



Neal Martin

December 2020

Albert BICHOT

Their wines have performed impressively in recent years. Much of that is down to head winemaker Alain Serveau, who joined as technical director in 1995. Bichot's wines should be taken more seriously than some cognoscenti give them credit for. I found their 2019 whites good. Among the reds there are some standouts such as the Grands-Echézeaux and Vosne-Romanée Malconsorts, equal to some of the more artisan names for which you might be paying double the price.

REDS FROM CÔTE DE NUITS

The **2019 GRANDS-ECHÉZEUX GRAND CRU** comes from Bichot's 0.25 hectares of vines in two parcels close to Drouhin and DRC. It usually yields a maximum of four barrels. This has a perfumed bouquet of expressive red currant, wild strawberry and blood orange aromas that display a little more intensity than the Echézeaux. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins. Sophisticated and precise, this is an elegant Grands-Echézeaux with impressive tension and harmony toward the finish, which fans out beautifully. A wonderful wine. **94-96**

The **2019 GRIOTTE-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU** has a very pure bouquet, a mélange of red and black fruit, *sous-bois* and pressed violets, gaining in intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannins and well-judged acidity. Very harmonious, culminating in a velvety, intense finish laced with blue fruit. A gorgeous Griotte from Bichot. **93-95**

The **2019 ECHÉZEUX GRAND CRU**, which comes from the lieu-dit of Les Champs Traversins, has a well-defined bouquet of raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, loamy/*sous-bois* scents and a touch of wilted iris petals. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins, crisp acidity and a lightly spiced finish. This is a well-crafted Echézeaux from Bichot/Clos Frantin, and it should give 15–20 years' drinking pleasure, possibly more. **92-94**

From 0.17 hectares of vine worked by horse and including a large proportion of whole bunch, the **2019 CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU** has a fragrant bouquet of pure dark cherry, boysenberry, crushed stone and pressed violet aromas. It reminds me of a Clos de la Roche in some ways. The palate is well balanced with fine and quite sturdy tannins. There is good energy on the finish. Very fine. **91-93**

The **2019 VOSNE-ROMANÉE LES MALCONSORTS 1ER CRU** was harvested on different days, as Bichot owns sites on varied soil profiles within the vineyard. Initially closed, it opens nicely to offer dark cherries, bergamot and tea leaf notes. The palate is very harmonious with good backbone, grippy tart red fruit and a mineral-driven, quite sturdy finish. Excellent. **92-94**

The **2019 CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY LES AMOUREUSES 1ER CRU** showed just a touch of reduction when I tasted it. It gradually opens to offer red currant, raspberry pastille and rose petal aromas and a slight metallic note that will disappear by the time of bottling. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fleshy and quite forward. Clean dark berry fruit is laced with brown spices toward a finish that fans out nicely. This should drink well for 15–20 years. **91-93**

The **2019 NUITS SAINT-GEORGES CHÂTEAU-GRIS 1ER CRU**, which is farmed using "equine power," has an open-knit morello cherry and crushed strawberry bouquet, one of the most expressive of Bichot's reds at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, nicely integrated oak and a very cohesive, tensile finish that exhibits good sapidity. This is a very promising Nuits Saint-Georges that exudes energy. **91-93**

The **2019 FIXIN CLOS DE LA PERRIÈRE 1ER CRU** is harvested several times to create a mix of different plots around this *monopole*. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, and well balanced, offering dark berry fruit laced with clove and bay leaf. Elegant on the finish. I am positive this will evolve into a fine Fixin. **90-92**

The **2019 GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN LES EVOCELLES** comes from the Bichot estate and also Domaine Serveau. It has a pretty bouquet of red cherries and light strawberry fruit. The palate is well balanced with supple tannins, and quite fleshy in style, leading to a harmonious, smooth, satisfying finish. If the aromatics open after bottling, this will end up at the top of my banded score. **89-91**

From two different lieux-dits in the appellation, the **2019 VOSNE-ROMANÉE VILLAGE** has a clean, precise bouquet of red cherries and crushed strawberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. Fresh and harmonious, displaying impressive purity and terroir expression on the finish. This is a delightful and delicious Vosne Village from Bichot/Clos Frantin. **89-91**



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REDS FROM CÔTE DE BEAUNE

The **2019 CORTON CLOS DES MARÉCHAUTES GRAND CRU**, a *monopole* for Bichot, is matured with around 40% new oak. It has a higher-toned bouquet than the Aloxe-Corton Clos des Marechaudes, delivering scents of kirsch, crushed strawberry and pressed rose petals. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity, and nicely focused, displaying well-integrated oak on the black-pepper-tinged finish. Excellent. **92-94**

The **2019 POMMARD LES RUGIENS 1ER CRU** has a lovely bouquet of perfumed dark plum, black currant and iris petal aromas, one of the most open that I have encountered from this vineyard in 2019. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite fleshy and Volnay-like for a Pommard, but elegant and displaying admirable persistence on the finish. Probably will drink after 3–4 years. **91-93**

The **2019 ALOXE-CORTON CLOS DES MARÉCHAUTES 1ER CRU** comes from a vineyard that requires more than one pass, since its variegated soils predicate different maturity levels. It has a floral, violet-scented bouquet that bursts from the glass with black cherries and touches of cassis. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, very pure and charming, delivering a fine bead of acidity toward the finish. This will drink nicely over the next decade. **89-91**

The **2019 BOURGOGNE CÔTE D'OR PINOT NOIR from Domaine du Clos Frantin** comes from vines only in Nuits Saint-Georges. It offers slightly rustic red berry fruit on the nose of red currant, strawberry and sage. The palate is well balanced and fleshy, with generous red fruit. Easy-drinking in style; you almost do not notice its persistence. Well crafted. **85-87**

WHITE WINES

The **2019 CRIOTS-BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU** comes from purchased must. It has a lilting peachy nose, maybe missing the *mineralité* and tension of a Grand Cru but clean and focused. The palate is well balanced and smooth, delivering overt tropical tones of passion fruit and mango toward the finish. Enjoy this over the next decade. **90-92**

The **2019 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU** comes from 1.2 hectares of vines in Les Languettes. Matured in 35% new oak, it has a perfumed nose of yellow fruit, nectarine and peach skin aromas. The palate is well balanced with a light pineapple and passion fruit opening and well-judged acidity. Very harmonious, with a gentle landing on the finish. Maybe it is missing some tension and nerve, but the flavors are irresistible. **90-92**

The **2019 BEAUNE CLOS DES MOUCHES 1ER CRU** has a vibrant, energetic bouquet, the citrus fruit, mango and white chocolate scents bursting from the glass. The palate is well balanced with a smooth, viscous opening. Good concentration here, and very long and sustained. This represents one of the best whites from Bichot this vintage. **90-92**

The **2019 MEURSAULT LES CHARMES 1ER CRU** comes from vines on the upper slopes of the vineyard and cropped at 25hl/ha. The nose features clear honey, clementine and light saffron aromas. The palate is well balanced with a slightly tangy, marmalade-tinged entry, good weight and a harmonious finish. **89-91**

The **2019 NUITS SAINT-GEORGES LES TERRASSES**, located just above Château-Gris, is the only Bichot white vinified in Nuits Saint-Georges instead of Beaune. Cropped at just 16hl/ha, it has an attractive lemon thyme and orange peel nose, plus touches of white peach in the background. The palate is very harmonious with a honeyed texture. Rich but balanced, it has a quite irresistible finish that is very punter-friendly (in a positive sense.) This is a well-crafted white Nuits Saint-Georges. **89-91**

The **2019 MERCUREY LES CHAMPS-MICHAUX** had quite a reduced smoky nose that made it difficult to read. The palate is well balanced with tangy quince and clementine notes, smooth and quite harmonious, the 20% new oak judiciously used on the finish. Simple but delicious. **87-89**

The **2019 BOURGOGNE CÔTE D'OR CHARDONNAY "SECRET DE FAMILLE"** comes from Meursault, Puligny and Saint-Aubin. It has a straightforward orange blossom and dried honey nose. The palate is smooth on the entry with nicely integrated oak, and a little creamy toward the finish. A very punter-friendly 2019 white Burgundy. **85-87**