



Jasper Morris MW

2019: THE VINTAGE REPORT

I enjoyed an excellent tasting with Christophe Chauvel at Bichot headquarters in Beaune. Like many of the leading 'negociants' they are in fact predominantly owners of their own vineyards, or with close links to those producers who supply them with grapes. In Bichot's case there are several different Domaine entities, such as Château Gris and Domaines Adélie, Clos Frantin, du Pavillon and Rochegres. The wines from Domaine Long Depaquit will be found in the Chablis report. The Bichot vineyards are now certified organic, and it is clear that the team are reacting intelligently to issues arising out of global warming as they do not plough the vineyards either too often or too deep. At harvest time they will stop and start even within a specific plot if need be. There are more whole bunches used in the red wines (20-40%) with the decision being taken as the bunches cross the sorting table rather than by preconceived plans, and there is much less punching down in the fermenting vats. They began the 2019 harvest in earnest on 14th September, having picked a few plots of white grapes before then. Most of the white wines were in bottle when I tasted in late October.

WHITE WINES

2019, Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine

86

Purchased must. Very sunny, super-ripe, but with depth. Exotic and spicy together. Supple and suave with good length and enough acidity.

2019, Bourgogne Chardonnay Côte d'Or Secret de Famille

87

Pale lemon, attractively grapey, then this classic Bourgogne kicks on with significant weight, certainly a touch of heat behind, but finishing fresher and with great length.

2019, Mercurey Les Champs-Michaux, Domaine Adélie

89

Champs Michaux is in the northern part of the appellation, high up, which provides freshness, but on slabs of clay, which give weight. Fine mid yellow, a clear-cut bouquet with some iodine reduction. Softer sweeter banana fruit on the palate behind, but a very agreeable finish.

2019, Nuits-St-Georges Les Terrasses, Château-Gris

91

This is all chardonnay, worth mentioning for a white Nuits-St-Georges as many contain pinot blanc. It is grown in free-standing bush vines, which give low yields, 16 hl/ha in 2019. Pale lime and lemon, rather an elegant version, despite the thickness of texture from the low yield. This is a wine, which will surprise people and it doesn't conform to usual rules. A little below 14% so not for drinking casually. Energy comes from opposite slopes of the dip, or creux, which forms this vineyard, officially called Les Crots.

2019, Meursault Les Criots, Domaine du Pavillon

91

Criots is an ambiguous sector in Meursault, which could work for either colour of grape. Mid yellow. This has a really classy characterful nose with a good fresh feel, then a fuller body in the mouth, which shows that this could be a red terroir, enlivened by a saline touch to finish. Interesting wine.

2019, Meursault Les Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

90-93

Mostly in the upper part of Charmes with a little below. Pale to mid lemon. A certain citrus note to the bouquet. Wealth of fruit, a little bit of banana, good acidity. Not short of weight.

2019, Beaune Clos des Mouches 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

92

If you are interested in a fun comparative tasting, this was planted in 1999, the same year and using the same plant material as their Nuits-St-Georges Les Terrasses. Pale to mid yellow, rich and ripe fruit as is typical for Clos des Mouches, not too plummy, but a pretty rich mouthful all the same with a sweetness of texture, managed by some wood tannins and just enough acidity.

2019, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

92-95

From Les Languettes. Rich mid lemon colour. The alcohol by analysis is a very reasonable 13.5%, but the wine shows the heat of the summer. The stony side of Corton-Charlemagne is a little bit timid here behind the wealth of ripe fruit and banana. A punchy example.

- 2019, Moulin-à-Vent, Domaine de Rochegrès 88**
Just bottled, deep purple, with a luxurious edge to the nose of ultra-ripe purple fruit, mulberry even. It's a little bit cooked, but amay well settle down as it could be suffering from the bottling. A bit of freshness behind. Liquorice notes.
- 2019, Bourgogne Pinot Noir Côte d'Or Secret de Famille 87**
Made from plots in the Côte de Nuits. Rich purple in colour, with a lovely perfumed nose, ripe raspberry of course, but sensual not sloppy, though with a little sweetness balanced by correct acidity.
- 2019, Savigny-les-Beaune Les Grands Picotins, Domaine du Pavillon 89-90**
Very dense purple, with a temporary light oxidation to the nose, a fresher feel underneath, and a very full sensual style of deep raspberry fruit, which stretches all the way through. Decent acidity.
- 2019, Pommard Clos des Ursulines, Domaine du Pavillon 90-92**
Medium deep purple throughout. Very pretty nose, one can even speak of finesse, which was rarely if ever possible for a village Pommard in the past. Fills the mouth to just the right degree, not exaggerated.
- 2019, Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 92-94**
In Les Rugiens-Bas though not stated on the label. Fresh and vibrant mid purple, with a bouncing energy, super suave and with that little bit of extra depth, some peonies, good acidity here. Quite striking in fact, fine long finish.
- 2019, Aloxe-Corton Clos des Maréchaudes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 91-94** ★ 5 Star Wine
Picked 15th Sept as was the Grand Cru version. 29 hl/ha. Rich, fresh purple, with a lifted bright, ripe strawberry nose, dusted with vanilla. Powerful, sweet fruit, but lovely in its style. Crunchy notes behind, all natural.
- 2019, Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes, Domaine du Pavillon 92-95**
33 hl/ha. Bright full purple. Clearly a little deeper in colour than the 1er Cru version, which was planted with the same vine material in the same year, and more concentrated in red fruit bouquet. The palate is more savage, the acidity is much more present along with the tannins. The rock is much closer to the surface here. A muscular wine, which needs to be picked early.
- 2019, Vosne Romanée, Domaine du Clos Frantin 91-94**
From Damaudes and Basses Maizieres, so up and down the slope. Vibrant purple, lots of energy here, deep and concentrated fruit, this has the hedonistic qualities of a very fine Vosne with a little bit of sucrosity behind, ripe redcurrant and cherry, very persistent.
- 2019 Fixin Clos de la Perrière 1er Cru 89-92**
Medium deep red, slightly lactic on the nose, with a deep rich sweet red fruit beneath. 30% whole bunch lifts the back end. They do not pick the Fixin early as the stems need time to ripen. Finishes very well after the slightly off-putting start.
- 2019, Morey-St-Denis Les Sorbets 1er Cru 90-93**
Deep crimson, more redcurrant with raspberry, then darkens. The palate shows the wine in its true colours: it has tension within the fruit, a powerful thread with some minerality and a medium density finish.
- 2019, Nuits-St-Georges Château-Gris 1er Cru 92-95**
Picked on 20/21 September at 27 hl/ha. Deep purple, with a profound fresh plum and raspberry nose. Starts discreetly, then builds to a very considerable volume of fruit behind, well integrated acidity, impressive length. Very well done.
- 2019, Vosne-Romanée Les Malconsorts 1er Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin 93-96**
Very dense vibrant purple. Spending time on the nose, which shows some class, but it is the power, which kicks in, the sort of lively cherries, which can come with whole bunch. Really fine sensual finish, very long too. Shows the value of this terroir.
- 2019, Echezeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin 93-96**
In the Champs Traversin sector. Very pretty red purple colour, with a lighter fruit after the power of Latricières. Sandy soil could be a worry in the hot dry years, but came through well. Good natural acidity, lively pure red fruit, fresher finish and very good length. Not too ripe at all.
- 2019, Grands-Echezeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin 92-95**
Solid bright red purple. The nose shows riper fruit than the Echezeaux, while the palate has significantly greater density, but I think I prefer the additional finesse of the Echezeaux. 70% whole bunch, which does help the finish, where the redder fruit is more evident. Stretches out the finish too.
- 2019, Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru 93-96**
Darker purple, some more sombre fruit to the nose, but with power. What this does have is waves of fruit on the palate, some bramble some dark raspberry, a few redder notes mixed in, very good depth and indeed persistence.
- 2019, Chambertin Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin 94-97**
Classy crimson-purple in colour. The nose is discreet, stylish and very promising. The fruit is then noticeably richer in the mouth, heading towards a touch of very ripe plums, but resisting crossing the line. There is proper intensity to the finish and enough acidity.