot blends. In these wines, as well as in our Rhône blend Côte à Côte, the blending of premium varietals increases the authenticity, complexity, and balance of the wines. In this adventurous spirit, we find the future of Paso Robles wines... great, balanced red blends.

L'AVENTURE 'Cote a Cote' 2016 CASEx6 Bottles - Central Coast - PRE RELEASE

California

£465.00

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 94

Drink Date: 2020 - 2030

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

The 2016 Cote a Cote from L'Aventure offers up aromas of black cherries, clove, anise and dark chocolate. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, rich and expansive, with a broad attack, a sweet, rounded mid-palate and a firm, chewy finish that shows a bit of stem tannin. There's a nice juiciness and purity to this large-scaled, powerful effort that's a blend of 55% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre and 20% Syrah.

L'AVENTURE 'Optimus' 2016 CASEx6 Bottles - Central Coast, San Luis - PRE-RELEASE

California

£275.00

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 92

Drink Date: 2020 - 2030

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

A blend of 50% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petit Verdot that checks in at 15.4% alcohol, the 2016 Optimus reveals a lavish bouquet of crunchy berries, anise and creamy new oak. On the palate, it's full-bodied, spicy and richly tannic, with generous, oak-influenced flavors and a crunchy core of fruit. The finish is long and youthfully chewy. Bottled barely one month before I tasted it, this is already quite expressive and should begin to drink well after just a few years. The Optimus is Asseo's longest-running cuvée, realizing an ambition to blend Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon he nurtured in his native Bordeaux.

RIDGE**RIDGE**

California

Ridge Vineyards makes wines that compete in terms of quality and desirability with Bordeaux First Growths and Grand Cru White Burgundies. Winemaker Paul Draper has crafted 43 vintages at Ridge and his practical, hands-off approach to winemaking has resulted in an exceptional and highly sought-after range of wines.

Although a vineyard was first planted near the top of Monte Bello Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1885, it lay abandoned until four Stanford Research Institute engineers bought it in 1959. Ridge Vineyards was formed in 1962 and Paul Draper was appointed as winemaker in 1969. After stunning the world by their triumph in the 1976 Judgement of Paris tasting, Ridge Vineyards shot to fame and gained cult status almost overnight. Since then, Ridge has concentrated on producing fine Bordeaux blends and Chardonnays from Monte Bello's exalted terroir as well as renowned Zinfandels from the Lytton Springs and Geyserville vineyards in Sonoma County.

Ridge's ethos is simple: 100% dedication in the vineyards to grow the most concentrated and flavoursome grapes followed by 100% dedication in the winery with minimum intervention to draw all the fruit's natural richness into the wine.

Paul Draper has studiously dedicated himself to employing traditional Old World methods in the creation of his wines, resulting in silky smooth reds with fine tannins and glorious fruit. The wines are racked and fined but remain unfiltered so as not to lose any character before being matured in new American oak barrels.

Ridge Monte Bello, once pure Cabernet, has been a Cabernet-dominated blend since 1975 with varying quantities, depending on the vintage, of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc to add complexity to the final wine. The Monte Bello Chardonnay, arguably California's most respected white wine, is elegantly structured and rivals the finest White Burgundy Grand Crus.

Since 1972 Ridge has also specialised in top-quality Zinfandel blends from the Lytton Springs and Geyserville vineyards in Sonoma County and in 1979 the Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet blend joined the range to offer a softer, earlier drinking companion to the famed Monte Bello.

RIDGE 'Geyserville' 2016 CASEx12 Bottles - North Coast, Sonoma County PRE-RELEASE

California

£425.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 95 points

Drink Date: 2020 - 2033

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

The 2016 Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine is a real success this year, bursting from the glass with an exuberant bouquet of sweet cherries, blackberries and plums, with subtle hints of the licorice and spice to come with age, and a subtle framing of sweet new oak. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and layered, with a lovely core of ripe, succulent fruit and beautifully fine-grained structuring tannins. The finish is long and pure. There are 23 different grape varieties co-planted in the Geyserville vineyard, but in 2016, Zinfandel dominates at 73%, followed by 17% Carignane, 7% Petite Sirah and 3% Alicante Bouschet.

This was a great set of recent releases from Ridge, with the superb 2016 Geyserville standing out as a particular highlight. I've also included a few notes on barrel samples tasted at the Monte Bello winery. For my notes on the winery's flagship Bordeaux blend, Monte Bello, readers are directed to my extensive feature on that wine, also published in this issue. Ridge boasts as illustrious a history as any winery in California, but they certainly aren't resting on their laurels. Indeed, a persuasive case could be made that Ridge is currently producing the best wines they've ever made.

RIDGE**RIDGE 'Lytton Springs' 2016 CASE x 12 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE**

California

£395.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 92+ points

Drink Date: 2020 - 2035

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

The 2016 Lytton Springs is also excellent, offering up aromas of crushed currants, plums, candied violets and baked clay. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, rich and youthfully chewy, with a crunchy core of fruit and fine-grained but firm structuring tannins. It's a bit more burly and rustic than the satiny, sumptuous Geyserville this year—no surprise, given that the blend contains fully 23% Petite Sirah (alongside 69% Zinfandel, 6% Carignane and 2% Mataro).

RIDGE 'Lytton Springs' 2016 MAGNUM - North Coast, Sonoma County - PRE-RELEASE

California

£75.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 92+ points

Drink Date: 2020 - 2035

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

The 2016 Lytton Springs is also excellent, offering up aromas of crushed currants, plums, candied violets and baked clay. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, rich and youthfully chewy, with a crunchy core of fruit and fine-grained but firm structuring tannins. It's a bit more burly and rustic than the satiny, sumptuous Geyserville this year—no surprise, given that the blend contains fully 23% Petite Sirah (alongside 69% Zinfandel, 6% Carignane and 2% Mataro).

RIDGE 'Monte Bello' 2017 CASE x6 Bottles - Central Coast, Santa Cruz - PRE-RELEASE

California

£795.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate: 98-100 points!!!

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st May 2018, Source: Interim End of May 2018, The Wine Advocate

Destined to rank as one of the all-time greats from Ridge, the 2017 Monte Bello opens in the glass with youthfully complex notes of ripe plums, cassis, espresso roast and black truffles, with little apparent trace of its time in 100% new oak. On the palate, it's full-bodied and incredibly concentrated, with a rich, layered mid-palate and immense substance that marks it out as the most richly tannic Monte Bello since 2013. As ever, the acids are vibrant, with a classic pH of around 3.5—notably lower than most Cabernet Sauvignons from contemporary Bordeaux or Napa Valley, thanks to this site's limestone soils and high altitude. At the time of writing, the blend is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot, 6% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, though that may change by the time it's bottled. Eric Baugher observes that fermentations were slow in 2017, which protracted the period of extraction, partially accounting for this vintage's power. It's still a baby, but this is a strong contender for a perfect score when it's bottled in over a year's time—and it should see out its 50th birthday in style.

CATENA ZAPATA**CATENA ZAPATA**

Mendoza-Uco Valley

"Nicolás Catena Zapata is justly credited with putting Argentinean wines on the world map—by the best expedient of focusing entirely on quality. It's great to know he has started a wine dynasty, too." Jancis Robinson, Financial Times wine journalist

Great wines begin in the vineyard. Our vision is to make rich and unforgettable wines that are true to the special place they come from. The story of Catena is the story of Argentine wine.

Founded in 1902, Argentina's Bodega Catena Zapata is known for its pioneering role in resurrecting Malbec and in discovering extreme high altitude terroirs in the Andean foothills of Mendoza.

The family's Adrianna Vineyard at almost 5,000 feet elevation has been called the Grand Cru of South America.

Awards: Decanter Man of the Year, Wine Spectator Distinguished Service Award, Der Feinschmacker Award, Wine and Spirits and Wine Enthusiast Winery Awards.

"Nicolás Catena Zapata is a man of vision, of high intellect, always curious about others and about how the world is developing. He has been instrumental in changing the Argentinian wine scene more than anybody else, pushing it towards high quality." Baron Eric de Rothschild, Château Lafite

CATENA ZAPATA Chardonnay 'White Bones' Adrianna 2015 CASE x 3 Bottles - PRE-REL

Mendoza-Uco Valley

£179.50

THE WINE ADVOCATE (Robert Parker) 96 points

Drink Date: 2018 - 2024

Reviewed by: Luis Gutiérrez, Issue Date: 29th Jun 2018, Source: 237, The Wine Advocate

I had two vintages to taste from the two whites from Adrianna Vineyard, which provided a fascinating comparison. Like all the rest, the 2015 White Bones Chardonnay had a long fermentation with wild yeasts and aged in French barriques for some 12 to 16 months, depending on the lot. It's fascinating to compare this with the 2016 and with both years from the White Stones. This is the more exuberant, open, aromatic and balsamic of the four wines, while it is still very young and fresh. The palate is also very expressive and combines power with elegance and freshness. It's long, tasty and mineral, with a salty finish. 4,500 bottles were filled in July 2016.

I tasted a very large collection of wines from Catena Zapata. All of these wines are highly recommendable, but the wines from the Adrianna Vineyard range are truly gobsmacking good and world class. I had the chance to taste slowly through three vintages of the three reds and two of the whites, and it made a fascinating comparison. The profile is austere and mineral, and sometimes they take time to open up. They are, of course, very young wines destined for a long life in bottle. The quality is extremely high, and it's a matter of preference as to which plot or vintage style you like best. 2014 is austere and a bit herbal, 2015 showed a little riper and 2016 seems to be the most complete of the three, with super sharp, linear whites and austere reds for the long haul. The 2014s were released a while ago, the 2015s are arriving on the market right now and the 2016s will take about one more year to hit the shelves. I'm talking reds, as the whites should be released by December 2018.

Just as I saw last time, the Appellation range is clearly the sweet spot, especially in 2016, when the wines clearly overdeliver. And it is impressive how the character of each wine is maintained and identifiable in every vintage.

BUYING EN PRIMEUR

Buying En Primeur

"En Primeur" is the purchase of wine whilst it is still maturing in barrel. The main advantages of buying en primeur are:

- . To purchase wines at the initial release prices. Wines re-released after bottling will usually be more expensive.
- . To secure allocations of small-production wines that may not be commercially available after en primeur release.
- . To own a wine from the start of its life - provenance is priceless.
- . To purchase a birthyear vintage for a child, grandchild or godchild.
- . To be able to choose large format wines – magnums, double magnums and imperials. Or to be able to order half bottles – especially in Sauternes.
- . To purchase the latest vintages of a Chateau that one has followed and purchased over the years. This is especially important for wines where there is always more demand than there is supply. Chateaux such as Léoville and Langoa Barton, Calon Segur and Lynch Bages spring to mind.

You can buy en Primeur in complete confidence from Dunell's Premier Wines. We are Jersey's foremost fine wine merchant, with a long record of successful and reliable trading.

It is important to buy en primeur from a successful wine merchant with a good reputation and a track record of delivering the goods (and not just at the cheapest possible price). En Primeur wines should never be purchased from "one man band" type operations! Please remember that peace of mind and reliability of supply are worth far more than a slightly discounted price.

It is also possible to request your wines in different bottling formats, ie magnums, halves, cases of 6, 12 etc so if you would like your wine bottled in a different format please let us know as soon as possible. Please note we will be unable to accept any changes to these instructions after the end of August when we will pass the instructions to the Chateaux. Please note that it may not be possible to satisfy all bottling requests but that we will endeavour to meet all customer requirements.

Extra bottling charges will be added to the price on invoice.

Our en primeur prices are per bottle (unless otherwise stated) and they include GST but exclude Import Duty which will be payable only on receipt of the wines into Jersey. Customers who wish to buy for delivery to a UK bond or other address should contact us for more information (extra freight will be charged at cost).

There are NO storage charges for en primeur wines whilst they lie at the Chateau. Storage charges at our standard rates will be charged only on wines left with us after their delivery into Jersey and we will contact all our customers before this date to advise of the arrival of wines and to obtain storage or delivery instructions.

CHATEAU CLERC MILON 5ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 12 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR

(LB)Pauillac

£669.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate - 93-95 points

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère, the 2017 Clerc Milon is deep garnet-purple in color and scented of crushed red and black currants, wild blueberries and black pepper with touches of cigar box, violets, underbrush and menthol. Medium-bodied and with a very firm structure of wonderfully ripe, pixelated tannins and exhilarating freshness, it finishes long with notes of pebbles and floral perfume.

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 94 points

Tasted by Jane Anson(at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

It's immediately obvious from both colour and first nose that this has a wonderful richness to it, offering powerful cherry pit, graphite and dark chocolate notes but without being overly sweet. A serious wine that is delivering on its potential, vintage after vintage. The Cab Franc vines are on limestone and clay here, and reached perfect ripeness. Overall there is a higher percentage of both Cabernets than usual in the blend. 9% press wine. 50% new oak.

Drinking Window 2025 - 2038

RELEASE DATE = 18/05/2018

CHATEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL 2ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 6 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR

(LB)Saint-Estephe

£699.90

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate - 97-100 points

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

The final blend of the 2017 Cos d'Estournel is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Very deep purple-black in color, it offers up intense scents of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and black cherries with touches of incense, spice cake, star anise and plum preserves plus a perfumed hint of potpourri. The palate is medium-bodied with very firm yet wonderfully ripe, "sweet", fine-grained tannins at just 13% alcohol—something of a miracle in our modern times. The palate sports fantastic freshness and tons of energy emitted from the intensely perfumed black fruit layers, finishing on an epically long-lingering mineral note. Truly profound.

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 94 points

Tasted by Jane Anson(at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

This is exceptional, if a touch below the intensity and harmony of 2016. I love the density that's displayed in this wine, showcasing luxurious, well-enrobed tannins. The complexity steals up on you little by little, the dark cassis and plum fruit character deepening through the palate with flashes of sage, charcoal, cigar box, graphite and taut tannins. The colour difference is marked between the grand vin and second wine, with the Cos extremely deep damson in colour following a one-month maceration at 30 degrees and clever use of the press. Harvested 12- 30 September. 40% of production went into the grand vin. 3.7pH. IPT68. 60% new oak.

Drinking Window 2026 - 2040

CHATEAU COS LABORY 5ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 12 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR

(LB)Saint-Estephe

£318.00

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate

Rating: (90 - 92)

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

The 2017 Cos Labory is deep garnet-purple colored and scented of blackberry pie, cassis and pencil shavings with touches of violets, garrigue and mossy bark. Medium to full-bodied with a firm frame of ripe, grainy tannins, it has lovely freshness and impressive length.

CHATEAU DU TERTRE 5ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 12 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR (LB)Margaux **£387.00**

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate - 89-91 points

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

Medium garnet-purple colored and composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2017 du Tertre gives expressive notes of black berries and cassis with pencil lead, bay leaves and lavender hints. The palate is medium-bodied with a good core of open-knit fruit and plush tannins lifted with great freshness, finishing on a perfumed note.

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 91 points

Tasted by Jane Anson (at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

This is a little softer in expression than the intense delivery of the past two vintages, but still has extremely well-expressed red and black fruits, layered together with grilled coffee and almond notes. It has silky tannins and an injection of juice through the mid-palate. Classic Margaux character.

Drinking Window 2025 - 2040

RELEASE DATE = 18/05/2018

CHATEAU LAFON-ROCHET 4ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 6 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR (LB)Saint-Estephe **£210.00**

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 93 points

Tasted by Jane Anson (at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

This is a lovely St-Estèphe this year, firm and bright with bristling fruit right out of the gate - hugely unusual to see that this year. This is one of my favourites, and is totally charming with its cassis and damson fruit, but it's the juice and friendly tension that sets it apart. Silky and enjoyable. Buy.

Drinking Window 2025 - 2040

CHATEAU RAUZAN-SEGLA 2ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 12 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR (LB)Margaux **£690.00**

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate - 94-96 points

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

Composed of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot and sporting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2017 Rauzan-Segla (Rausan-Segla) has a profound nose of cassis, warm blackberries and black plums with touches of baking spices, violets, mocha and smoke plus a waft of garrigue. Medium to full-bodied with a great core of sustained, energetic black fruit, a frame of fine-grained tannins and a lively backbone, it finishes with great length.

The estate lost about 15 hectares to frost—mostly that which goes into Segla (the second label). The blocks closer to the river were relatively unscathed, so less Segla was made this vintage. The final blends went into barrel in late February.

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 93 points

Tasted by Jane Anson (at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

Rich, tight and deep, this wine has been extremely well handled in a vintage that suits this elegant style. There isn't the depth and complexity of expression that was seen in the previous two vintages, but it gets across the signature of the estate in an earlier drinking form - the absolute essence of what you want in a trickier vintage. If priced well, it's a buy.

Drinking Window 2026 - 2038

CHATEAU TALBOT 4ieme Cru Classe 2017 CASE x 12 Bottles - EN PRIMEUR (LB)Saint-Julien **£499.50**

ROBERT PARKER The Wine Advocate - 87-89 points

Reviewed by: Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Issue Date: 27th Apr 2018, Source: 236, The Wine Advocate

Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Talbot is a little closed on the nose with subtle plums and blackberries notes plus hints of underbrush, black olives and wood smoke. Medium-bodied with a firm frame of chewy tannins, it has lovely freshness and a savory finish.

DECANTER MAGAZINE - 89 points

Tasted by Jane Anson (at Primeur week tastings in Bordeaux, 09 Apr 2018)

Talbot has produced an elegant, fresh and carefully structured 2017. This has plenty of finesse and rich black fruit flavours with some floral notes and cedar. It shows great St-Julien balance, but again just lacks a little of the impact that has been evident at this property over recent vintages.

Drinking Window 2024 - 2038

RELEASE DATE = 16/05/2018

BURGUNDY 2017

We are delighted to make an offer of 2017 Burgundy. We have tasted some fabulous wines. The whites will give enormous pleasure to enthusiastic amateurs and purists alike - as they display intense, ripe, generous fruit flavours whilst retaining exquisite freshness, energy, purity and salinity. The reds, at their best, offer very precise aromatics and are sweet, ripe, open-knit, plush, silky, charming and gourmands. They are capable of improving with bottle age - but will be a great pleasure to drink in their youth.

2017 is a year of the vigneron. After severe frosts and consequent low yields in 2016, the natural response of the vine is what is called *le phénomène de compensation* - in other words, the vine retains excess energy and attempts to make up for what was lost the previous year. For those quality conscious growers, who have severely restricted yields either by de-budding and/or green harvesting, or have a high proportion of old vines, which naturally regulate yields, 2017 is an excellent vintage. This is particularly the case for whites (frequently likened to a slightly richer 2014), but also for reds.

Throughout Burgundy, one will also encounter producers who could not resist the temptation to *remplir les caves*, after several consecutive deficient vintages. Some producers - especially those who rent a large proportion of their vines and are still required to pay the property owner, regardless of the yield obtained - will always try to produce the maximum possible. In some vintages, the effects are less noticeable. This is not the case in 2017. Thankfully, the quality-conscious growers with whom we work excel in heterogeneous vintages like 2017, where the differences between the best and the also-rans are most marked.

The year began with a cold, dry January and a pleasant equally dry February. March was relatively clement, and some welcome rains fell to replenish the water table. The first half of April was *estivale* and the unseasonably warm temperatures caused the vines to "push" early. The end of April saw several days of very cold night time temperatures, including ten consecutive nights of severe frosts in Chablis - and concomitant, drastic losses - and, to a lesser degree, in the northern Côte Châlonnaise and Mâconnais. This at a time when the precocious, young leaves and buds were particularly sensitive.

May began with slightly higher temperatures, rising to 6 °C above average by the end of the month. This continued into the beginning of June and flowering occurred rapidly in ideal conditions. By the end of June, record temperatures for the time of year were being recorded in Macon (33.5 °C) and Dijon (36.4 °C).

July and August experienced alternate hot, very hot and cooler periods, with intermittent, localized rain showers throughout. The end of August saw particularly hot caniculate temperatures and some attendant hydric stress and blockage of maturities - particularly with shallow rooted, young vines. Some welcome rains fell at the very end of the month and into early September, allowing the vines to complete final phenolic maturation. It should be noted that, even during the hottest periods, night time temperatures were relatively cool - which is why the resulting wines retain a welcome freshness and energy.

Growers began harvesting abnormally healthy, physiologically mature fruit from late August to early September, in ideal conditions for both grapes and pickers - not too hot, nor sunny and with very little rain. The resulting wines, in both colours, are already deliciously attractive and approachable and will gain in complexity and provide enormous pleasure over the coming years. As such, they are very highly recommended.

The following wines are offered, subject to remaining unsold, according to normal terms and conditions. Some of the wines are already in bottle, the remainder will be bottled between now and next August.

We shall be shipping ourselves in early spring or early autumn 2019.

This offer remains open until the goods arrive with us in Jersey.

ANNE ET HERVE SIGAUT**ANNE ET HERVE SIGAUT**

CdeN-Chambolle-Mus.

Although Anne and Hervé took over the 7 hectare property in 1990, it is only in very recent years that the domaine has undergone a total transformation. Lately, the wines have been amongst the finest in the village as a series of brilliant reviews has attested. They have always had wonderfully sited old vines, but they now work organically from flowering onwards and yields have been significantly reduced. They follow the lunar calendar and, in some of their vineyards, plough by horse.

The Chambolle-Musigny, from ten different plots around the village, is typically fresh, bright and elegant. "Derrière le Four", planted in 1973, behind the church, is darker and more robust. Chambolle "Buisnières" planted in 1959 on the Morey side of the village, by 1er Cru Sentiers, is concentrated, plush and mouthfilling. 1er Cru Les Noirots is from 45 year old vines and the stunning 1er Cru Les Sentiers is from vines planted in 1947, just below Bonnes Mares. Morey 1er Cru Millandes is from 40 year old vines just below Clos St. Denis. The vines produce small, concentrated berries, giving a wine of great intensity and class.

2017

A great success this year, with delicious, succulent, sweet, rich wines and, where there is a higher proportion of limestone, great purity, drive and elegance. Anne began picking on 7th September and finished a week later. She was not impacted by rain. "The 2017 vintage was very easy. No frost, quite simple - a lovely summer, no problems, no maladies, the potential for high yields, but we carried out a rigorous green harvest. There was a little, but not significant, blockage of maturity due to the heat, as the nights were quite cold. The fruit was very healthy - very little sorting was necessary, just a few scorched grapes. The wines are gourmands and rich - more digestes than 2015 - which was hotter." Everything here is done by gravity and according to the lunar calendar.

ANNE ET HERVE SIGAUT Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru Les Sentiers 2017 CASE x 6 Bot.

CdeN-Chambolle-Mus.

£324.00

Vines planted in 1947, just below Bonnes Mares. 25% whole bunches, 40% new oak.

The village and appellation of Chambolle Musigny is one that delights true Burgundy lovers like no other. It stands alone as the supreme example of Pinot Noir at its most elegant and finesse-driven. In tasting the wines of Anne and Hervé Sigaut, they are about as classic and archetypal Chambolles as you can find. The wines are an ideal representation of Chambolle terroir, with fine, elegant and floral aromas and flavors, ethereal, energetic textures, and wonderful chalky/mineral tannins that dance over your palate like a ballerina in silk.

BALLOT-MILLOT

BALLOT-MILLOT**BALLOT-MILLOT**

CdeB-Meursault

This top division 12 hectare property, based in the heart of Meursault, is run by the young and talented Charles Ballot. The Ballot & Millot families began acquiring vineyards in Meursault in the mid 17th century. When Charles's parents married, they brought together some exceptional holdings, including extremely well situated parcels of the two finest premier crus, Perrières and Genevrières.

The ages of the vines range from 30 years for Les Criots to 70 years for the Genevrières. An extremely stringent form of viticulture is practiced in the vineyards, with no herbicides and minimal use of other treatments. In fact everything is now organic but he will not become certified as such. All the wines are barrel fermented, with around 25% new oak for the 1er Crus and 10% for the village wines. His exceptional Aligoté is from low yielding, 50 year old vines and is barrel fermented. The delicious, classy Bourgogne Chardonnay is from 25 year old vines only from the communes of Meursault and Puligny.

Meursault Village is from 7 very different parcels, each offering their own attributes – from deep soils to rock. "Criots" is from very rocky, hard soils under Santenots and is tighter and more minerally than "Narvaux", which comes from 3 parcels of 60, 40 and 20 year old vines. 1er Cru Charmes, coming from the top, dessus part is purer and more minerally than is usually the case. 1er Cru Genevrières is from 70 year old vines and is his most backward, masculine wine. 1er Cru Perrières, 40 year old vines abutting Clos le Perrière, is magnificent and as complete as a Grand Cru. The fabulous Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot comprises nearly a hectare of 50 year old vines in Tête du Clos – the highest part of Les Morgeots under La Romanée, on very rocky limestone. Charles never uses bâtonnage. His Meursaults are chiselled, fine, pure and minerally, and rather "Puligny" in style. He is equally gifted at making red wines and his Volnay 1er Cru Santenots is outstanding.

2017

Charles Ballot enthused "In 2015 I thought I would never see such beautiful grapes. In 2017 I changed my mind! Un grand millésime. Volumes correct, very healthy, sunny, some rain helped the maturity. Acidity and pH are magnificent. The wines have matière, complexity, aromatics, balance – they are easy to drink, gourmands and easy to understand. Better than 2012 – less big and ripe. More complexity – more like 2014". Charles began picking on 3rd September. "Yields were correct 40-45 hl/ha. Natural alcohols, without chaptalization, of 13 -13.8 degrees."

This high-flying, star, 10 hectare domaine is making wonderful wines – more akin to Puligny than the old fashioned, stereotypical image of Meursault. There is never any bâtonnage and the wines always display incisive, tense purity, salinity and minerality. In 2016, he used no new oak. This year, the premier crus see 25% new barrels.

VERY LIMITED

BALLOT-MILLOT Meursault 'Les Narvaux' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE

CdeB-Meursault

£228.00

3 parcels of 60, 40 and 20-year-old vines, in the lower part, just above 1er crus Genevrières and Poruzots – gives a fuller style of Narvaux. Tangy herbal and crisp citrus aroma. Impressive intensity on the palate, part fruit and part acidity, giving good balance. Lightly chewy finish.

Score: 16+ - Julia Harding MW, JancisRobinson.com - Maturity: 2020-2024.

BALLOT-MILLOT Meursault 1er Cru 'Les Charmes' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL

CdeB-Meursault

£342.00

40-year-old vines on the top part of the slope, next to Perrières. 40cm of topsoil, then straight into really hard limestone. More tension, precision and minerality than stereotypical Charmes. Creamy lemon after the more herbal Narvaux. Tighter on the palate, almost lean but just in balance.

Score: 16+ - Julia Harding MW, JancisRobinson.com - Maturity: 2021-2026.

BERTRAND AMBROISE**BERTRAND AMBROISE**

CdeB-Beaune AOC

This is a true family enterprise. Bertrand and Martine Ambroise head up a 21 hectare domaine ably assisted by their son François and daughter Lucdivine. The estate style is one of rich, opulent whites and full-bodied, powerful reds.

After a small, frost-affected crop in 2016, yields happily returned to normal levels in 2017. An increasing proportion of both whites and reds are now fermented and/or aged in larger 400 litre casks, reducing the amount of oak flavour in the wines and allowing the fruit to shine through.

BERTRAND AMBROISE Beaune 1er Cru 'Les Tuvilains' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PRE-REL

CdeB-Beaune AOC

£396.00

Full-bodied, gutsy Beaune from a premier cru in the direction of Pommard. Aged in 50% new oak, this is firm and structured but with plenty of rich, ripe fruit. Drink 2021-2026.

CHATEAU DE CHAMIREY**CHATEAU DE CHAMIREY**

Challonnaise-Mercurey

Château de Chamirey, owned by the Devillard family, is the leading estate in Mercurey. The domaine comprises 37 hectares of vines, much of which is premier cru including the monopoles of La Mission and Les Ruelles. Based in the south-eastern sector of the appellation and blessed with a wide variety of chalk as well as clay soils, the Château de Chamirey is unusual in producing fine white as well as red Mercurey.

CHATEAU DE CHAMIREY Mercurey Rouge 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE

Challonnaise-Mercurey

£270.00

The Devillards declassify three of their best premier crus (Sazennay, Clos l'Evêque and Champs Martin) into this wine. A lovely mixture of red and black fruits, this is rich and generous with a lovely, succulent texture and fine, ripe tannins. Drink 2020-2024.

CHRISTIAN MOREAU

CHRISTIAN MOREAU**CHRISTIAN MOREAU**

Chablis

Although their first commercial vintage was only in 2002, this is now one of the finest and most sought after domaines in Chablis.

6 hectares of Chablis Grand Cru and 5 hectares of Chablis 1er Cru Vaillon. These are wonderfully sited vineyards which for generations have been the personal property of the Moreau family. The family now have no connection or contract with the large and respected négociant of the same name. Christian, a larger than life personality, and his highly qualified oenologue son Fabien are making spectacular hand-crafted Chablis. All of their grapes are hand picked from vines which average 40-70 years old.

The village Chablis is completely vinified in stainless steel. The 1er and Grands Crus are predominantly vinified in stainless steel, but also see some barrel fermentation and maturation – but never more than 5% new oak. Clos des Hospices has been a family-owned monopole since 1904. It is situated on a lower, southerly exposure, with richer soils, giving a wine which is fuller and rounder. These are brilliant, bracing, classic, minerally Chablis. They are now certified as organic.

Quantities are VERY limited.

2017

Whilst regretting the catastrophic damage inflicted by spring frosts, Fabien Moreau was very upbeat about the quality of the resulting wines. "The climatic conditions of the growing season were evidently dominated by 8 nights of frosts between 19th and 28th April. We had temperatures between -2 °C and -7 °C. throughout the right bank of the Serein. The worst of the damage was in that area – Fourchaume, all the Grand Crus, Montée de Tonnerre and Mont de Milieu. Without frost protection in Blanchots, Valmur and Vaudesir, we had yields of between 12 and 15hl/ha. For Les Clos, even with the protection of bougies (fires/candles), we only produced 22 hl/ha. After this, conditions were ideal with a good spring and a beautiful, sunny summer. We began picking on 4th September and finished on the 12th in perfect, dry conditions and the grapes were very healthy. The volumes in Chablis and Vaillon are correct, with only a couple of areas touched by frost – and I am not going to mention the Grands Crus again, other than to say that it is the smallest (80% down) harvest we have ever made! The wines are classiques – between 2012 and 2014, with a beautiful balance between acidity and concentration and more accessible at this stage than 2014 – with citrus rather than tropical aromas."

CHRISTIAN MOREAU Chablis 1er Cru 'Vaillon' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL

Chablis

£135.00

This vineyard is located in the very heart of the Chablis country, on the left bank of the Serein River and it benefits from an excellent south-easterly exposure. The soil is made up of kimmeridgien clay, a soil specific to the Chablis region. It is rich in fossil shells of a small oyster, *Exogyra virgula*, frequently found in the Chablis soil. The average age of the vines is 50 years and all harvesting is done by hand, carried by small trailers which unload the grapes by vibration to avoid crushing.

THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker: (89 - 91) points

Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st Aug 2018, Source: 238, The Wine Advocate

The 2017 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillon exhibits notes of lemon oil, green apples, bread dough and nutmeg. On the palate, it's medium-bodied, glossy and bright, with good cut and a tangy, saline finish. It's an attractive cuvée that's produced from six parcels.

CHRISTIAN MOREAU Chablis AOC 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE

Chablis

£90.00

Awaiting description.

DOMAINE DUGAT-PY**DOMAINE DUGAT-PY 2017**

A jubilant Loïc Dugat-Py related that in the wake of 2016's frosts, the like of which he had never seen, his father and grandfather warned him that 2017 would bring a bumper crop. Accordingly, pruning and debudding were severe. But when even the domaine's oldest vines set too much fruit, he took the decision to green harvest, removing the equivalent of some fifteen to twenty barrels of wine. His exigence was rewarded, because in the warm, dry August weather, the domaine's vines didn't experience the same hydric stress that blocked maturation in more generously cropped vineyards, and Loïc was thus able to begin picking on September 2, making him one of the earliest in the Côte de Nuits.

Yields ranged between 20 and 32 hectoliters per hectare—less than what many producers harvest in a small vintage—of clean and healthy grapes. Fermentations in wooden and cement tanks incorporated large percentages of whole clusters. For some years now, Loïc has employed more used barrels for the élevage of the domaine's Gevrey-Chambertin AOC bottlings, and that welcome trend continued, and though the higher appellations, often produced in tiny quantities, continue to see largely new wood, the domaine is immensely well served by François Frères these days.

Since the Domaine Dugat-Py's vineyards are among the most immaculately tended in all of Burgundy—now certified biodynamic, with regularly filled soils and canopies rolled à la Domaine Leroy—all that was necessary were a few minor changes to launch the wines into a different qualitative stratosphere. The depth and concentration borne of old vines and low yields remain, and may still disconcert readers habituated to more fluid, immediate styles of Burgundy, but extraction is gentler and the presence of new oak both reduced and more refined.

If the elegant, supple 2017s will charm in the near- to medium-term, the 2016 vintage is one for consumers seeking true vins de garde. They are well worth seeking out.

2017

As always, tasting this sensational, super-star domaine was one of the great pleasures and highlights of the vinous year. According to Loïc: "It was une belle année. A hot summer, 36-37 °C and a canicule at the end of August. Yields had to be controlled, by green harvest, to result in 25-30 hl/ha. We began picking on 2nd September and finished on the 12th. The fruit was very healthy and hardly any sorting was necessary. Natural alcohols ranged from 12.9-13.5 degrees. The wines are concentrated, aériens, floral and round with no surmaturité." Words are inadequate to describe our admiration for the work being done here by Loïc Dugat and his parents Bernard and Jocelyne.

DOMAINE DUGAT-PY Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru 'Petite Chapelle' 2017 CASE x 6 Bot.

CdeN-Gevrey-Chamb.

£990.00

THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - (92 - 94 points)

"The 2017 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Petite Chapelle wafts from the glass with a beautiful bouquet of wild berries, dried flowers, blood orange, rich soil and rose petal. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and layered, simultaneously expansive but beautifully delineated. It's a cuvée that has really gained in energy since the transition to biodynamic farming."

DOMAINE DUGAT-PY**DOMAINE DUGAT-PY Gevrey-Chambertin Cuvee 'Coeur de Roy' 2017 2017 CASE x 6 Bot.** CdeN-Gevrey-Chamb. **£570.00**

THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - (91 - 93 points)

"The 2017 Gevrey-Chambertin Coeur du Roy continues to show spectacularly, bursting from the glass with aromas of violet, cherries, cassis, subtle grilled meat and espresso roast. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied with broader shoulders and more density and structure than the finer-boned Evocelles, its rich tannins nicely cloaked in a core of pure and succulent fruit, concluding with a long finish. While it won't demand as much bottle age as the 2016 or 2015 renditions, it will reward at least a handful of years of bottle age and drink well for two decades thereafter. This cuvée derives from vines between 50 and 108 years of age located in the lieux-dits Epointures, Combe du Dessus, Jouse and Les Marchais. It was vinified with around 40% whole cluster and matured in 60% new oak."

DOMAINE DUGAT-PY Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle CdeN-Gevrey-Chamb. **£414.00**

THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - 89 points - Drink Date: 2020 - 2035

"Loïc Dugat-Py opted to bottle the 2017 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes earlier than usual to capture its expressive fruit in all its plenitude, and the wine is very charming, unfurling in the glass with a pure and fragrant bouquet of sweet berries, cassis, dried flowers and spicy soil tones. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, velvety and open knit, with an ample core of sappy fruit, succulent acids and fine structuring tannins. Generous and giving, it's the most immediate wine in the range this year. Produced from several parcels of vines between 30 and 55 years of age, the Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes was matured in only 20% new oak, a figure considerably lower than was the case only a few years ago."

DOMAINE ERIC FOREST**DOMAINE ERIC FOREST**

Macon

Eric is a star vigneron, based in the village of Vergisson, and currently has 4.8 hectares of vines planted between 1930 and 1979. He has inherited a great knowledge of nature and biodynamics from his grandfather and this has been a major influence in his approach to viticulture and winemaking. All grapes are hand picked and fermented and matured for ten to fifteen months in barriques and demi-muids. The wines are hand bottled and are, usually, unfiltered.

His Mâcon-Vergisson is planted on soils of decalcified ferruginous clay with a bedrock of Bajocian limestone. This 400 metre high, north-east exposed vineyard produces wines of great precision and minerality.

The Pouilly Fuissé "L'Âme Forest" is a blend of two complementary, individual vineyards – "Les Tilliers" is planted on calcareous Sinemurian clay soils and "La Côte" is on Toarcian marl-limestone soils, located on the northern slope of the Vergisson hill. "Les Crays" is situated on the warm, exposed southern side of the Vergisson hill and is planted on blue marl and limestone. The resulting wines are full, rich and minerally with great length and aging potential. Pouilly Fuissé "La Roche", from a 450m, south facing vineyard on pure limestone, is stunning.

2017

A majority of Eric's vines are on the limestone hill of Vergisson side, rather than the granitic, opposite hill. In 2017, yields were lower, due to frost, but his domaine now comprises 6 hectares. He picked between 31st August and 7th September. According to Eric "2017 is an extremely good vintage with beautiful, rich textures and good acidity, lots of fruit and freshness – very warm, but not as hot as 2003 or 2009 – which are drinking wonderfully now". He believes that levels of acidity matter for the first three years after harvest but are not important thereafter, provided one practices long elevages. "There was 25mm of rain on 26th August, but the soil was so dry that the vines hardly took up any water. Most growers rushed to pick, fearing rot, but the grapes were not ripe. By mid-November, any grapes left on the vines still did not have any trace of rot!" - vindicating Eric's decision to wait.

ERIC FOREST Pouilly-Fuisse L'Ame Forest 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE Macon **£240.00**

Three vineyards on mame and very old limestone soils of decomposed oyster shells on the northern slope of the Vergisson hill. Elevage in 300 litre barrels, 20% new oak.

DOMAINE FELETTIG**DOMAINE FELETTIG**

"I have enthusiastically reported on the rapid rise of Domaine Felettig to increasing prominence as the quality has done nothing but improve. 2016 represents a cherry on top of the cake as I have never seen better wines across the board from the domaine. If you're not familiar with the wines, you owe it to yourself to make their acquaintance." – Allen Meadows, Burghound

If any domaine has made more dramatic progress over the last handful of vintages, we would be very surprised. Why? Quite simply, Gilbert Felettig was dissatisfied with his 2009s, which he found over ripe and excessively oaky. He therefore set about changing everything.

Henri Felettig, a former vineyard worker, founded this domaine in 1974. His children Gilbert (viticulture and vinification) and Christine (commercial) joined him in 1993 and now run this 12.5 hectare domaine, which comprises some 100 individual parcels! Viticulture is now organic, with no use of herbicides or insecticides, their vines are mostly old (40-50 years) and everything is harvested by hand. Following a rigorous selection, during which the grapes are sorted in both the vineyard and cuverie, they then undergo a 5-7 day cold maceration at 10°C prior to fermentation and a three week cuvaizon.

Gilbert is now far gentler in terms of frequency and intensity of pigeage, which is borne out by the precision and purity of their wines. They then see between 30% new oak in the case of the village wines and 50% for the premier crus, before being bottled unfinned and unfiltered. The Chambolle village, from 25-30 different parcels throughout the village (some of them are adjoining, so it's not as bad as it seems!), is ripe, plump and structured, with lovely tension. Clos le Village, a low yielding single 0.5 hectare plot on hard limestone, is cool, pure, minerally and understated.

They also have some wonderful holdings in Chambolle 1er Crus Feusselottes, Fuées, Gruenchers, Carrières, Charnes, Vosne 1er Cru Les Reignots and Echezeaux. A brand new cuverie has recently been completed. A genuine star domaine, which will only become even better.

2017

This fabulously run domaine has experienced a meteoric rise in its reputation over the last few vintages and is now one of the most highly reputed in the village. According to Gilbert, "In 2017, there was no frost and the vintage is about the same size as, but much better than, 2014. It was an easy, ideal, classic vintage – with maturity, freshness, sufficient acidity, no solaire aromas and very healthy fruit, which hardly needed to be sorted. The wines have taken on even more precision during elevage". Chambolle was heavily frosted in 2016 and the vines compensated in 2017 – which he controlled by both de-budding and green harvest. Gilbert began harvesting on 8th September and concluded a week later. He destemmed entirely in 2017.

G&C FELETTIG Bourgogne Aligote 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE Bourgogne Aligote AC **£66.00**

Awaiting Description

DOMAINE FELETTIG**G&C FELETTIG Chambolle Musigny 'Clos Le Village' Monopole 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle**

CdeN-Chambolle-Mus.

£468.00

As the name suggests, this is situated in the heart of Chambolle-Musigny, a monopole of the domaine that we'd argue is premier cru quality. The vineyard was planted in 1973. This is dense and powerful, with complexity and amplitude. Very very good. Single 0.5ha plot with thin topsoil on limestone bedrock. Vines planted in 1973. 50% new oak.

DOMAINE FEUILLAT-JUILLOT**DOMAINE FEUILLAT-JUILLOT**

Challonnaise-Montagny

Françoise Feuillat-Juillot is the daughter of the highly regarded Mercurey producer, Michel Juillot. She grew up amongst the vines and barrels of her family domaine, before studying in Paris and completing a degree in oenology at Dijon University.

She now has 14 hectares of wonderfully sited, mainly old vines, spread amongst 13 different premier crus in the viticultural amphitheatre that is Montagny. She practices a very strict and meticulous form of sustainable viticulture, works the soils mechanically and all grapes are picked by hand.

Les Crêts is a 1 hectare east facing monopole lieu-dit from 25 year old vines on predominantly limestone soils and is vinified in cuve. The wine is floral and zesty with good minerality.

More concentrated and mineral still is the 1er Cru Les Grappes d'Or. This is a blend of five different premier crus on Marne calcaires, from vines dating back to 1950 and is fermented and matured 30% in 500 litre barrels, 70% in stainless steel. 1er Cru Les Coères is their finest wine. It comes from 4 hectares of fantastically sited 60-90 year old vines and is entirely barrel-fermented (20% of which are new).

2017

Françoise Feuillat-Juillot continues to make exemplary wines from her 16 hectares of prime vineyards in Montagny. Françoise told us "Summer 2017 was very dry, particularly in August and the expected rains only arrived in mid-September. The grapes matured very quickly and we had to harvest in haste at the beginning of September. There was little juice in the grapes and we were therefore down about 30% in volume. Despite the conditions, the wines have remained fresh, yet ample and rich."

DOMAINE FEUILLAT-JUILLOT Montagny 'Les Coeres' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL

Challonnaise-Montagny

£90.00

A 4 hectare vineyard of 60-70, plus 90 year old vines, vinified and matured in 500 litre oak barrels – 20% new.

DOMAINE FEUILLAT-JUILLOT Montagny 'Les Crets' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle -PRE-RELEASE

Challonnaise-Montagny

£78.00

Awaiting description

DOMAINE FEVRE Gilles & Nathalie**DOMAINE FEVRE Gilles & Nathalie**

Chablis

Gilles and Nathalie Fèvre met at university where they both qualified as oenologists. Gilles is in charge of viticulture and Nathalie oversees vinification. Gilles' great grandfather began growing grapes and making wine in and around the village of Fontenay-Près-Chablis over a hundred years ago. They have now been joined by their daughter Julie – a qualified agricultural engineer and oenologue in her own right.

This is a wonderful 50 hectare domaine, all planted on Kimmeridgian limestone – 33 hectares of which are village Chablis. The 1er Cru Fourchaume is vinified in stainless steel tanks, as is 1er Cru Mont de Milieu – which also sees a touch of older oak barrels.

They are absolutely delicious, mouthwatering, benchmark examples of pure, incisive, concentrated wines. The gems of the domaine are the 2 hectare plot of 1er Cru Vaulorent (50 year old vines), at the southern tip of Fourchaume, which is 15% barrel fermented and borders Grand Cru Les Preuses – a magnificent 2.5 hectare holding of 55 year old vines, 70% vinified in stainless steel tanks and 30% in oak barrels.

These are exceptional wines from a top quality domaine of increasingly great repute.

2017

These are absolutely delicious, benchmark examples of pure, incisive, concentrated, sumptuous wines. Concerning the 2017 vintage, Julie said "It was complicated, but it matched our expectations. At the end of March, the temperature rose rapidly, and the vines began to grow early, rendering the buds particularly sensitive to spring frosts. These duly arrived for ten consecutive nights, commencing 17th April, causing catastrophic damage and the loss of half the potential crop. The rest of the season ran smoothly, with an early maturation. August was hot and dry, which limited the development of maladies. The vintage started on the 4th September and finished on 13th September. Despite the tiny volumes, the wines are of a very high quality, with a beautiful aromatic intensity, purity, freshness, beautiful acidity and salinity. The wines have a great potential to age with great balance between sugar and acidity."

DOMAINE FEVRE Chablis 1er Cru 'Les Preuses' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL

Chablis

£324.00

A magnificent 2.3 hectare holding of 55 year old vines, facing south. 70% stainless steel vinification, 30% new oak barrels.

DOMAINE FRANÇOIS LUMPP**FRANCOIS LUMPP Givry Rouge 'Crausot' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE**

Challonnaise-Givry

£156.00

A mix of 30 and 50 year old vines on south facing limestone soils, with some vines situated below Crausot Blanc.

16.5+ points, Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com, January 2019

DECANTER 93 points

Tasted by Tim Atkin MW (at 2017 En Primeur tastings, Burgundy, 24 Oct 2018)

These stony, chalky soils are some of the best for Chardonnay in Givry, especially in the hands of François Lumpp. Early-picked to retain acidity in 2017, this is a waxy and intense wine with lovely focus and precision accompanied by a patina of spicy oak. Drinking Window 2019 - 2024.

DOMAINE FRANÇOIS LUMPP**FRANÇOIS LUMPP**

Challonnaise-Givry

This dynamic domaine is generally recognised as the finest in the village. François and Isabelle Lumpp, now joined by their children, Pierre and Anne-Cécile, have 9.5 hectares under vine. The vineyards are planted with the finest materials and very close spacing. Viticulture is fanatical and yields are kept very low. All the grapes are handpicked and there is a further, severe selection prior to vinification.

The reds are sublime, pure, poised and beautifully balanced. Petit Marole from 40 year old vines on fine marne and limestone soils leans towards roundness and accessibility. A Vigne, from a 2.45 hectare site with fine marne and limestone is deep and brooding. The whites, which are all barrel fermented, are simply stunning and amongst the finest in the Chalonnaise. Petit Marole is more open knit and forward, Crausot, from hard, pure limestone, is intensely pure with chiselled minerality.

2017

The new generation of Anne-Cécile and Pierre are now firmly implanted in this fine 9.5 hectare domaine, founded by their parents François and Isabelle in 1977, with no inherited vines. François's measured and understated verdict on the 2017 vintage was "C'est bon. A vintage I like very much – and, especially, in Pinot. It was a hot summer, but no blockage. Yields were 20% down because of frost. Picking began at the beginning of September of beautiful, healthy fruit – with average maturities of 13.5 degrees, natural. Analytically, there is not much acidity and the pHs are quite high. However, there is no lack of freshness due to the good, natural levels of tartaric acid". He believes it resembles 1999 – which is one of his favourite vintages. "The wines will age well - but won't necessarily need to". They use up to 70% new oak for their red wines and 30% for whites.

DOMAINE LATOUR-GIRAUD**DOMAINE LATOUR-GIRAUD**

CdeB-Meursault

Jean-Pierre Latour has 10 hectares under vine in Meursault. Wonderfully sited vineyards, low yields, brilliant winemaking and no fining or filtration, make this one of the most exciting domaines in the village at present.

The Meursault Cuvée Charles Maxime (a blend of Les Vireuils, Les Corbins and Les Pelles) is plump, rich and generous. The wine is fermented and matured in barrel (around 1/3 new) for 15-16 months. The very fine 1er Cru Genevrières is from two perfectly sited parcels, comprising 2.5 hectares at the top of the vineyard.

LATOUR-GIRAUD Meursault 'Cuvée Charles Maxime' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL

CdeB-Meursault

£192.00

Awaiting description

DOMAINE PAUL & MARIE JACQUESON**DOMAINE PAUL & MARIE JACQUESON**

Challonnaise-Rully

Founded by Henri Jacqueson in 1947, succeeded by his son Paul in 1972 and joined by Paul's daughter Marie in 2006, and more recently by his son Pierre, this domaine has long been recognised as one of the very best in the Côte Chalonnaise and its wines adorn the lists of many of the finest restaurants in France. They have 13 hectares of wonderfully sited vines, many of which are very old, and prune hard to reduce yields to around 35 hl/ha. They only work the vineyards manually, with very minimal vine treatments. They are one of very few producers in the village (together with Dureuil-Janthial) to hand-pick everything. Extremely proficient winemaking and judicious use of new oak (20% for whites and 25% for reds) make for beautifully crafted, ripe, intense, sensual wines which have the class to belie their origins.

Their Aligoté, planted in 1950, and Bouzeron, planted in 1930, are stunning examples of this increasingly appreciated variety. The delicious Rully Village Blanc is from three sites in Fromanges, La Barre and Chaponnières totalling 3 hectares. 1er Cru Margotée, planted in 2000 on limestone and white stones, has lovely tight, citrus flavours. 1er Cru Pucelle, planted in 1992, is on limestone and some brown clay and is a bit fuller and rounder. 1er Cru Grésigny, planted in 1950 on purer limestone, is tense and minerally, but with good volume.

The reds are generous, sweet, pure and accessible. They give great pleasure on release but age extremely well – as recent bottles of 1985 Rully Cloux will attest. "Chaponnières" is on quite deep clay/limestone soils, planted in 1985, and has generous, crunchy fruit. 1er Cru Rully Les Cloux was planted in 1967 on 50% limestone, 50% light clay soils and gives an ample wine with great harmony. Rully 1er Cru Rouge Préaux is a 2.5 hectare site, just below Les Cloux, also planted in 1967. Mercurey 1er Cru Les Naugues was planted in 1962 on the best site in the village and has more structure and great class. 1er Cru Champs Martin is equally profound, facing due south it benefits from all day sunshine and always gives ripe, generous, concentrated wines.

2017

According to Marie Jacqueson, "2017 was a year of sunshine; a fresh spring, with a little frost on the 28th and 29th April, then the months of May, June, July and August were sunny. We started harvesting on 5th September and finished on 18th September in perfect conditions. We are very happy with this year. It gave some great whites and gourmands reds. In spite of the heat, the whites have beautiful acidities and will keep very well. The reds are already crunchy and they will begin to give pleasure rapidly".

HENRI & PAUL JACQUESON Rully 1er Cru 'Gresigny' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle- PRE-REL

Challonnaise-Rully

£108.00

Awaiting description

DOMAINE VINCENT GIRARDIN

DOMAINE VINCENT GIRARDIN**VINCENT GIRARDIN**

Vincent Girardin debuted as a winemaker in 1982, creating his négociant maison in 1990 with his family domaine holdings at its core, distinguished by insisting on purchasing grapes as opposed to must or finished wines.

In May 2012, Vincent Girardin sold his business to Jean-Pierre Nié, the owner of Compagnie des Vins d'Autrefois in Beaune. Jean-Pierre, very sensibly, took the decision not only to retain Eric Germain (head winemaker) and Marco Caschera (sales and exports) but to make them substantial shareholders in the business.

As far as we are concerned, nothing has changed. They continue to work with the highest quality raw materials and Eric Germain continues to make the wines, as he has done for over fifteen years. Indeed, now that Eric is entirely free from other constraints, we have noticed the wines' gain in precision over the last few vintages! There is no bâtonnage and extended maturation in barrel, giving the white wines greater tension, elegance, energy and purity. In Christophe Marrin, they now, also, have a specialist red winemaker who will work under Eric. We are already seeing finer, more elegant red wines as a result.

The Bourgogne Blanc "Terroir Noble" comes from vines all situated in the communes of Puligny, Chassagne and Meursault. The Bourgogne Rouge "Terroir Noble" is exclusively from old vines around Volnay and Pommard. Both are excellent.

This is a small to medium sized negociant business of the highest quality. They have contracts to buy fruit from 85 hectares (55 of which are controlled and harvested entirely by the Girardin team) and have 13 hectares in ownership or fermage. They will continue to make further investments in their own vines and have recently made acquisitions in Volnay, Puligny, Meursault, Pommard and Auxey-Duresses. They are far smaller than is often imagined – making between 28,000 and 50,000 dozen per year, depending on the vintage. Their wines remain absolutely delicious, accessible, examples which speak, clearly, of their individual terroirs.

2017

"In 2017, April was very warm, and everything grew rapidly. There was no frost. The end of spring, May, June and July were not too hot. There was a little rain and no stress. The beginning of August was not too hot, but the end of the month much hotter." They began picking on 27th August. There were 2 days of rain at the beginning of September, after which the weather was fine and by 15th September everything had been harvested – at 12.5 to 13 degrees natural, with no chaptalization. 21 hectares (out of their total production from 80 hectares) is now owned or under their complete control – all of which they farm organically or biodynamically. Their aim is to be 50% own vines. Half their production comprises Bourgogne Rouge, Bourgogne Blanc, Pouilly Fuissé and Macon Fuissé and many of the top cuvees are made in very limited quantities. In 2017, 55% of their production was white and 45% red. The reds were all destemmed (except for Volnay 1er Cru Santenots).

VINCENT GIRARDIN Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - (92 - 94 points) "The 2017 Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru was a touch less integrated and seemingly less deep than the Bienvenues when I tasted it, though that may just reflect a stage in its élevage. Offering up aromas of ripe waxy lemons, white flowers, beeswax and crushed chalk, it's full-bodied, chewy and long, with a more foursquare but less multidimensional profile than the Bienvenues. Both are exceptional, so it will be interesting to see which performs better in bottle."	CdeB-Batard-Montrach	£1,680.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Beaune 'Les Aigrots' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE Awaiting description	CdeB-Beaune AOC	£354.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Bourgogne Rouge 'Terroir Noble' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PR Awaiting description	Bourgogne AOC	£162.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Corton-Charlemagne 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE Awaiting description	CdeB-Corton-Charlem.	£594.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Corton-Charlemagne Quintessence Grand Cru 2017 CASE x 6 Bot THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - (93 - 95 points) Reviewed by: William Kelley, Issue Date: 31st Jan 2019, Source: End of January 2019, The Wine Advocate From a single parcel in Aloxe that neighbors one of Domaine Coche-Dury's, the 2017 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru Quintessence de Corton-Charlemagne offers up a lovely bouquet of ripe citrus fruit, white flowers and honeycomb. It's full-bodied, textural and massively concentrated, with a deep and layered mid-palate, succulent acids and a long, expansive finish. This expresses the ampler, more powerful side of Corton-Charlemagne and it's one of Girardin's finest 2017s.	CdeB-Corton-Charlem.	£1,014.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Meursault Vieilles- Vignes 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PR Awaiting description	CdeB-Meursault	£432.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Pommard 1er Cru 'Les Grands Epenots' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PR Awaiting description	CdeN-Pommard	£540.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Pouilly-Fuisse Vieilles Vignes 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-REL Awaiting description	Macon	£216.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru 'Les Folatières' 2017 CASE x 12 Bot. THE WINE ADVOCATE Robert Parker - (91 - 93+ points) "The 2017 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières is showing especially well, unwinding in the glass with a classy nose of blanched almonds, ripe citrus fruit, green apple and spring flowers. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, satiny and pure with good concentration, tangy acids and an elegant, integrated profile."	CdeB-Puligny-Montr.	£895.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Puligny-Montrachet Vieilles-Vignes 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PR Awaiting description	CdeB-Puligny-Montr.	£492.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Puligny-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes 2017 CASE x 24 HALF - PRE Awaiting description	CdeB-Puligny-Montr.	£504.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Saint-Aubin'Les Murgers des Dents de Chiens' 2017 CASE x 12 Bot. Awaiting description	CdeB-Saint-Aubin	£348.00

DOMAINE VINCENT GIRARDIN

VINCENT GIRARDIN Santenay ROUGE 1er Cru 'Les Gravieres' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle-PR <i>Awaiting description</i>	CdeB-Santenay	£288.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Santenay ROUGE 1er Cru 'Les Gravieres' 2017 CASE x 24 HALF - PR <i>Awaiting description</i>	CdeB-Santenay	£300.00
VINCENT GIRARDIN Savigny Les Beaune 1er Cru 'Les Marconnets' 2017 CASE x 12 Bot. <i>Awaiting description</i>	CdeB-Savigny-les-B.	£300.00

JEAN & FRANÇOIS RAQUILLET

FRANCOIS RAQUILLET Challonnaise-Mercurey
François Raquillet is now recognised as, possibly, the best producer in the village. François, the 11th generation of grape growers in Mercurey, has 10 hectares of superbly sited, mostly old, vines. He believes in low yields, mature (rather than super-ripe) fruit and a severe selection at the table de tri. The depth, richness and concentration which characterise his wines are a result of this, rather than any over extraction.

The Bourgogne Rouge and Mercurey Vieilles Vignes, from 3 parcels of 60 year old vines (1-3 year old barrels) are delicious, juicy and seductive, whilst the 1er Crus have even more depth, richness and potential longevity. Les Vasées is a 1.2 hectare plot of 55 year old vines on marne and limestone soils (25% new oak). Les Veleys is a 0.8 hectare plot of 60 year old vines in the sector of Chamirey, on heavier marne soils (30% new oak). Les Naugues is from perfectly sited 40 year old vines on marne and limestone soils. The Mercurey Blanc "La Brigadière" is a delicious revelation, from 25 year old vines and vinified in 400ltr. demi-muids (20% new).

2017

According to François, "The vines profited greatly from a very summery spring and bud-break was at the beginning of April – predicting an early vintage. From the middle of June, the vines were in flower and fruit set was rapid. Summer saw a few heat waves (canicules), which alternated with some cooler weather and showers. Maturity continued with a good rhythm and by the end of August, the first grapes were harvested – concluding on 12th September. They are wines with lots of vivacity with lovely weight and balance. They exhibit crisp fruit and will reveal themselves quite young. They are similar to 2012 in style".

FRANCOIS RAQUILLET Mercurey 1er Cru 'Les Naugues' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-REL <i>Perfectly sited south facing 40-year-old vines on marne and limestone soils. 30% new oak. The most rich and ample of Raquillet's premier crus, a bouquet of cassis, black cherry, woodsmoke and rich soil leads into a deep, full-bodied wine with impressive dimension and concentration.</i>	Challonnaise-Mercurey	£123.00
--	-----------------------	----------------

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVY

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVY 2017 CdeB-Puligny-Montr.
Jean-Louis makes a more forward, fruitier style of Puligny than his brother Alain. Jean-Louis picks a day or two later (1st - 6th September in 2017) so the grapes are riper and the resulting wines are softer and rounder with lower acidity. The wines are also bottled earlier, in 2017 fifteen months after the harvest. Jean-Louis has recently introduced a few 350 litre demi-muids from Meursault-based tonnellerie Damy to his cellar.

This is a splendid source of ripe, fruity Puligny, delicious relatively early but with the balance to age well in the medium term.

SAMUEL BILLAUD

SAMUEL BILLAUD 2017 Chablis
Samuel continues to cement his reputation as the greatest wine-maker in Chablis today. His range of 2017s is a brilliant effort, the finest wines combining the richness of 2015 with the minerality of 2014; they will be delicious to drink young but will also age gracefully. Sadly, frost struck Chablis once again in April 2017 and despite Samuel's best efforts and sleepless nights burning candles in the vineyards, yields were significantly reduced in the northern half of the appellation. We therefore have limited stocks available, so please don't delay placing orders for the right bank premiers and grands crus.

VINCENT ET FRANCOIS JOUARD

VINCENT ET FRANCOIS JOUARD 2017 CdeB-Chassagne-Mont.
Vincent Jouard looks after the vines whilst brother François takes charge of the cellar. Having been affected by frost in 2016, 2017 sees a welcome return to a full cellar. Picked between 3rd and 11th September, this is an exemplary range of Chassagne that shows the diversity and quality of the appellation. Averaging 13% alcohol, they are fresh and generous with a lovely, succulent texture.

François continues to fine-tune the oak regime, using more Allier oak than in the past, essentially reserving the use of the stronger Vosges oak for the more structured wines (Morgeot and Maltroie).

YVES BOYER-MARTENOT

YVES BOYER-MARTENOT 2017 CdeB-Meursault
Vincent Boyer has taken over the running of this famous Meursault domaine from his father Yves and continues to make rich, honeyed Meursault that drinks well relatively young. However, by picking earlier, the wines also have higher acidity and greater elegance and ageing potential. This year, Vincent has introduced 15 cement eggshaped vats into his cellar and part of the 2017 crop will spend a further six months ageing in concrete. All the wines below, however, have been bottled after the customary 12 months in Vincent Boyer barrel.

YVES BOYER-MARTENOT Meursault 'Les Narvaux' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-REL <i>From high on the slope above premier cru Genevrières, this is crisp and mineral with excellent acidity. Drink 2019-2023.</i>	CdeB-Meursault	£588.00
---	----------------	----------------

YVES BOYER-MARTENOT

YVES BOYER-MARTENOT Meursault 'Les Tillets' 2017 CASE x 12 Bottle - PRE-REL

CdeB-Meursault

£588.00

One of the highest vineyards in Meursault, an advantage in hot summers such as 2017. Crisp, elegant wine with lovely length. Drink 2019-2023.

BRUNO GIACOSA**BRUNO GIACOSA**

Barbaresco

I am very pleased to be able offer you an allocation of Bruno Giacosa's Single Vineyard 2019 Releases. All four wines in this year's release have been awarded between 98-100 points so will be highly sought after.

Legendary oenologist Dante Scaglione, who worked closely with Bruno for many decades, returned to the winery in 2011, and is now producing some of their greatest wines of all time under the careful management of Bruno's daughter, Bruna.

There are three 2015s, a vintage James Suckling has compared to the legendary 2010, suggesting that 2015 may even surpass it in quality: "it is a vintage to really celebrate." Giacosa produced their single-vineyard 2015s exclusively under the classic white labels, which means that these wines are the definitive examples of the vintage, containing all of this superb fruit.

I can also offer you the Barbaresco Asili Riserva 2014 under the iconic red label. Although a challenging vintage for most, Giacosa has always diverged from the norm, producing a wine of "gorgeous intensity and profound depth" according to Monica Lerner, who gave the wine 97 points. These red labels are produced in tiny quantities and will attract high spenders.

Terms and Conditions

Ordering This offer closes when the goods are despatched by the producer. All offers are made subject to availability.

Delivery Summer 2019

Prices Are inclusive of Freight, Import Duty & GST

Allocation We expect high demand for some of the wines and this demand may therefore outstrip supply. In such instances we will give precedence to customers who have bought a particular wine before.

Payment As per our normal terms and conditions. No further discount applies.

BRUNO GIACOSA Arneis 'Roero' 2018 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Roero

£110.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

Tasting notes for 2018 - Straw yellow colour. Intense aroma, fine and elegantly fruity, reminiscent of peach, apricot, citrus and acacia flowers. Flavour fresh, fragrant, with soft fullness.

Grape Variety - Arneis.

BRUNO GIACOSA Barbaresco 'Asili' 2014 CASE x 1 Double Magnum - PRE-REL

Barbaresco

£1,195.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

THE WINE ADVOCATE (Robert Parker) 97 points

Drink Date: 2022 - 2050

Reviewed by: Monica Lerner, Issue Date: 29th Jun 2018, Source: 237, The Wine Advocate

Packaged in its distinctive red label (red is for Riserva), the 2014 Barbaresco Riserva Asili represents a tremendous effort in a challenging but ultimately very rewarding vintage. This wine will be released in February 2019. The previous edition was 2011, and Bruna Giacosa tells me that it will be produced in 2016 and possibly 2017—although this has not yet been officially confirmed. In a normal vintage, production is 11,000 bottles strong, but because of reduced yields in 2014 we can expect some 8,000 bottles instead. Growing conditions in 2014 were cause for concern up until the end of August because of humidity and below average temperatures. Those conditions changed suddenly in the nick of time, bringing strong sunshine and warmth during the final stage of grape ripening. Ultimately, 2014 proved to be a long growing season with healthy fruit in reduced volume. The Rabajà cru sometimes shows a harder edge with more mineral definition. Asili, in comparison, offers gorgeous intensity and profound depth. This Riserva shows seamless integration of wild fruit, blue flower, spice, balsam herb and pencil shaving. This is a complete and complex expression with an enduring sense of dimension and structure. I can't wait to taste this wine one day in the far future when it is further along on its promising evolutionary track.

JAMES SUCKLING 99 points

Incredible aromas of violets, roses and blue fruits. So perfumed. Never smelled a wine like this before. Full body, perfectly integrated tannins and bright, vivid acidity. Extremely long and endless. A seamless and great one. An evocative wine that makes you think. Needs three to five years of bottle age on release. Unique red.

BRUNO GIACOSA Barbaresco 'Asili' 2014 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Barbaresco

£1,680.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

THE WINE ADVOCATE (Robert Parker) 97 points

Drink Date: 2022 - 2050

Reviewed by: Monica Lerner, Issue Date: 29th Jun 2018, Source: 237, The Wine Advocate

Packaged in its distinctive red label (red is for Riserva), the 2014 Barbaresco Riserva Asili represents a tremendous effort in a challenging but ultimately very rewarding vintage. This wine will be released in February 2019. The previous edition was 2011, and Bruna Giacosa tells me that it will be produced in 2016 and possibly 2017—although this has not yet been officially confirmed. In a normal vintage, production is 11,000 bottles strong, but because of reduced yields in 2014 we can expect some 8,000 bottles instead. Growing conditions in 2014 were cause for concern up until the end of August because of humidity and below average temperatures. Those conditions changed suddenly in the nick of time, bringing strong sunshine and warmth during the final stage of grape ripening. Ultimately, 2014 proved to be a long growing season with healthy fruit in reduced volume. The Rabajà cru sometimes shows a harder edge with more mineral definition. Asili, in comparison, offers gorgeous intensity and profound depth. This Riserva shows seamless integration of wild fruit, blue flower, spice, balsam herb and pencil shaving. This is a complete and complex expression with an enduring sense of dimension and structure. I can't wait to taste this wine one day in the far future when it is further along on its promising evolutionary track.

JAMES SUCKLING 99 points

Incredible aromas of violets, roses and blue fruits. So perfumed. Never smelled a wine like this before. Full body, perfectly integrated tannins and bright, vivid acidity. Extremely long and endless. A seamless and great one. An evocative wine that makes you think. Needs three to five years of bottle age on release. Unique red.

BRUNO GIACOSA**BRUNO GIACOSA Barbaresco 'Rabaja' 2015 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE**

Barbaresco

£720.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

JAMES SUCKLING 99 points - "The purity of fruit to this is incredible with cherry, plum and white truffle. Hints of ash and stone. Roses. Full body, superb texture of super fine tannins and incredible length. The harmony is so mesmerizing. Elegance and length. Bright energy. Tiny production. Try in 2022 when it comes together."

BRUNO GIACOSA Barbera d'Alba 2017 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Alba

£130.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

2018 - Deep ruby red colour with garnet reflections. Intense vinous aroma, reminiscent of sour cherry and spices. Flavour alive, full and generous.

BRUNO GIACOSA Barolo 'Falletto' 2015 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Barolo

£775.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

JAMES SUCKLING 99 points - "Superb aromas of ripe fruit such as plums and berries with peaches and tar. Very intense. Full body, great depth and density. Incredible richness and power with superb length and persistence. One of the most dense and vertical Falletos I have tasted. Try in 2025."

BRUNO GIACOSA Barolo 'Vigna le Rocche' 2015 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Barolo

£895.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

JAMES SUCKLING 100 points - "I am lost for words with this wine. Perfumed and so elegant with the most exquisite aromas of roses, plums and earth. Yet always subtle and complex. Full body, ultra-fine and firm tannins. Upgraded. Fantastic finish that lasts for minutes. Try in 2026."

BRUNO GIACOSA Dolcetto d'Alba 2018 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Alba

£95.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

2018 - Ruby red colour with violet reflections, vinous, fragrant bouquet. Dry taste, full, with pleasant bitterish aftertaste, typical of this variety.

BRUNO GIACOSA Nebbiolo 'Valmaggiore' 2017 CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Alba

£180.00

The "Genius of Neive", Bruno Giacosa's single-vineyard Barolos and Barbarescos are the expression of a passion for perfection - taking the best from traditional and cutting edge methods. Now led by Bruno's daughter Bruna, the Bruno Giacosa winery also produces highly regarded Dolcetto, Barbera, white Roero Arneis and méthode champenoise spumantes. But Bruno Giacosa is almost as well known for the wines it won't release because of father and daughter's obsessive antipathy towards mediocrity...

TENUTA SAN GUIDO**TENUTA SAN GUIDO**

Bolgheri

Tenuta San Guido have worked wonders with the superlative 2016 vintage, the Sassicaia 2016 was awarded 100 points from Monica Larner in her recent Tenuta San Guido Article.

It has been a great couple of years for Tenuta San Guido, after the 2015 was awarded wine of the year by Wine Spectator. Sassicaia is clearly one of the world's great wines and the 2016 is one of their best ever vintages with the tell-tale hallmarks of elegance and finesse matched with the power that the 2016 has throughout Bolgheri. James Suckling has remarked that the wine has "Seamless texture. Great composure." and we couldn't agree more. Monica Larner further remarked that "the grace and gleaming radiance of the 2016 vintage absolutely stole my heart, and I enthusiastically gave this wine a perfect score."

As usual, Guidalberto and Difese are one vintage ahead. Guidalberto, a wine that can be enjoyed at a younger age and named after the family member who planted the iconic cypress tree avenue which marks the entrance to the Bolgheri estate. The final wine completing the trio of releases is the 2017 Le Difese, a Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon blend made for immediate drinking, featuring on the label and named after the tusks of the wild boars found roaming the extensive woodland and wildlife reserve on estate.

We are expecting delivery towards the end of April this year. Please get your requirement in early so not to miss out on these exceptional and rare wines!

If you are interested please email me with your requirement. Stock will be allocated on a first come first served basis. As with all our pre-allocation wines we are asked for payment up front by the supplier. As a result we need prompt payment of invoices once your allocation has been confirmed.

TENUTA SAN GUIDO Guidalberto Toscana IGT 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE

Toscana IGT

£210.00

Guidalberto is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot that carries the hallmark elegance and finesse that runs through Sassicaia, the sweet fruited Tuscan character of the Bolgheri area and the enticing aromas that Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot are capable of creating together. Spending twenty months in one-third new oak barrels, this wine is irresistible two years from release yet has a proven track record of ageing well into a decade.

"A firm and silky red with just a hint of jam. Full body, polished tannins and a long, long finish. Tight now." 92-93 James Suckling

TENUTA SAN GUIDO Le Difese Toscana IGT 2017 CASE x 6 Bottle - PRE-RELEASE

Toscana IGT

£120.00

Le Difese is a nod towards the indigenous varieties of the region combining the appealing Mediterranean characteristics of Sangiovese with the depth of Cabernet Sauvignon to make a delicious wine that is ready to be enjoyed from release.

"Fresh and vivid with a blackberry, currant and fresh-herb character. Medium to full body, silky tannins and a focused finish." 91-92 James Suckling

2015 SANDEMAN Vintage Port 'Quinta do Seixo' CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE

Vintage

£235.00

2015 in the Douro was a year of good yields and excellent quality. However, an inauspicious start to the growing cycle as winter failed to deliver the normal amount of rain to replenish groundwater levels. The following months were both dry and mild allowing a slow, consistent vine growth with the dryness keeping disease at bay. A warm, but also predominantly dry, summer meant that the grapes ripened uniformly through to the harvest where rain in mid-September allowed for the perfect balance of colour, tannins, acidity, and alcohol.

Vinification

Grapes from the best plots in the vineyard underwent an intense period of maceration while alcoholic fermentation began. The maceration took place using traditional foot treading techniques in granite 'lagares' at controlled temperatures of around 28°C. Aguardente was added to half fermentation at the optimum moment to maintain a balance of aromatics, tannins and fruit flavours. The wine remained at Quinta do Seixo until the following spring, when it was transported to Sandeman's cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia for maturation.

Tasting Notes

Deep red in colour, almost opaque. Intense aromas of cherries, cedar and chocolate, with spicy notes of black pepper and clove. It has a taut structure with firm tannins, good acidity and spicy red fruit flavours. The finish is long, with plenty of character.

2016 MIXED CASE Vintage Port CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE OFFER

Vintage

£388.25**CONTAINS**

1 x Bottle 2016 NIEPOORT 'Bioma' Vinha Velha'
1 x Bottle 2016 OFFLEY
1 x Bottle 2016 QUINTA DO VESUVIO
1 x Bottle 2016 SANDEMAN
1 x Bottle 2016 SMITH WOODHOUSE
1 x Bottle 2016 WARRE'S

Vintage Report

2016 will go down in Port Wine's history as a top-quality vintage. An unusual year in terms of weather, a mild and dry winter gave way to a persistently wet spring putting the potential for a high-quality harvest in doubt. A mild summer with the occasional heatwave rescued the year with a perfect balance of daytime heat and night-time cold allowing the grapes to mature slowly.

2016 is a fantastic year for port with all major shippers declaring the vintage of superior quality.

Jancis Robinson comments "A cold and wet spring made for a tough start to the year, and yields were lower than average as a result. Some very hot spells followed, retarding the ripening process as the vines shut down. Thankfully, the autumn was mostly dry, some picking was delayed until late September and finished in the first week of October. This allowed for a long harvest to ensure optimum ripeness. The wines are rich, complex and intense."

Generally speaking, the 2016 Vintage Ports are brimming with colour and are full of structure, with a profile that is more concentrated, robust and intense when compared to its 2015 counterpart. 2016 is classic style for a Vintage!

2016 - A General Vintage Port Declaration

The Douro Valley's top Port houses are declaring the 2016 vintage, making it the first general declaration for Vintage Port since the classic 2011. The Symington family were the first to declare ahead of St. George's day (when most shippers traditionally announce their declarations) followed by Quinta Do noval, The Fladgate Partnership, Sandeman and the Sogevinus Group. The list is endless revealing the exceptional quality of the 2016 ports.

2016 NIEPOORT Vintage Port 'Bioma' Vinha Velha CASE x 3 Bottles-PRE-RELEASE Offer

Vintage

£265.00

Niepoort Bioma Vinha Velha 2016 Vintage Port – Dirk Niepoort, as ever, is a bit of a contrarian. There is no "straight" Niepoort 2016 Vintage Port, but he has released his Bioma 2016 Vintage Port. This is Niepoort's Old Vine Vintage Port made from organically grown grapes. The grapes for Bioma are foot trodden at the Niepoort Port winemaking facility in Vale de Mendiz and vinified with the stems. After fortification, the port is left to settle over the winter and following spring the port is transferred to Niepoort's Quinta de Napoles winery where it is racked into pipas (the classic 550L lodge Port pipe or barrel). This is a classic old "English" Port-making practice harking back to the days when Port was shipped to the UK in pipes and bottled there. Bioma also differs from "normal" vintage Port in that it is bottled in its third year, one year later than classic Vintage Port – this is why it is shipped later than other vintage Ports.

100% of the grapes come from the Pisca vineyard. This ancient and emblematic vineyard produces Portos of unique character. As well as playing a very important role in Niepoort Vintage Portos, since 2007 it is now bottled as a single vineyard organic Vintage Porto. The 2016 Bioma Vinha Velha Vintage Porto is a selection of the best pipas aged at Quinta de Napoles.

From the Niepoort declaration " The Pisca vineyard is really very special. This vineyard didn't suffer from the rain as much as others, and was picked in three different timings; one third before the rain, one third on the day it started raining (which was not the best ideal), and the rest after the rain. The resulting wines were very concentrated, meaning the 2016 Bioma is different to my normal style of port wines. Personally, I don't really like big, ripe wines/ports. However, the Bioma deserved to be declared because it is a very good wine. It is a very good expression of the 2016 vintage, and of what nature can provide from such an amazing terroir." Dirk Niepoort, May 2018.

2016 OFFLEY Vintage Port CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE OFFER

Vintage

£345.00

Offley are delighted to announce a full declaration for our 2016 vintage port. It has been five years since the last release, but according to winemaker Luis Sottomayor, "As soon as the grapes arrived at our winery, we knew this was the best we had seen since the last declaration in 2011".

Tasting notes

The wine has a dense, almost black colour. The aromas are of ripe black fruit, spice, black pepper, clove and cigar box. On the palate it is powerful with firm, ripe tannins and a well-integrated acidity. It has a long and impressive finish where black fruit and spice flavours linger.

2016 SANDEMAN Vintage Port CASE x 6 Bottles - PRE-RELEASE OFFER

Vintage

£399.50

2016 will go down in Port Wine's history as a top-quality vintage. An unusual year in terms of weather, a mild and dry winter gave way to a persistently wet spring putting the potential for a high-quality harvest in doubt. A mild summer with the occasional heatwave rescued the year with a perfect balance of daytime heat and night-time cold allowing the grapes to mature slowly.

Vinification

The finest grapes from Sandeman's best properties, Quinta do Seixo and Quinta do Vau, were destemmed and gently crushed before undergoing an intense maceration in temperature controlled, granite lagares. When the wine had reached a perfect balance, treading stopped and fermentation was halted by fortification. Resting at Seixo over the winter it was then racked and transported to Sandeman's cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia where it was aged in oak casks. The final blend was made from a careful selection of the finest casks.

Tasting Notes

Opaque with an almost black colour the wine has an intense, complex aroma. Ripe black fruit, cocoa and chocolate flavours continue on to the palate where some floral notes of rockrose are also apparent in a long, lingering finish. Firm tannins, full-bodied and with fresh acidity it has structure that will allow the wine to age comfortably for decades.