

JASPER MORRIS Inside Burgundy



Jasper Morris MW

I tasted with Christophe Chauvel, a key member of the technical team under head winemaker Alain Serveau, at the Bichot headquarters in Beaune. This year the domaine wines are certified organic. The harvest began with whites, then the earliest reds before returning to complete the white wines and then finishing on the bulk of the reds. These are made similarly across the three vinification sites in Beaune, Pommard and Nuits-St-Georges. The grapes are mostly destemmed, though a few more whole bunches (up to 30%) were employed in 2018, given a short cool maceration then vinified over three weeks with a little bit of punching down in the later stages.

2018: THE VINTAGE REPORT (BEAUJOLAIS) - January 2020

2018, Moulin-à-Vent, Domaine de Rochegrès 88-89

Solid weight of colour, the nose is not quite ready to speak yet, but a huge weight of fruit which is both sensual and meaty at the same time. Some tannins of course and a lovely bit of black pepper. Concentrated, interesting and typical of the appellation.

2018, Rochegrès Moulin-à-Vent, Domaine de Rochegrès 89-91

Even denser and deeper purple than the regular, with a lot more going on the nose, even a touch vegetal as well as dark fruit and pepper. This is in 350 litre barrels which smooths out the fruit in the mouth as well as adding a different level of tannin. A touch more acidity here too, a little more of everything and consequently more backwards.

2018: THE VINTAGE REPORT (COTE DE BEAUNE & COTE CHALONNAISE) - December 2019

2018, Mercurey Les Champs-Michaux, Domaine Adélie 88

Clear colour with some zestful green tints to it. A little flesh, quite stylish, this does feel like white wine terroir up on its plateau. Plenty of clay here but altitude and the rock below change that. This is good.

2018, Meursault, Domaine du Pavillon 89-91

A blend of many plots, mostly from lower down. This is a substantial weighty Meursault, some pear fruit in the mix, good natural acidity, medium plus length. This should develop into a relatively classic style that retains good freshness behind.

2018, Meursault Les Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 90-92

From the upper part of the vineyard. Pale lemon, quite an oaky nose here. Then a significant weight of fruit, backed by the usual lemony acidity from Bichot, some fresh apples too, while the weight of a typical Charmes continues through to the finish.

2018, Beaune Clos des Mouches 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 90-92

Clear pale colour. The palate impresses with a wealth of just nicely ripe fruit, white and yellow notes together, then good refreshing acidity behind. Some flesh while remaining what the French call digeste.

2018, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 92-95

From Languettes, next to the three poplars. Light fresh pale colour. Starts with the stones, moves towards the flesh, has both in balance, a slight lime infusion. The intensity is there, very linear in style, good weight at the back.

2018, Pommard Clos des Ursulines, Domaine du Pavillon 90-92

Brisk fresh purple with lots of energy. Really lifted nose, all about the fruit, ripe raspberries but not too dark. This classy fruit continues on the palate where it meets a raft of tannins, but they are certainly ripe enough and the two parts will shake hands and combine in due course. It is very clean pure red fruit which returns at the end.

2018, Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 92-94

From the lower part. Glowing fresh purple. The nose is quiet but there is a vast wealth of fruit on the palate, red and black together, followed by the quite massive tannins typical of this location. Just a question of time but all is there in 2018.

2018, Aloxe-Corton Clos des Maréchaudes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon 91-94

Beautiful intense purple. This starts with a sweet ripe red fruit, then more tannins than I expected behind. Pretty weight but a bit more sombre than the Pommards. On the other hand, closer to grand cru in fruit weight. I like the finish, too.

★ 5 Star Wine

2018, Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes, Domaine du Pavillon 92-94

Picked 30th August for the young vines, 5th September for the rest. The colour is purple-black and the fruit seems richer and riper. There is just a tiny bit greater density of fruit but it is more the style and the ripeness of the tannins which make the distinction. Nice acidity behind.

- 2018, Nuits-St-Georges Les Terrasses, Château Gris** 89-91
 Vinified in Nuits. Quite a lot of yellow in the colour. All chardonnay, which is often not the case in Nuits. Almost a waxy character here, with good lemon notes in the background. Concentrated flesh through the middle, this has body and personality.
- 2018, Bourgogne Côte d'Or Pinot Noir Secret de Famille** 88
 In bottle. Glowing purple with a clear fresh pinot nose. There is an impressive volume of fruit on the palate, intense cherries, indeed this is really concentrated for a generic Bourgogne, with good acid balance, a few tannins still to resolve, then bingo!
- 2018, Vosne Romanée, Domaine du Clos Frantin** 90-93
 From two plots: Basses Maizières picked early, on 4th September, and Damaudes high on the slope, picked on 11th September. Huge red purple colour. Some weight of fruit on the nose, and certainly ripe enough. Fresher on the palate, quite a few tannins behind, but a lovely classy feel to the fruit, a cool fresh touch, certainly not too ripe. Very fine aftertaste in fact with fresh cherries and ripe red berry fruit.
- 2018, Fixin Clos de la Perrière 1er Cru** 89-92
 Glowing purple with impressive depth. A little sweet raspberry on the nose, and a flood of such fruit behind, along with some drier tannins. Very succulent, raspberry and strawberry mix, attractive acidity, all put together quite well.
- 2018, Morey-St-Denis Les Sorbets 1er Cru** 91-94
 Fine fresh crimson-purple, with real elegance to the nose. Lovely red fruit then slightly firmer drier tannins, nicely balanced, ripe fruit. A nice little tension at the back.
- 2018, Nuits-St-Georges Chaines-Carteaux 1er Cru** 92-94
 Decent purple colour, a little fresh plum, then more ripe cherries afterwards, stretches very nicely across the palate, a most attractive sweetness of fruit on the second half which triumphs over the tannins. Long and lovely.
- 2018, Nuits-St-Georges Château-Gris 1er Cru** 92-94
 Dense purple, definitely showing the plums qualities of Nuits-St-Georges. Pretty and perfumed graceful red fruit, almost some apple and orange zest, far from massive and the tannins are refined. A really stylish, elegant Nuits.
- 2018, Chambolle-Musigny Les Chabiots 1er Cru** 89-92
 Slightly paler purple in colour than some in the line-up. Quite a stylish bouquet, maybe some whole bunches in evidence. Pink roses and raspberries on the palate, a touch of tannin behind, certainly ripe but elegant enough.
- 2018, Gevrey-Chambertin Petite Chapelle 1er Cru** 91-94
 Brisk glowing purple. Fully ripe fruit here, succulent deep raspberry, as ever quite fine bodied underneath this superficial weight of fruit. Slimline, yet fine and persistent. Very good.
- 2018, Vosne-Romanée Les Malconsorts 1er Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin** 92-95
 There is a massively deep purple colour to this Malconsorts, with bundles of energetic red fruit on the nose. The palate too demonstrates this, some orange zest, otherwise entirely red fruit, no black notes, good acidity and the persistence of a grand cru.
- 2018, Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru** 93-95
 Rich dense purple with an intensity of succulent fruit which speaks more of Charmes than Mazoyères where the vines are actually situated. Ripe rich plums, super sweet fruit on the palate, maximum ripeness, just a little acidity, tannins present but totally subdued, rich long aftertaste.
- 2018, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin** 94-96
 Firm dense purple with super saturated fruit first on the nose and then the palate. Deep dark cherries and raspberries but with life behind. Of course, the Clos Vougeot structure is there but the fruit is so intense – and not over-ripe – that this works really well. Very promising indeed.
- 2018, Echezeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin** 93-96
 From Champs Traversin. Medium deep purple, the nose is a little bit more refined than some, and this same elegance is carried over on to the palate. There is a good balance between fruit and acidity, with the tannins, fine-grained, waiting discreetly behind. Very stylish pure elegant and fresh finish.
- 2018, Chambertin Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin** 95-98
 Three barrels with plenty of whole bunch to help fill the tank. A wonderful sweet fruit generosity, alpine strawberry and fresh raspberry, this is certainly not too ripe and shows the delicacy and intensity which Chambertin should offer. Lovely balance between just ripe fruit and the structure, partly acidity partly fine boned tannins. Very good length.